

October 2001

Volume 7, No. 1

The Flea

RENEWED TRAFFIC CALMING INITIATIVES

by Mark Lind

The Traffic Committee met this month amid a renewed interest in obtaining Traffic Calming projects for some neighborhood streets. As many of you are undoubtedly aware, last year we tried unsuccessfully to be included in the list of communities that would work with the City to implement Traffic Calming devices and strategies in problem areas around the neighborhood. Now the issue has been complicated by the fact that the City has not funded the program for this year, and it is unclear when (if ever) this important program will be fully funded again. In the meantime, many residents of Cherrywood continue to raise concerns about excessive speeding, and cars running stop signs in the neighborhood.

In a meeting with Gordon Derr of the City's Transportation Department several months ago, we were informed that we could seek to implement Traffic Calming devices at a few locations independently of being accepted into the City's Traffic Calming Program, which for all practical purposes no longer exists.



Armed with this information, the Traffic Committee met to discuss our options. We decided upon both a Long Term and a Short Term approach. The Long Term plan would be to identify the worst areas in the neighborhood, identify the key traffic problems in each area, and work with surrounding neighbors to draft a plan to address these concerns. In order to address one of the worst areas in our community and seek some immediate solutions, we decided upon a Short Term approach as well. Specifically, we decided to ask the City Transportation Department to install speed cushions at the intersection of Cherrywood and Edgewood. This is one of the worst parts of a street that has a reputation for unsafe driving and excessive speeding. In this way, we hope to improve traffic on Cherrywood and use this limited traffic calming remedy as a test case for the rest of the neighborhood.

Several area residents have raised concerns about the impact that speed cushions may have on people with spinal injuries as well as the response times of emergency vehicles. Many people associate speed cushions with "speed humps," these older traffic calming devices are taller and continuous, i.e. they stretch all the way across the street. Speed humps are indeed jarring and can even be damaging to the bottom of your car, and for these reasons, they can no longer be placed in public streets. Speed cushions are lower, and do not span all the way across the street. We ask that anyone who has a concern about speed cushions try them out in person and then attend the next CNA General Membership Meeting where we will discuss the issue. Sample speed cushions can be found on Duval

(the next major street west of Red River) between 35th and 45th Streets.

Another concern about speed cushions is that they reduce the response times of Emergency Service vehicles. In a letter to Kathy Jones of the Traffic Committee, Chief Les Bunte of the Austin Fire Department states that while the larger,

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*God bless America,
God bless the world.*

Next CNA meeting:

**Wednesday
October 17**

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Maplewood Elementary

**October Steering Committee
Election Candidates...**

CNA is scheduled to vote for a new slate of steering committee members during our upcoming October general meeting. The slate is not available to the editorial staff as we go to press, therefore for all those interested in knowing who is in the running prior to the meeting, contact the co-Chairs of the Nominations Committee, Sara Bird (472-6542..home) or Jim Walker (499-0526..home).

You may also go to **Cherrywood.org** to see if Webmaster Gordon has made it available there.

CHERRY PICKING

by Jack Newman



Tomorrow will mark the second week since it happened. 'It' being, of course, the 11th. This issue will not be in your hands for another 10 days or more, and by then we will all have seen and heard more than enough about it. We may even be in open military conflict somewhere, in pursuit of whomever. Leonard Pitts, a Miami journalist, has already written a transcendently appropriate piece that spoke to and for me, and perhaps you as well. So why am I writing about it?

I have to.

What, in my place, could you write about? The very nice weather? The excellent work of several of our ongoing committees (thank you all)? The local housing market (extremely slow)? Our newly resurfaced streets? Our ongoing petty crime? The great academic success our local elementary campus, Maplewood, has been recognized for? Mueller and IH-35 developments? All these and more are dealt with elsewhere in this issue. And I am still full of the full-color, real-time horror burned into my soul through my eyes.

I have lived over half a century. I have known WW II veterans who were German POWs and listened to what was done to them. I have seen in person some who saw the Nazi death camps. I saw John F. Kennedy in Houston at Rice Stadium the day before Dallas. I left a peaceful UT campus the day before Charles Whitman used the tower for his personal killing field. I witnessed Vietnam, and agonized over too many atrocities there, both theirs and ours. I saw the kids come home with missing limbs and broken lives, shattered, to a hostile, unwelcoming homeland. I can't forget the endless African tragedies, the Balkans, the Irish miseries and more. But I live here. My kids are here. My neighborhood is here. My family and friends are here.

