

July 2002

Volume 7, No. 4

The Flea

NORTH CENTRAL I-35 NEIGHBORHOODS COALITION (NCINC)

by Stefan Schuster

Cherrywood, we need a second opinion and we need your help! The North Central I-35 Neighborhoods Coalition (NCINC), representing neighborhood associations along the I-35 corridor through central Austin, is soliciting endorsements from communities and groups potentially affected by the expansion of the central segment of the Interstate. The boy band-like acronym is to make us easier to remember. Check out our Web site at www.main.org/ncinc/.

NCINC generally shares TxDOT's official Statement of Vision to "provide transportation systems and alternatives that are comfortable, safe, durable, cost-effective, accessible, environmentally sensitive and aesthetically appealing."

More specifically we believe that each component of a long-term comprehensive regional transportation plan for the Austin Metropolitan Area should:

- Improve the safety and mobility of commuters, inter-regional travelers, and local traffic in and through Austin;
- Take advantage of existing high-capacity roadways with increased connectivity;
- Complement current and future land use and transportation plans of local municipalities;
- Integrate multi-modal and mass-transportation systems;

- Utilize "best practice" solutions as implemented where interstate highways have been built or expanded through an urban core;
- Encourage, and provide safe access and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists; and
- Address traffic congestion regionally and systematically.

UBC Photo



TxDOT's presently Preferred Alternative is not sufficiently coordinated with long-term comprehensive regional transportation planning in our area. As a result, it fails to adequately address several key issues that are supposed to drive their Major Investment Study (MIS), most notably safety, mobility, and urban planning.

In critical urban segments, and at key major roadway intersections, the proposed design does not complement current and future developments planned along the corridor. It lacks coordination with ongoing planning by municipal governments, regional authorities, and trans-

portation agencies. Take a look at the design at www.i35austin.com and make a decision for yourself. It doesn't take long to look at a section and find trouble. For example, the intersection with Airport Boulevard is not even being considered for depression below grade, there are numerous inappropriately placed exit ramps, the preliminary design does not account for ANY airport redevelopment, and the intersection with 51st and I-35 is a bigger mess in the proposed design than what currently exists.

Austin's Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority has a Rapid Transit Project considering multi-modal solutions. A contracted five-county Central Texas Regional Visioning Project is underway. There is a long-standing 10-county Capitol Area Planning Council (CAPCO), with its own Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO). None of these efforts is coordinated with the MIS. They should be working in tandem. In a few cases, the Preferred Alternative gives the appearance of a lack of coordination within the State Highway agency itself.

The MIS has failed to satisfy USDOT guidelines for compliance with Federal Regulations regarding the conduct of Major Investment Studies.

(continued on page 3)

Next CNA meeting:

Wednesday
July 17
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Maplewood Elementary

UPPER BOGGY CREEK PLAN UPDATE

from Stephen Kreger, Chair, UBCPT

The Upper Boggy Creek Plan is in the home stretch. The Planning Commission (PC) made its recommendation about the Plan to the City Council on June 12, 2002. The Council will consider it on July 17, the day after the CNA meeting. The PC also recommended that sub-districts could be used by Planning Areas if needed. The Council will address the sub-district issue on June 27, 2002.

The PC added the in-fill option of secondary apartments to the Wilshire Wood/Delwood I & II sub-district which was not in the Plan submitted to the PC. A meeting was held on June 18 (after this article was written) to see what the Team wants to do regarding that item as well as a couple of zoning items regarding properties on the south end of Cherrywood Road. Otherwise, the Plan was accepted as written by the PC.

The next issue of the Flea will have the final result of the UBCP and what will happen with the Plan in the future. ■

NOMINATE OR STEER? YOU'RE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

At the October general membership meeting, a slate of seven Steering Committee (SC) members will be presented for consideration and possible election to a two-year term. It is expected that some members whose term is expiring -- Bree Buchanan, Jack Newman, Kyle Ranne, Stephan Schuster, and Andy Simmons -- may seek to continue serving, but it is estimated that 3-5 new members will still be needed.

Therefore, the Nominating Committee (NC) -- currently Michael McClendon, Jim Walker, Dave Westenbarger (2 members short) -- is seeking volunteers to serve on the SC or to join us on the NC. We would also like to maintain a list of interested persons to fill vacancies as they occur.

Functions of the SC

- Meets monthly
- Elects own officers
- Recommends policies to the membership
- Handles neighborhood business

Functions of the NC

- Seeks representative slate of SC nominees for consideration and possible election at the October general membership meeting
- Maintains list of interested persons to fill SC vacancies

Interested in serving on either?