And these people killed us, any of us, all of us. No military/civilian discernment, no color preferences, no religious or political choices, no gender or age or disability discrimination of any kind: A perfect democracy of death. The purest expression of hate, and I am at a loss as to what I want us to do.

Bomb the rubble of Afghanistan, kill the starving masses of a people who had no say in this, whose rulers-by-force have turned their land into Terrorist Tech, with an advanced curriculum of mass murder? I don't think so. Let them be, and close our eyes, and cross our fingers and hope that they have killed enough of us? Never! But whatever we do, if it lets me comfort my children with evidence that they are being protected, without our joining the conscienceless ranks of those who live only to kill, I will support it. And furthermore, we should support the relief of the Afghani people, as well.

We have to be safe, we must not be sorry. ■

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://www.cherrywood.org>

Steering Committee

Chair	_____	Jules Vieau	495-9569
Vice-Chair	_____	Mike Damal	478-9622
Secretary	_____	Rebecca Schwarz	478-9618
Treasurer	_____	Lyn Estabrook	458-5317
Sarah Bird	472-6542	Kathy Jones	472-1921
Bree Buchanan	482-9165	Mell Lawrence	476-8714
Gale Greenleaf	474-6245	Kyle Ranne	478-7506
Robbin Howard	459-9628	Jim Sander	478-3377
		Stefan Schuster	322-0059

Communications

The Flea:

• Editor	_____	Jack Josey Newman	476-6616
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• Design & Layout	_____	Bethany Andrée	473-2841
• Advertising	_____	Lyn Estabrook	458-5317
		Robbin Howard	459-9628
• Distribution	_____	Jim Walker	499-0526
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		Jim Sander	478-3377
CNA Website:	_____	Gordon Bennett	477-7195

Committees & Projects

Budget:	_____	Rebecca Kohout	477-9560
History:	_____	Sharon Edmonson	473-2337
Hospitality:			
• Welcome Wagon	_____	Lyn Estabrook	458-5317
• Socials	_____	VACANT	
Nominating:	_____	Sarah Bird	472-6542
		Jim Walker	499-0526
Parks:	_____	Girard Kinney	478-5042
• Greenspaces	_____	Gale Greenleaf	474-6245
		Rebecca Schwarz	478-9618,
		Jim Sander	478-3377
Pets:	_____	Gale Greenleaf	474-6245
		Rebecca Schwarz	478-9618
• Cats-in-the-Hood	_____	Sharon Edmonson	473-2337
Planning & Zoning:	_____	Mike Damal	478-9622
• Development Guidelines	_____	Mike Damal	478-9622
• Mapping	_____	Girard Kinney	478-5042
		Jules Vieau	495-9569
• Zoning Cases	_____	Mike Damal	478-9622
Security:	_____	Kathy Jones	472-1921
Traffic:			
• IH-35	_____	Girard Kinney	478-5042
• Neighborhood Traffic Calming	_____	VACANT	
• Bikeways	_____	Dave Westenbarger	494-9905
38½ Street:	_____	Girard Kinney	478-5042
		Gordon Bennett	477-7195
		Dave Westenbarger	494-9905
Austin Film Society:	_____	Dolly Ensey	494-9905
Manor Road:	_____	Girard Kinney	478-5042
Maplewood:	_____	Jack Newman	476-6616
		Jules Vieau	495-9569
Mueller Redevelopment:	_____	Jim Walker	499-0526
Tree Planting:	_____	Mike Damal	478-9622
Upper Boggy Creek Planning:	_____	Steve Kreger	477-4216

UBCNP UPDATE

(Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan)

by Jay Kreger

The Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Planning Team (UBCNPT), otherwise known as the Team, is moving toward a final Plan. The planning area Open House was held on September 15, 2001 at Maplewood Elementary School. The Open House was successful in that there was good participation from the various neighborhoods and some valuable input was received.

The Planning Team meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the Alamo Recreation Center; however, there may be additional meetings held on other Tuesdays as needed. The meetings in September and October will focus on reviewing the input received from the Open House and fine-tuning the Plan prior to sending it to the residents for the final vote. The Team also wants to contact all property owners and businesses whose zoning is slated to be changed, or whose current zoning is slated for a conditional overlay, to dis-

cuss the changes with them and hopefully reach agreement about the changes. The more agreement the Team has with affected property owners, the greater chance the Plan has of moving smoothly through the Planning Commission and the City Council.

The schedule for the home stretch is, tentatively, as follows:

September and middle of October: finalize Plan

Late October/Early November: mail Plan to residents/property owners for vote

Late November/Early December: present final Plan to the City of Austin Planning Commission

Early 2002: present Plan to City Council

The Team hopes to have the Plan as well as some explanatory documents on the Cherrywood web site by the time the October CNA meeting is held. Check the web site for the Plan and further information.

If you have any questions about this process, please call me at 477-4216. I will give an up-to-the-minute Plan update at the October CNA meeting. ■

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE NEWS

by Michael Damal

Mark Lind and Mike Damal met with Austin Energy officials in mid August to review progress on the electrical substation being built in the Delwood Center behind Pinky's Pagers. The officials expressed concerns over the cost of a mesh-shielding material that was to be used in the design presented at the last CNA general meeting. Mark and Mike stressed the point that we hoped the design presented at the CNA general meeting would not be changed greatly, due to the favorable response it received. Mark Lind told the officials that it would be acceptable for a lower cost, yet aesthetically pleasing, substitute be used instead of changing the design. The officials took our comments favorably, and will report back to us in a few weeks on the construction and design progress. I remain optimistic that an attractive structure will be built, enhancing the 'front door' to our neighborhood.

CHERRYWOOD OVERLAY OPTIONS

by Dave Westenbarger

At the General Cherrywood Neighborhood Association meeting on October 17, residents will have the opportunity to choose what, if any, recommendations to make to the Upper Boggy Creek planning team on a zoning overlay for residential lots.

Current city rules require each planning area to decide yes or no on five separate options affecting residential lots. However, the ordinance also requires that any measure adopted in a planning area applies to the entire area. At the September 11 UBC meeting, residents

of Blackland, to our south, expressed interest in adopting all five options, while residents of Wilshire Wood, to our north, generally opposed all five.

The options are:

- 1.** Small lot amnesty. Lots as small as 2,500 square feet, legal when drawn but currently illegal, will be legal again. Many lots west of Lafayette and north of 32nd Street fall into this category.
- 2.** Secondary apartments on lots over 5,750 square feet, commonly called garage apartments or granny flats, are currently allowed on lots over 7,000 square feet only. This option would affect 17 percent of Cherrywood lots, 65 percent are over 7,000 square feet and thus eligible for garage apartments already.
- 3.** Corner stores. This option would allow retail stores, with some restrictions, on corner lots in the neighborhood.
- 4.** Urban homes on 3,500 square foot

lots. Currently, the minimum lot size is 5,750 square feet. This option would affect the 65 percent of lots over 7,000 square feet. Restrictions on building height, lot width, parking and impervious cover would apply.

5. Cottage homes on 2,500 square foot lots. Similar to option four, this would affect an additional 18 percent of lots. Similar restrictions apply as well.

Disagreement over these options has led to acrimony in other planning areas. UBC planners recognize our diversity and intend to approach the City with a plan to permit "sub-zones" within our area to tailor these options to the needs of residents.

October 17 is your opportunity to speak out on these issues. What should Cherrywood choose? All five? None? Or some combination? Neighborhood planners need your input. ■

RENEWED TRAFFIC CALMING INITIATIVES

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older speed humps may cause delays of two to ten seconds per hump, the smaller speed cushions cause a mere one second delay each. Additionally, speed cushions meet the requirements for traffic control devices on emergency response routes, of which Cherrywood is one.

The primary issue and concern for residents of this community remains a desire for "Safe, Walkable Streets." The Traffic Committee continues to strive for safe and acceptable ways to achieve this elusive goal. It is our hope that a limited installation of speed cushions and stop signs at one of the most troublesome locations on Cherrywood will help to alleviate traffic concerns there, and serve as a test case for future traffic calming actions throughout the neighborhood. Please attend the next General Membership Meeting for a broader discussion of this issue. After the discussion, we will be making a formal motion to on a vote that the Committee ask the City for a limited Traffic Calming project at the intersection of Cherrywood and Edgewood. ■

GRANDE COMMUNICATIONS

by Gordon Bennett

Grande wants to compete with Southwestern Bell to be your phone company, with Time Warner to be your cable TV provider, and with DSL and RoadRunner to be your high-speed Internet service provider. You can buy one product or an economical "bundle."

They are new on the block, but they don't come to the table empty-handed. Available to businesses and residences (including apartment buildings), Grande's new Texas network is one of

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES

(Okay, Not Planes, Buses)



by Dave Westenbarger

If your trips through the neighborhood seem smoother these days, you can thank Capital Metro for the recent improvements to the railroad crossings at Cherrywood Road and East 38½ Street.