Contact Michael at 482-0016 or michaelmclendon@juno.com, or let Jim or Dave know you are interested. You will be asked to complete a short form regarding your interest in serving on the SC. ■

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://www.cherrywood.org>

Steering Committee

Chair	Bree Buchanan	482-8468
Vice-Chair	Dave Westenbarger	494-9905
Secretary	James Spanelli	236-1482
Treasurer	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
Members	Frances DeLaune	477-1986
	Jeff Folmar	472-4535
	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
	David Menhard	478-0996
	Kyle Ranne	478-7506
	Stefan Schuster	322-0059
	Rebecca Schwarz	478-9618
	Anderson Simmons	431-0812

Communications

The Flea:

• Editor	Jack Josey Newman	476-6616
• Assistant Editors	Dolly Ensey	494-9905
	Rebecca Schwarz	478-9618
• Design & Layout	Bethany Andrée	473-2841
• Photography	Liz Hargrove	478-5043
• Advertising	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
	Dave Westenbarger	494-9905
• Distribution	Jim Walker	499-0526
NeighborNet & Website:	Gordon Bennett	477-7195

Committees

Hospitality:	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
	Frances DeLaune	477-1986
Nominating:	Michael McClendon	482-0016
Parks:	Girard Kinney	478-5042
Pets:	Gale Greenleaf	474-6245
• Cats-in-the-Hood	Sharon Edmonson	473-2337
Planning & Zoning:	Girard Kinney	478-5042
Security:	VACANT	
Transportation:	Stefan Schuster	322-0059

Projects

Austin Film Society:	Dolly Ensey	494-9905
Blue Ribbon Yard:	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
Maplewood:	Jack Newman	476-6616
Mueller Redevelopment:	Jim Walker	499-0526
Tree Planting:	Mike Damal	478-9622
Upper Boggy Creek Planning:	Steve Kreger	477-4216

UBC photos, in this newsletter, are from the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Planning Area collection.

(continued from Page 1)

The members and endorsers of NCINC seek a review of the Preferred Alternative by independent transportation experts, regional planners, and urban design specialists. This review hopefully will allow informed reconsideration of alternative options at both corridor and regional levels.

NCINC embraces the philosophy of the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) President, Tom Warne: "Highway Projects can be designed with imagination, creativity and collaboration to preserve and enhance the character and quality of a community without sacrificing transportation mobility and safety."

I ask your support for a motion at the our July Membership Meeting to have the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association endorse the "North Central I-35 Neighborhoods Coalition" call for an outside review of TxDOT's long-term plans for improving the freeway. More details can be found on the NCINC site, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ncinc/>.

Come join us & help build a better I-35. ■

Preliminary AGENDA for the JULY meeting of the CNA

All neighborhood residents are invited!

**6:30 — 8:30 pm, July 17, 2002
Maplewood Elementary Library**

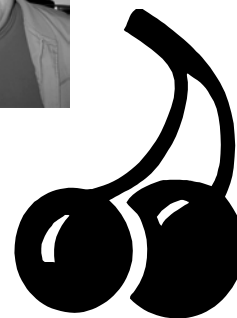
1. Call to Order
2. Officers' Reports
3. Committee Reports
 - Communications: call for Flea editor, distribution coordinator
 - Parks: Patterson Park update
 - Planning and Zoning: UBC Plan Status
 - Transportation: IH-35 update
 - Security: Commander's Forum
 - Hospitality
4. Old Business: 501c3 nonprofit status
5. New Business: designation of Cherrywood as Historic-eligible
6. Adjourn

CHERRY PICKING

by Jack Josey Newman, Jr.

"For everything, turn, turn, turn,
there is a season, turn, turn, turn..."

The Byrds



It's been almost two years since Bennett Donovan passed the Editor's torch to me, and a lot has happened during those two laps around our nearest star. CNA negotiated with the City for an acceptable site for a major local power grid component, most of us say successfully. The hugely important Mueller Redevelopment project was at last shepherded past many potential pitfalls and into what we hope will be the relatively responsive and acceptably visionary management of Catellus. An organization of Mueller area neighborhoods, the UBC, led by CNA members, spent more than a year on formulating responses to inner-city developmental challenges and working with the City to make them law.

The Austin Studios, Austin Film Society and related groups produced major films and made major efforts to make film-making a welcome neighbor and positive influence on our part of town. A serious neighborhood effort to upgrade our parks environment has taken root and begun to blossom. Traffic and crime issues have been addressed with authorities with mixed results; but the commitment to improve our quality of life has been unwavering, and continues unabated.

And the *FLEA* itself has changed in that time. Now a full 16 pages with an Editorial Staff of 5, an Advertising Staff of 2, and a Distribution Staff of dozens, the *FLEA* has few equals in the neighborhood newsletter ranks. From a periodical concentrating almost totally on hard news and current crises, it has evolved into a journal offering human interest and personal introspection as well. While not all of my editorial wishes have come true, such as a poetry corner and a section for neighborhood kids' input, the *FLEA* has become something I am very proud to be associated with.

And it is the unsurpassed talent, dedication, creativity and positive attitudes of Dolly Ensey, Rebecca Swartz, Dave Westenbarger, Bethany Andrée and Liz Hargrove, the business acumen of Rebecca Kohout, and the stout legs of Jim Walker and his band of distributors that have created this neighborhood more-than-a-newsletter and put it into your welcoming hands.