The upgrades come after several freight train derailments in past years on this stretch of track. CapMetro is repairing 16 at-grade crossings along the Llano to Giddings rail route. The repairs cost roughly \$135,000 per crossing.

Also, be on the lookout for a new shelter which will be constructed at the bus stop on the south side of East 38½ Street across from the Delwood Center Fiesta. The shelter, which may be installed as early as this fall, will include a bench, a trash receptacle, sign and decorative fence to improve this gateway to the neighborhood.

Several bus route changes, begun August 12, affect Cherrywood, as well. Two southbound buses have been added to the 350 (Airport Boulevard) route after 7 p.m. on Sundays, arriving at Manor Road at 7:52 and 8:42 from Highland and Northcross Malls and the North Lamar Transfer Center. The 21/22 (Exposition/Chicon) loop will operate 27 buses, down from 29, on weekdays to "improve on-time performance," according to CapMetro. CapMetro reports that early results indicate an improvement from 75 percent on-time to over 90 percent.

University of Texas shuttles, which serve non-students for the standard 50 cent fare, added routes in our area. The CL (Campus Loop) has been split into FA (Forty Acres), which loops the campus, and DF (Disch Falk), which picks up the Manor/Lafayette/Dean Keaton segment of the former CL route and terminates at 23rd Street and San Jacinto. UT shuttle routes and schedules are set by the University.

CapMetro is encouraging commuters to try a van pool for a week for free. The regular fare is \$25 per month. Call 477-RIDE to be matched with a van pool. ■

the most technically advanced systems available anywhere. Newer technologies in the pipeline remain untested. We may not see them for years.

They say installation takes two hours on average, including a half-hour to help you get up and running. Time will tell if this is enough.

For local telephone service (and long distance too if you want) you can keep your existing number. Future phone books and Yellow Pages will include Grande numbers.

For cable TV, Grande claims its competitive edge is interactive digital features not yet seen in Austin. Unless your TV and VCR are just too old, you can re-

ceive digital signals without buying a new set. TV-based e-mail is in the works.

For Internet, they'll install a Network Interface Card in your PC to allow an Ethernet connection (if you don't have a compatible one already). Grande's greater penetration with fiber-optic cable means your service is less likely to slow as more people join the network. This is RoadRunner's soft underbelly. Only Grande's final link to your home will be coaxial.

Grande Communications hope to begin offering services in our neighborhood as of October 1. For more information you can contact Grande at 474-4888. ■

GROWING TREE LEARNING CENTER



Growing Tree Learning Center, 2807 Robinson Avenue

OPENS FOR BUSINESS

by Rebecca Schwarz

Growing Tree Learning Center may be a brand new day care facility for our neighborhood but it represents a life-long dream for Josh and Amber Dawkins. Their family has lived, and taken care of children, in Cherrywood for years. The new day care at 2807 Robinson Avenue was built in 1938 by Josh's great-grandfather (the Parkers) and has been in the family since.

Back when there used to be a church where the UT building now stands, his great-grandmother would take care of children in the house while their parents attended services. Josh's grandparents (Jim and Doris Stegall) were married in front of the fireplace in the living room, which has been converted to a beautiful aquarium.

Josh's mother, Sue Huber, ran a day group home (a day care center in your home) in the house while Josh was growing up. "When Sue moved, we decided to convert it completely to a child care center," Amber said.

With a degree in child development from UT, and experience in day care centers and as a nanny she is dedicated to creating a top notch day care where children can learn and grow in a supportive environment. "This has always been my dream," she said, adding, "It took two years of going through the city to receive our permit, but thanks to the support of the neighbors and the CNA we were successful."

Growing Tree believes that children learn best through doing so the activities in their classrooms are play-based. All of the children's senses are involved, if possible, and the children are free to enter and leave an activity at their choice. This method of teaching allows the children to incorporate the information in a relevant and meaningful way, enabling them to learn more completely, and to enjoy their educational experience.

Their goal is to foster social, cognitive, physical, and emotional growth by providing an environment which facilitates the development of: self confidence, initiative, and a positive self-image, a feeling of belonging, love, and respect, consideration for others, enthusiasm for learning, and the ability to solve problems.

Open since July 1, as of mid-September they still had openings for children from 18 months to 5 years. They offer both full-time and part-time care. For more information contact the Growing Tree Learning Center at 472-4899 or look them up on the web at www.growingtreeaustin.com. ■

HANGERS DRY CLEANERS

by Gordon Bennett

The Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging dry cleaners nationwide to give up "perc" for a less toxic substitute. Answering the call for volunteers is Hangers, the dry cleaners opening between Pato's and the Silver Ridge Apartments. Its Micare© process uses liquid carbon dioxide instead, the source of bubbles in soft drinks.

Do benign chemicals really clean clothes? Absolutely, says Hangers. What's more, Micare is much gentler on delicate fabrics such as silk and fine wool. Our friends at Royal Touch Cleaners are skeptical. But Hangers already has stores in 19 cities from Wisconsin to Florida, and is opening three other locations in Austin. Soon we'll have the pudding, let's hope we find the proof in it.

It's colorless, odorless and environmentally safe, they claim, and there's no risk of groundwater contamination. They say more than 98 percent of the CO₂ is recovered from the process for reuse.

"Perc" (perchloroethylene) is a chlorinated hydrocarbon originally developed as a metal degreaser for airplane parts. Adopted by the dry cleaning industry some 50 years ago, it worked so well that it spawned a neighborhood mom and pop industry that has ballooned to more than 34,000 shops nationwide. Environmentalists hate it.

Hangers is located at 1300 East 38½, their number is 236-9700. For more information about them or the processes used in dry cleaning check their web site at www.hangersdrycleaners.com. ■



STUDENTS RECEIVE ACADEMIC RECOGNITION AT MAPLEWOOD

by Pam Gray

Maplewood Elementary School recently honored twenty-two students in grades 4th-6th for Academic Recognition on the Spring 2001 TAAS. Academic Recognition means that the students answered at least 95% of the items correctly on either the TAAS Reading, Mathematics or both tests.

The Academic Recognition Breakfast was held on Tuesday, September 11 with School Board President, Kathy Rider and AISD Superintendent, Dr. Pat Forgione and many proud parents in attendance.

The following students were recognized: Keaundria Johnson, Victoria Cardenas, Nathan Jordan, Bianca Kay, Jay Newman, Caleb Reid, Travis Russell, James Youngblood, Alex De La Garza, Christopher Jackson, Sigele Nickerson Adams, Kiah Prevo, Elijah Telles, Rebecca Raymond Kolker, Henry Boston, Zachary Smolen, Joyce Alexander, James Avery, Stacey Gonzalez, Tasia William, Evan Markley, and Winona Youngblood. ■

Fright Fest 2001

Maplewood Elementary School's FRIGHT FEST 2001 will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2001 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Admission will be free of charge, and everyone in the community is invited, not just those who have family members attending Maplewood.



Free activities will include a bean-bag toss, face painting, a dungeon, a cupcake walk, fortune-telling, a costume parade, spider-web limbo, a pumpkin-carving contest, the Box of Mystery, a safe play area for preschoolers, and many others. Guests are encouraged to come in costume.

The Maplewood PTA will be selling food and drinks. In addition, for a small fee, you may have a memory photo made, or tour our haunted house. There will also be baked goods for sale.

Fright Fest is the Maplewood PTA's main fundraiser of the year. Proceeds pay for such PTA initiatives as curriculum enrichment, Maplewood's RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) program, field trips, and reimbursements to teachers for their out-of-pocket expenses for classroom supplies. Neighborhood businesses are invited to sponsor booths; volunteer helpers are also welcome. Cash contributions from businesses and individuals are also gratefully accepted.

Maplewood's annual Fright Fest is more than just a PTA fundraiser. It is a safe, supervised occasion for neighborhood children to dress up in costume, win prizes, eat cotton candy, and play games with their friends. It is also a time for all of the folks of the Cherrywood and surrounding neighborhoods to get to know each other and have fun together. Whether you have a relative attending Maplewood, or whether you are a Maplewood graduate yourself, or whether you've never had the chance to see our neighborhood elementary school from the inside, this is your free opportunity to drop by and enjoy the company of the children, families, and teachers who make Maplewood what it is — what one parent calls "a vibrant, inclusive, friendly, and challenging school." ■

CHERRYWOOD NeighborNet

The Cherrywood e-mail list, "NeighborNet," has 230 subscribers. If you are not one, you missed discussion of:

- Celebration for local political representatives who protect Mueller redevelopment
- Free mobile spay & neuter services clinic
- Grande, SWBell, and Time Warner service quality
- Mold and mildew in hour home
- Robbery report with details
- Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Planning schedule
- An open sharing of shock, grief and sorrow among your neighbors after September 11th.

To subscribe, e-mail your request to:
NeighborNet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

CHERRYWOOD'S FALL TREE PLANTING

by Michael Damal

As of press time, the city has no formalized plans to physically support a fall tree planting. However, they assure me that there will be a tree grant from the city. I am calling the city's forestry office every few weeks, waiting for an update. Normally trees have been planted in October or November—the best time here in Austin.