And yet time, and lives, move on. After purposely building a staff that could not only share the increasing editorial load, but that would be able to withstand the loss of any individual member, I have isolated the remaining weak link in a strong chain: Myself. I simply can no longer be certain that I will be available for this very important work at the time it needs to be done. My family is young and actively involved in age-appropriate activities, and my real estate businesses are demanding of my time as well. This will be my last issue as the Editor of the *FLEA*.

I urge anyone with even average writing competence, with some available time every three months, a good attitude and an interest in CNA matters, to volunteer to help with this paper. Call Bree Buchanan at 482-8468. And thanks for the chance to serve this community.

-30-



NEIGHBORHOODS CAN BE DEMOCRATIC

by Gordon Bennett

This will sound familiar. Hundreds, even thousands of residents populate the jurisdiction of a well-established Neighborhood Association, yet the active participants number just 20 or 30 individuals.

How can a small volunteer group of neighborhood leaders adequately represent everybody? They do so in effect whenever they write letters, testify, opt in or out of a program, or create a plan, and act in any way in the name of the many, without a practical way to confirm their actions in a timely manner with the whole neighborhood. Comprehensive, quick polling is almost never an option before the action must be taken.

I argue a Neighborhood Association leadership acts democratically if it focuses on opportunity, and follows three principles.

Principle 1: **STRUCTURE should be predictable.**

Exclusive boundaries, inclusive membership criteria, officers, regular meetings, bylaws, and regular communication with members are all necessary. Membership must include resident renters and owners, and ideally should include non-resident owners, businesses, and institutions.

Transitory renters may feel tangential to the community, but they should be welcomed as they extend the Neighborhood

Association's reach. What's more, mobile residents bring to the table the knowledge and experience gained elsewhere.

Absentee landlords and businesses may have different property interests than residents. But the Neighborhood Association who embraces them will improve its democratic credentials while fostering a cooperative element instead of an antagonistic one.

Principle 2: **OCCASIONAL PARTICIPANTS should find their Neighborhood Association approachable.**

Those with limited time for neighborhood affairs must be informed about the issues that matter to them. The challenge here is to communicate with folks who gather information differently, whether the Internet and e-mail, print media or the phone. Some enjoy getting together face-to-face and talking, others detest meetings. Any approach will connect better with some people than with others. But as a practical matter Neighborhood Associations cannot employ all approaches for every issue.

So, the Neighborhood Association must endeavor to do more than just send e-mail and meet informally. Association members must accept that the neighborhood leaders cannot visit them all personally every time a new issue arises. A few possibilities beyond e-mail include:

- fix regular meeting times and places
- plant temporary signs announcing each general meeting
- invite people to sign up to be called, and designate a caller
- have folks who keep informed brief interested neighbors who can't
- establish a neighborhood bulletin board or kiosk, and keep notices current
- distribute handouts & minutes at a kiosk, store, school, or church
- set up "block captains"
- organize visible social events such as block parties, National Night Out events, Fourth of July picnic or parade, home tours, and attractive

landscaping recognition

- hand out literature at neighborhood polling places on voting day
- welcome new residents with literature and coupons from local businesses and restaurants.

Principle 3: **REGULAR PARTICIPANTS should find communication convenient.**

For those who are willing to serve on a committee, contribute to the newsletter, or lend their time and talent to the Neighborhood Association in any number of ways, more timely methods of communication (probably via e-mail), and of sharing responsibilities, are necessary.

A Neighborhood Association that conforms to all three principles, so that anyone who wants to be in the loop knows how to participate at their own level, and feels welcome in doing so, can be said to be democratic. ■

For more information see the sites below:

1. The Metropolitan Austin Interactive Network will host community Web sites: www.main.org
2. The Austin History Center will archive newsletters: www.cityofaustin.org/library/ahc
3. Local financial institutions, and the Texas Bar Assn, will help with finances: asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/_cwd/ACCT/Acct_Memo.pdf
4. The Austin Neighborhoods Council gives voice to neighborhood interests Web site: austinnanc.tripod.com/
E-mail site: groups.yahoo.com/group/ANCtalk
5. The City of Austin maintains a list of recognized neighborhood associations: www.ci.austin.tx.us/neighbor/search.htm
6. The City of Austin maintains a "Services for Austin Neighborhoods" site: www.ci.austin.tx.us/neighbor/default.htm and publishes a "Neighborhood Resource Guide": asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/_cwd/ResourceGuide2001.pdf
7. Chicago's Center for Neighborhood Technology is a source of innovative ideas: www.cnt.org

THE ROLE OF MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE CHERRYWOOD COMMUNITY

by Paul Andrews

Even if I knew a complete answer, it would be too long for an article in *The Flea*, but I can offer some comments about how the neighborhood and the school work together.

Some things that Maplewood Elementary does for the Cherrywood neighborhood:

1. It educates our children. This may seem too obvious to mention, but it is too important not to. I speak of “our” children because we all share responsibility for the children of Austin. Everyone, regardless of whether she or he is a parent, or ever will be a parent, has an interest in ensuring that the youngest members of society receive the preparation that they need to realize their full potential and achieve their goals in life.

Maplewood teaches children fundamental subjects such as reading and mathematics, improves their health through physical education, assists their growth as citizens by teaching good behavior, and offers them the chance to develop their talents. Maplewood also offers classes and programs that not all elementary schools offer. These include Pre-K (pre-kindergarten) classes for four-year-olds; an EC (early childhood) program for three-year-olds; a sixth grade (Maplewood is one of only a few elementary schools in AISD that still teach sixth graders); a GT program for gifted and talented students in third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades; and social behavior classes for children with emotional needs.

Though TAAS scores are not a full measure of a school’s quality, it is nevertheless worth mentioning that Maplewood’s TAAS scores have earned it a Recognized rating from the



UBC Photo

Texas Education Agency for the past three years.

2. It serves as a community center. Maplewood has long been a convenient meeting place for many groups, including Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, and other civic organizations. Classrooms have housed Saturday quilting clubs and chess clubs, and on Wednesday evenings, passers-by have often overheard a big band practicing in the school cafeteria. After school hours, neighborhood residents may be seen shooting hoops on the basketball court, playing Frisbee with their dogs on the school grounds, or taking their toddlers to play on the playscape. And the school’s annual Fright Fest in late October offers all Cherrywood residents from the ages of one to 101 (as well as residents of Wilshire Wood and Delwood II) a fun, safe, and inexpensive community celebration.

Some things that the Cherrywood neighborhood does for Maplewood Elementary:

1. It provides financial and other support. Neighborhood businesses, organizations, and individuals contribute money or supplies to the school. Some donors are located even beyond the boundaries of the Cherrywood neighborhood. Support includes food donated by Fiesta Mart and H-E-B for school carnivals and graduation ceremonies; it includes cash grants from

Grande Communications, Newman Associates, and the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association for science equipment, RIF reading programs, and other educational expenses; and it also includes gift certificates donated by Academy, Austin Outdoor Gear and Guidance, Hollywood Video, Music Mania, Royal Touch Cleaners, Hoover’s Cooking, Eastside Café, Quizno’s, and other businesses, to be auctioned off at fundraisers. And whenever ice is needed—for soft drinks at fundraising events, school celebrations, or monthly PTA meetings—the management of Monarch Mart can be counted on to donate it.

2. It helps the school plan improvements. Maplewood’s Campus Advisory Council (CAC) is made up of parents, teachers, and community members who devise a Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) for the school. This is the opportunity for neighborhood residents, who do not need to have family members attending the school in order to join the CAC, to help the school plan for the future. Even those who are not members of the CAC may attend its meetings and offer input.

The CAC is an opportunity for members of the community, as well as the school faculty and parents, to have a voice in improving public education and ensuring that the future of Cherrywood—and of Austin—is as bright as possible for the next generation. ■

UBC Photo



PATTERSON PARK NEWS

from Isabelle Headrick

This is an exciting time in which to be involved in Patterson Park's future! The chances are excellent that

we will get a new playground next year, and we just learned that HEB will generously donate funds towards a shade cover over the baby pool. (Thank you, HEB!) Finally, Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP) is applying with the Austin Parks Foundation for a grant to hire an architect to design a jogging trail and hiking trail that would complement plans for addressing erosion.

Recently, members of the Capital Area Tennis Association approached FoPP to solicit feedback on an idea for a new Austin Tennis Center at Patterson. This would involve expanding the current tennis center from 8 to 22 or 24 courts. Most of the new courts would be along Airport Blvd; some, however, would be built on part of the existing softball fields. The basketball court would be moved to where the free tennis courts are currently located. One of the new courts would be a stadium court; and a new, larger clubhouse would be built. The plan also involves expanding the parking lot westward into the park and adding lighting (which would be turned off at night).

FoPP members raised several concerns, including:

1. How would this be funded? (The answer was: a combination of private and public—i.e. PARD-funds.)
2. If PARD contributes to the funding, how could that affect funding for other projects?
3. Who would pay for maintenance and upkeep?
4. What data justifies 24 courts instead of 8? (Answer: increased CATA membership)
5. Would CATA conduct a traffic study? This would almost certainly result in increased traffic, most from outside the neighborhood.
6. Dislike for idea of paving over greenspace in the park
7. What would happen to the free tennis courts?
8. Patterson is balanced among a lot of different activities. The tennis center would change the balanced character of the park.
9. Since Pharr is the northern-most tennis center in Austin, it makes more sense to put this in a more northern park, such as Gus Garcia Park, that has more acreage anyway.