For those who have asked about getting a tree from the city, please be patient, as soon as I have more information I will let you know. For anyone still interested in getting a free tree planted in your front yard, its not too late. Call Mike Damal at 478-9622 or email him at mdamal@peoplepc.com for more details. ■

VIEW FROM THE BACKLOT

by Dave Westenbarger



As the third session of the Neighborhood Internship Program raises its curtain, cameras are ready and rolling. Whispers of the likes of Whoopi Goldberg, Billy Bob Thornton, Charlie Sheen and Kevin Pollack (Wedding Planner, The Usual Suspects) coming to town are heard. Rumors of full length features, documentaries and Showtime series are uttered.

Universal Pictures is deep into shooting its thriller drama, *The Life of David Gale*. The story of a UT professor who advocates for the abolition of capital punishment showcases the talents of actor Kevin Spacey. Known for his box office draw, Spacey won Oscars for Best Actor in 1999's *American Beauty* and Best Supporting Actor in 1995's *The Usual Suspects*. Earlier this year, Spacey starred opposite Dame Judi Dench in *The Shipping News* filmed in Newfoundland.

Directing Spacey will be Alan Parker, who shares co-producing roles with actor Nicolas Cage. Parker (*Angela's Ashes*, *Evita*, *The Commitments*) directed Cage in 1984's *Birdy*. Nicolas Cage, nephew of Francis Ford Coppola, earned a Best Actor Oscar for 1995's *Leaving Las Vegas*.

Universals' *The Life of David Gale* has the largest budget of any movie ever shot in Texas. The money and jobs for our local entertainment workforce benefit everyone in our community. Austin Studios wins too: Universals' advance rent payments will fund a permanent lighting grid and sound proofing for an entire hangar at the Studios.

Another Texan in the business is Ft.Worth native and former Laredo resident, Thomas Haden Church who is wrapping his directorial debut *Rolling Kansas*. He's best known for his portrayal of Lowell, the peculiar mechanic on the television series, *Wings*. Church co-wrote the script, which is reminiscent of his wild days at the University of North Texas. Earlier this year, Church acted in *Lone Star State of Mind*, another Austin Studios film. Church owns a ranch near Vanderpool in the Hill country. He recognizes our film community's value stating that there is "an amazing talent pool here."

In this year alone, Texans Robert Rodriguez (*El Mariachi*, *The Faculty*) and Richard Linklater (*Slacker*, *Dazed and Confused*, *Before Sunrise*) used local film facilities to produce their movies, *Spy Kids* and *Waking Life*. These filmmakers' visions were conceived, created, crafted and completed in Austin. Recognition and honors abound. This summer Rodriguez' *Spy Kids* held the number one movie spot in America for several weeks, grossing over \$111 million. Two of the most well known film festivals, Sundance and Venice, were mesmerized by Linklater's dreamy animated *Waking Life*, which will officially debut in mid-October.

Kudos from returning actors, improvements to studios and the accolades garnered by local directors all serve to encourage the growth of Austin's movie industry. ■

THE GREAT CHERRYWOOD LOGO HOP-OFF

That's right! At last freedom will reign, justice will be served, the masses will speak!

In answer to those who have suggested, over the years, that our esteemed neighborhood newsletter be represented by something more palatable than our current entomologically correct model, and to equally plumb the depths of loyalty some have to that same insect, we hereby announce the first, last and only Logo Hop-Off!

Every concerned soul among us will be given a voice. First on the agenda is voting for whether, Bitus, the Flea logo on the FLEA masthead, should be changed or not. If you vote to have a new logo, you may also submit your ideas of how the new logo should look, including graphic examples. WE WANT YOUR OPINION. If you are a resident of our neighborhood, your vote counts! Old enough to tell Mommy or Daddy if you want a new bug? Good! Vote! (No cheating with infants and toddlers, adults).

Send in your vote tallies for each household. Votes must be identified by name & address to be counted. We will tally all votes prior to next issue. THE DEADLINE FOR VOTES IS **DECEMBER 23RD**.

You tell us, the OLD Flea or a NEW Flea (remember, if you're voting for a new one, to include your Flea ideas)!