And some positive comments:

1. This plan would be more acceptable if the tennis center parking was on the other side of Airport.
2. Perhaps the tennis center would help the park improve other areas.
3. The builders of the tennis center would work to create attractive landscaping.

CATA has received these concerns, as well as the e-mail comments that were forwarded to me. If Patterson is pursued as a potential site, FoPP will sponsor a community meeting to hear a refined proposal and elicit more discussion.

In other news, we had a wonderful time at the community picnic and fundraiser on April 28! Our heartfelt thanks go out to the many generous donors who donated drinks and raffle items. We raised \$483, ate good food, schmoozed with our neighbors—and most important, got a chance to publicly thank Eva Arellano, the PARD lady who cleans Patterson, and Earl Burg, a longtime resident who visits Patterson every day and keep the city people on their toes when it comes to our park. These two have been working tirelessly every single day to keep this park beautiful and clean. If you see either of them, please give them some appreciation.

Donations to Friends of Patterson Park are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. You may send a check payable to Austin Parks Foundation with "Patterson Park" on the Memo line (mail it to APF at 815 Brazos Street, Suite 1001, Austin, Texas 78701). We welcome anyone with an interest in Patterson to come to our meetings, which are usually held monthly at Genesis Presbyterian Church. For more information on FoPP, call Isabelle at 499-0621 or e-mail pattpark@texas.net. ■

Many thanks to the picnic drink and raffle donors:

Inga Marie Carmel
Christa Daszko
Eastside Cafe
HEB
Special Addition
Leah Lewis
Granite Cafe
Lincoln Ward
Pacha Coffeehouse
Culinary Academy of Austin
Fiesta
Vortex Theater
Mary Beth Metcalf
Johnny Carino's
Hanger's Cleaners

CHERRYWOOD *NeighborNet*

If you are not yet subscribed to the Cherrywood e-mail list, you missed discussion of:

- The new web page brokering part-time jobs, volunteers, and special interest groups
- Cherrywood Green and Patterson Park projects
- Protesting property tax appraisals
- Birds, cats, crows, dogs, baby ducks, fleas, and spiders
- Great stuff for sale: appliances, furniture and even chocolate truffles
- Neighborhood notary service
- Finishing up the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan
- Mold problems
- How to contribute to the Flea
- Regular reminders of deadlines, events, and meetings

To subscribe, e-mail your request to:

NeighborNet-subscribe@yahoo.com

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

by Mike Damal

Our neighborhood's tree population has grown by more than 100 trees in the past four years! These trees took root in Cherrywood soil during neighborhood tree plantings by neighborhood volunteers. Financing of the trees has varied, with some year's trees being bought by residents, and other year's trees being donated by the city.

The tradition continues this year with our fifth annual Cherrywood Tree Planting. With recent budget cuts, free trees from the city are not guaranteed; however, at the very least we can provide a quality 5-7 foot tree for no more than \$12 per tree. And with neighborhood volunteers to plant your tree—all you have to do is decide where it should be planted! For less than the price of a pizza, you can benefit the environment and beautify the neighborhood! Your home already has enough trees? Talk to shade deprived neighbors and donate a tree to grace their property.

The best planting time here in Austin falls in October or November. Right now, we are scouting for volunteers to help plant and coordinate the planting. How about you? Believe it or not, this is not hard work -- digging a hole is only one small part of the process. Want to volunteer? Simply contact me at 478-9622 or mdamal@peoplepc.com. ■

TO #14 ON THE 14TH: NEIGHBORS APPRECIATING NEIGHBORS

from Dolly Ensey

On Flag Day, the men and women of Fire Station #14 were honored by their neighbors. People from the neighborhoods of Blackland, Cherrywood, Wilshirewood/Delwood I, Delwood II, and Rogers-Washington/Holy Cross, joined together as American citizens and each other's neighbors to show appreciation for the valiant efforts and brave work daily performed by these courageous individuals in the line of duty in and around our neighborhoods for 50 years.

An American flag, specially flown over the US Capitol building in Washington, D.C., for Station #14, was accepted by Captain Scott Worth on behalf of all the members of the emergency teams housed at the facility on Airport at Wilshire Boulevard. Bill McDonald, one of the original firefighters at this station, was on hand for the presentation and to reminisce about those days.

Pastor Robbin Clipson of Asbury Methodist Church gave the invocation. Jay Velgos, President of Wilshirewood/Delwood I and Jim Walker, leader of the Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition, spoke about the flag, the contributions made by Station #14 to our community and our future together. Two dozen Alamo Recreation Center campers brought a banner for the occasion. Attendees were reminded of Station #14's constant vigilance and accountability as a team responded to an emergency call. As the large red truck roared out of the station, children waved the stars and stripes while adults clapped their support and encouragement. ■



Dolly Ensey presents a special American flag to Captain Scott Worth of Fire Station #14. Photo: Liz Hargrove

REMINDER:

Trees planted in the past few years need water in these hot summer months. It is very important! The best way to achieve deep watering is a slow trickling hose for 30-60 minutes, especially if it has not rained in two weeks. Such waterings will really make a difference in the growth and health of new trees!