E-mail all votes and/or logo entries to:
Jack@jackjoseynewman.com

-or-

Mail to Jack Newman at:
603 West 13th Street
PMB 1A-191
Austin, Texas 78701



Congratulations to these students who were chosen to participate in the Austin Studios' Neighborhood Internship Program:

Latrice Barnett, from Anderson High School and the MLK neighborhood is working at Detour Productions; **Zachary Smith** from Garza High School and the 78704 zipcode is spending time with the Austin Cinemaker Coop; and **Laura Embree-Lowry** of the Delwood II neighborhood while attending LBJ High School, works with the Austin Film Society."



Cherrywood Watch T-Shirts are still available! Designed by Cherrywood's own Mike Conner to show we are a community of people who care about those who live around us.

This neighborhood T-shirt initiative is NOT meant to be a "patrol". It IS meant to be a part of what people do everyday in the neighborhood: exercising, walking our dogs, mowing our lawns. By wearing this T-shirt, we advertise and reinforce our efforts to know our neighbors and to look out for each other.

Crime prevention groups tell us that criminals look for easy targets. Here is an opportunity for us to show that we are not the typical urban neighborhood that rolls up its sidewalk after dark.

These high quality black-on-white T-shirts are professionally silk-screened by Spirit Wind Graphics. Prices are \$6.50 for S-XL, \$8.25 for XXL, and \$9.75 for XXXL. Order your shirt today by contacting Frances DeLaune at fpdela@austin.rr.com or 477-1986.



LEO'S PIES

by Scheleen Walker

Thanksgiving 2000. I was to spend the holiday with my

family in Bluffdale, TX. "Bring a pie," my mother said, knowing full well I didn't really cook, but recalling that I'd managed to produce a home-made apple pie years ago. The days ticked off, work dragged on, and no pie.

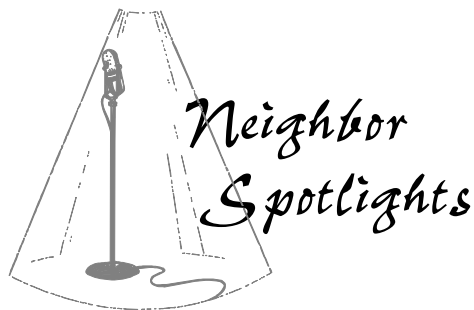
The initial posting on Cherrywood's Neighbor Net email said Leo would make apple, pumpkin, cherry, pecan or coconut crême holiday pies for only \$15.00, plus a dish deposit with pick-up or delivery!

Nevertheless, I fully intended to make my own pie. Besides, who was this Leo Morini? I'd never seen his name before on the NeighborNet. Monday rolled around and it finally sank in that I was running out of time. Another announcement from Leo came, this time I hit 'Reply', "If it's not too late, I would like to order an apple pie," I typed. "Hello Scheleen, I have your order for one apple pie, you can pick it up after five on Wednesday. Thanks, Leo." I'd no idea what to expect, I could only hope Leo actually knew how to bake.

Wednesday I drove to 1715 East 34th Street to retrieve my pie. KUT radio jazz wafted through Leo's open door, as did the unmistakable smell of pastry. Leo

introduced me to neighbors Pat Eakin, Lisa Chamansky and Rick Behall, who were keeping Leo company as he rolled out another pie crust. Twenty five pies occupied every available kitchen surface. With more than 40 mostly last minute orders, Leo had to use neighbors' ovens to fill them on time. Leo presented me a spectacular 9.5" apple pie.

With pie in hand, I hungered to learn more about my neighbors. I discovered Leo is a bona-fide chef. Over a dinner of butternut squash simmered in anise, wilted spinach with garlic, a feisty vegetable stir-fry over rice, and glass of Pinot Grigio, Leo and Pat shared their story with me.



The folks living on 34th Street, east of Cherrywood are a close-knit group. It all began with the "Fence Thing." Leo's term for the gardening program he started. "It's one thing we all had in common immediately, a passion for gardening," he Said. The group includes: Lisa, Rick and their son Jack; Ben, Wendy, two Rose Maries and Adrienne, Leo's former roommate. Adrienne, now living across the street, designed the new Austin Studios' Neighborhood In-

ternship brochure. When she's not winning billiards' tournaments, she studies multimedia and computer graphics.

Pat lives on the "other side of the tracks" from 34th Street, but his history with Leo goes way back. A fine South Austin Bubba specimen, Pat grew up in West Austin and in 1978 bought his house across from The 1715.

Leo and Pat share a bond that encompasses their love of food and the desire – or need – to be connected to the place they live, their neighborhood. When Leo was out of work, Pat taught him electrical skills, in turn Leo cooked meals for Pat and his three children. "That's what neighborhoods are for," Leo says.