Photos: Liz Hargrove and Dolly Ensey



Congratulations Blue Ribbon Yard Winners:

May (left) — Charissa Goodrich, 4016 Crescent
June (above) — Steve Hagey, 3906 Cherrywood

TURN ON ALL THE LIGHTS! National Night Out, Tuesday, August 6

from Michael McClendon

Host a block party! Attend a block party! Turn on your porch lights, lock your doors, get out to walk the streets and **meet your neighbors!**

Hosting a block party? Consider submitting a written request for the police, firemen or Emergency Medical Service crews to visit your party. While we all would like to have someone from each of these groups at our parties, there is no guarantee for their presence; however, Yolanda Buchman has graciously agreed to extend the deadline for Cherrywood residents to submit their request to her through noon on July 12. Remember to let her know you are from Cherrywood. Contact Yolanda - nno@ci.austin.tx.us or 459-1554. ■

*List your party, find the parties
on the NeighborNet!*

If you're not already on the Cherrywood e-mail list, send your request to NeighborNet-subscribe@yahoo.com. As August 6th approaches, you may even find a list of parties available on the CNA website, cherrywood.org.

National Night Out CNA parties: (*don't be shy, host a party!*)

Michael McClendon, 3501 Hollywood Avenue, 6 — 9pm

If you have questions about National Night Out e-mail Michael at michaelmclendon@juno.com, or if you don't have computer access, call 482-0016.

the more the merrier ...

AHA! CONGRATULATIONS . . . IN OUR OWN BACKYARD!

by Robbin Griffith Clipson

"Congratulations!" . . . An apt greeting slipped right through my fingers. After interviewing John Aielli, host of KUT-FM's Eklektikos, I learned that he was recently inducted into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame during the Austin Critics Table Awards ceremony. So, John, as you read The Flea, know how proud we are for your prestigious award recognizing your many accomplishments in the arts community.

As a daily "resonator" with John's serendipitous musical tandems, I applaud his gift for blending random threads of the artworld, especially music, into a celebration of the day. I've privately nicknamed him "the human synthesizer". He has an uncanny talent for weaving together the most amazing themes in a coherent, often inspiring and meaningful piece of "Aha!"

For eighteen years, John has called Cherrywood home, even though choosing our neighborhood was somewhat serendipitous itself. At that time, he just needed a place to live — quick! — sort of stumbling into what he now deems a

"great place to live, a hidden treasure!" With a short commute to the corner of Guadalupe and Dean Keaton, John begins his broadcast at 8 a.m. During his six hour show, he alludes to the birds chirping in the morning. Listening to their singing in the Cherrywood trees is a ritual he wouldn't miss. It's as nurturing as his daily vocalizing. This thirty minute private songfest provides him with his daily meditation, uniting heart, mind, soul and body.

Those pausing to hear the fresh sounds of a Cherrywood morning know the joy behind John's hidden treasure. The birds we hear as we greet the dawn just happen to be the very sounds he references on the radio — the same ones that bring me glee on the corner of 38 1/2 and Cherrywood. Sharing that inspiration with his audience fuels a worldview of which even Mr. Rogers would be proud — that's Mr. Fred Rogers, as in "it's a neighborly day in the beauty-wood" fame, in case you missed the connection.

Making connections is what John Aielli does best! From classical piano training and nearly 30 years as the "classical voice" on area radio, John stretches his

listeners' ears all the way around the world, juxtaposing what seems to be totally unrelated themes into a treasure of global proportions. Each day, John brings the world to his listeners, and for us, he brings the world right into our own backyard.

John delights in music as the "universal language" though he normally tries to avoid cliches, preferring instead fresh discovery, fresh connections. Yet, he muses at the irony of the many truths poised behind timeless values, especially those calling us to celebrate the moment, the mystery of life and our human connections as neighbors.

With purpose and confidence, he engages not only the moment but the person which inspires exploration and fun! I must confess the thought of interviewing an "interviewer extraordinaire" — especially one that I'd held in high esteem for over 20 years — caused me pause. His honest warmth, easy humanity and eagerness for the mystery behind life's meanings melted my apprehensions and made clear his years of success — the success and fun I hope you'll also enjoy as we listen daily, celebrating life and John's successes along the way.

Congratulations, John Aielli, and thanks for bringing the musical world home to us, to the backyards of your neighbors. ■

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME . . .

by Dolly Ensey

When people ask "where do you live?" and you reply "East Austin -- Cherrywood". It's as if you've said something equivalent to "I live in Oz". Reactions, responses and that faraway look in their eyes are always the same.

"Oooh, my family built its first house on French Place - I wish I lived there now."

"While attending UT, I lived in Duplex Nation."

"We lived near the greenbelt where our cousins caught turtles in Boggy Creek."

"Our piano lessons were often drowned out by planes flying out of Mueller airport; that was a good thing because we needed practice!"

"My grandparents were founding members of Asbury Methodist Church"

"In the summer, I remember my aunt allowing us to walk to Checker Front to buy ice cream".

Many people have stories to tell about living, working or visiting in Cherrywood. Now it's time to begin a journal because, although so many original residents and builders are still living, such learning opportunities will eventually change. Others would like to know about Cherrywood now and for the future.

Enter HOME AGAIN

Each house deserves to have its heritage preserved as well as its character and significance perpetuated for years to come. A **HOUSE TORY** chronicles your house's past, present and future. It tells the story of when man met materials and turned a structure into a home with the human touch, traditions and a trove of treasures. You, family members or roommates -- everyone can contribute to this effort. Even if you or the former inhabitant have gone back to Kansas and your own backyard, let us know contact details so we can learn about YOUR HOME AGAIN!

WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE . . .

Brains? Count the statistical portions as yours.

Heart? Interview people for their memories and perspectives.

Courage? Check into a library to check out their material.

Tenacious? Tackle all three areas!

PAY ATTENTION to

THAT MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN!

Sources are important. Make every effort to include the dates of conversations or interviews; the person's name, age and contact details; the relationship to the house or how the person knows the information; and your personal notes and comments. This information will establish a frame of reference for context, time and place for your HOUSE TORY. May we even suggest that you write down anecdotes that sound wildly crazy? Those yarns sometimes weave the best stories; make every effort to verify them.

FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Begin with what you know. Use written & visual methods -- photographs & drawings -- to enhance the portrait you're painting; maybe your house or yard has been featured in artwork! When you've exhausted your knowledge, or feel you've lost your way, rest assured there are others gladly willing to show you the way...

- **Austin History Center:** 9th & Guadalupe, next to Austin Public Library's main branch, 974-7480. Directories dating from 1909 to current are crowded with clues about former inhabitants, their occupation, job title and place of employment

- **Neighbors:** especially those who have lived in the area for a long period of time. We met one neighbor as he brought his granddaughter to trick or treat at our house. As he explained that he lived 5 houses down the street, he recounted playing volleyball in our backyard with the house's original owners who were from Cuba. We found that fact fascinating because one of those teams definitely had an advantage playing on the sloping, upside of the backyard!

- **Churches:** ministers & members - great sources for names, dates and stories. Many former residents still attend

church here, often providing incredible detail, insight and perspective .

- **Schools:** teachers - working or retired, they never miss anything! Besides they might even help you with your grammar and spelling!

- **Businesses:** owners/employees have served our community for over 50 years; they will more than likely remember names & addresses, accompanied with colorful stories. See separate feature entitled "From Head to Toe" on page 10.

- **Person from whom you bought the house:** perhaps you'll be lucky to receive a special tome from the original owners, like Bethany Andrée and Karl Gilkey did when they bought their house from Stanley and Kathleen Simonsen in 1995.

- **Your landlord:** most absentee owners long to return to yesteryear when they lived here; so as sources they'll overflow with myths and legends.

- **NeighborNet:** Cherrywood's e-mail list - just ask and receive answers from a vast reservoir of information. Need computer access? Ask your neighbor to post your questions or visit a library for free computer access and join the list.

DIRECTIONS TO THE EMERALD CITY?

A HOUSE TORY outline is available by request at **cherrywood78722@yahoo.com**.

NEED AN OILCAN?

We'll assist by providing contacts and other information that has been passed along to us.

SHARE THE RUBY SLIPPERS . . .

Provide us with an initial copy of your HOUSE TORY. Feel free to update as necessary. Remember this is a work-in-progress! Plans call for maintaining HOUSE TORIES in a central location, e.g. Austin History Center and possibly assisting Cherrywood to qualify for an historical district designation.

NOW CLICK YOUR HEELS 3 TIMES

Have fun. Meet your neighbors. Learn the history of your surroundings. Connect the present with the past and future. Remember, there's no place like home . . . ■

FROM HEAD TO TOE

by Dave Westenbarger and Dolly Ensey

To look and feel good from head to toe, neighbors have been visiting Kervin's Delwood Barber Shop and Sammie's Shoe Repair for years. When we say visit, we mean visit because many customers have developed friendships with them over the years, some even consider them family. Kervin's, owned by Kervin Warnken, and Sammie's, owned by the Salazar family, have earned the honor of being elder statesmen in our neighborhood business community.

The land on which the present day Delwood Center stands, has hosted an array of establishments; yet Kervin's and Sammie's have stood the test of time. Since 1961, Kervin Warnken has owned and operated his shop in the Delwood Center area. The Salazars' enterprise began serving the neighborhood during the mid 1960s.

From Head . . .