Ben Thompson, a teacher and home owner on Larry Lane, enjoys watching Pat and Leo spar like the Odd Couple that they are. "It's like a hub at the bottom of the hill." And yes, he has lent Leo the use of his oven for pie making. "Yeah, but I have yet to see my own apple pie."

Leo's offer to all Cherrywooders was "My way of introducing myself to the Cherrywood Neighborhood.". Even though Leo is wired to neighborhood email discussions, he rarely interjects his opinions because as he says, "politics suck". Yet he believes in the spirit of community. Thanks to his pies many more neighbors now know who he is. "It was just a shot in the dark, but it worked," he said. Somebody has to make the first move to break the ice, and Leo is a great example of one who did. ■

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Carl Anderson - Last seen making his list and checking it twice, finding out who's coming to town to see his show, "Searching for Santa and Finding Hope". Our neighborhood Nick will regale audiences with tales of his experiences and lessons learned portraying Santa for 20 years. Catch his entertaining wit at the Dougherty Arts Center from November 1-11th, before he rises up the chimney to deliver the goods. Call 320.8536 for reservations; group rates available.

Trey Larson - Last seen dashing across front yards, shouldering a 40 pound bag stuffed full of letters and magazines to deliver. A U.S. Postal carrier for over 3 years, Trey easily recalls the names of those living in his daytime neighborhood. He greets each neighbor he sees on his daily trek, even speaking with the 4 legged variety, like Scooby Doo, who lives on 38 1/2 Street. Along with other Cherrywood postal carriers, Larry Leady, Dorrain Roberts and Earl James, Trey serves our community with professionalism and provides us with a personal touch that we all appreciate.



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The Stork - Last seen flapping around the Cherrywood community, visiting expectant parents and siblings. As our neighborhood grows in different ways, our newborn population is increasing as well. Recently nursery dispatches saw the stork dropping bundles at the homes of the Byers (John, Alice & Belen) and the Schwarzes (Rebecca & Bill). Word has it that in December, Santa will team up with the Stork to make a special delivery to our postal carrier, Trey & his wife, Veronica.

These guys really do make us special with their deliveries! ■



Carl Anderson and Trey Larson



TO THE FLEA AND BEYOND

Besides being a freelance designer and graphic artist for publications, such as the one you are holding right now, neighborhood artist Bethany Andrée is an accomplished ceramicist. In art school ten years ago, she discovered the joys of clay and focused her artistic ambitions on hand-built ceramic sculpture. Now Bethany not only creates her own sculpture but also teaches ceramics to both beginning and skilled students.

"I'm largely inspired by fifties design and artists such as Henry Moore and Jean Arp. For content, I look to nature and human psychology," says Bethany. The home she shares with husband Karl, dog Fibi and cats Lula, Nora and Buddy, is visual proof of her artistic interests.

Bethany teaches her art, alongside another Cherrywood resident, Kelly Hill, at ClayWays Pottery Studio and Gallery on Burnet Road, and at the Art School at Laguna Gloria. "I give my students complete

creative freedom to make what they want," says Bethany. "Most make functional work, including trays, vases, lamps and fountains, and a few make figurative and abstract sculpture."

ClayWays offers a wonderful art experience with great equipment, ample space, convenient studio hours and numerous class offerings in wheel-throwing, hand building, tile making and more. Just in time for the holidays, Bethany will be teaching Monday and Tuesday classes starting October 15. Soon she'll be offering classes from her own studio, under the auspices of her business name, Art Stuff. Right now, Karl is putting the finishing touches on her aesthetic digs, located off East 38 1/2 Street. Bethany notes that although the Laguna Gloria studio is not as big, "it's set in such a beautiful landscape and the instructors are fabu-

lous." Other ceramic classes offered around Austin can be found at ACC, Dougherty Arts Center, Feats of Clay, and the Elisabet Ney Sculpture Conservatory.

In between *FLEA* layouts, Bethany creates graphic designs for newsletters, announcements, invitations, posters, catalogs, business brochures, cards and logos. Handmade wedding invitations are her current concentration. She is, appropriately, the graphic designer for the Texas Clay Arts Association. She looks forward to enhancing the design of upcoming issues of the *FLEA*.

Bethany has produced work in various studios, including her own. She currently is participating in an exhibit at the Austin Bergstrom International Airport. Also, you will be able to view Bethany and Kelly's work at the Instruc-

tor's Show, opening October 26th, in the ClayWays gallery. How lucky we are to have her as our Cherrywood neighbor! ■



Co-Dependency, 1999, ceramic 28" x 16" x 9", Bethany Andrée.