Even Delwood Center has witnessed great changes since its construction in 1951, moving from East Avenue, where the frontage road now runs, to its present location in 1993. Kervin and crew have shared the retail space with Sammie's Shoe Repair, Mosley Cafeteria, Winn's Variety Store, Lamme's Candy, Vaught's Hardware, and Bray & Jordan Pharmacy, among others. Kid-die City, the first regional toy store in Austin, replaced the hardware store in the mid-1960s.

By 1993, Kervin had spent 31½ years at the original location. Now, he says, the only remnant of the old building stands as a landmark at the East 38½ Street entrance: the red marquee sign, which used to sit atop the building. During his tenure, the current Delwood Center has been the site of the Mount Vernon Hotel and Apartments, and before that, a drive-in theater.

After graduating from Austin Barber College in 1961, Kervin worked for, then bought the shop from, J. O. Nally, who opened the original shop in 1951 with Louis Patton. Back then, Kervin walked to work. "I used to live on Robinson," says Kervin, "but moved in 1963." He now lives in Round Rock but makes the journey to Cherrywood every day.

On any weekend, Kervin might be giving a trim to customers like Howard Joseph, Jr., whose father brought him for hair cuts back when Kervin first began clipping. Joseph now brings his own sons, and often visits his father, who still lives on Brookview.



TOP: Kervin Warnken with customer, Darryl Brandenburg.
BOTTOM: John Salazar Jr. pictured with John Sr.
Photos: Liz Hargrove

Kervin and his staff, Gus, Eric, John, Gloria, and Barron, keep wait times short for customers of all ages. Cherrywood resident Mason Bird, 9, enjoys a hair cut under the skilled hand of Kervin himself, while a tearful tot gets a lollipop.

And though the price was once a dollar fifty, Kervin's cuts today are still only

twelve dollars. Though shaves are no longer offered, shoe shines receive a classic flourish.

"When I first started," says Kervin, "we'd see a man called 'Tank' with a wagon and a team of mules out on 38½. He used to plow people's gardens with the mules hitched to a hand-held plow he carried in the wagon." That itself is a reminder of an even earlier use of the site: the Giles family farm. A lot has changed in the last forty years, but Kervin has been there through it all. Don't go betting against him being there for forty more.

. . . to Toe

One year prior to his 1968 high school graduation from St. Edward's High School, John Salazar Jr.'s father changed careers; that decision changed the course of his eldest son's life.

Leaving his 26 year cooking job at Victor's Italian Village on Guadalupe, John Salazar Sr. put his best foot forward and slipped into a pair of business owner shoes. With encouragement from his priest and support from other members of St. Mary's Cathedral, John Sr. purchased Sammie's Shoe Repair from the niece of Sammie Akin, the original owner.

Sammie's Shoe Repair was established by Akin in the late 1940s, despite his lack of speech and hearing capabilities. Business was conducted via pen and paper. Akin earned the respect of the community for his perseverance and hard work. He rode the bus to work at 2203 East Avenue. In 1965, the shop was bequeathed to Sammie's niece, who, after a short time, sold it to Salazar.

After a year, the Salazar family packed up and headed to a new location at 1516 Manor Road. John Sr.'s commute to work was short because the family settled into a house right next to the shop. The present day location hosts the University of Texas' Vehicle Maintenance facility.

(continued on next page)

(continued from Page 10)

After three years in the Marines, John Jr. returned to Texas in 1972, married his high school sweetheart, Rosemary Frausto, then began work for a food distributor in San Antonio. Encouraged by his father, the native Austinite returned to the capital city where John Jr. opened and began operating a shoe repair shop of his own near Ben White Boulevard.

Eventually John Sr. and John Jr. began working side-by-side at 1516 Manor Road until the University of Texas purchased land including where their shop and the surrounding lots were. In 1980, Sammie's Shoe Repair moved again, to the east side of Airport Road, at 3120 Manor Road, home to Service Loan Co. today. After 5 years at this location, Sammie's took a big step and moved to Delwood Center in 1990.

Delwood Center, opening in the fall of 1951, gained notoriety for allegedly having the first air conditioned sidewalk, courtesy of a plexiglass installation. Upstairs, Mr. Rogan Giles kept a watchful

eye on the family property from his apartment. Delwood Center's V wing layout provided an impressive lineup of shops open for business. Taking over the space formerly occupied by a dentist, the Salazars scored a choice spot on the breezeway, an architectural feature of the day.

In 1990, John's father continued to repair shoes, yet allowed his son to assume the day-to-day operations of the business. While his father recuperated from an operation, John Jr.'s wife, lent support to her husband by working at the shop for nearly a year. Rosemary is well known for her volunteer work at Maplewood Elementary School, which earned her a nomination of Good Neighbor.

During a year long renovation of Delwood Center, the Salazars and their neighbor, Kervin Warnken, enjoyed temporary space next to each other, courtesy of the developers. At this time, the current Fiesta Market was erected. In 1992, Sammie's Shoe Repair took up residence in its present location.

The shoe repair business has seen changes. The most common repair: resoling, originally costing \$4.50 a pair when John Sr., now \$44. Most common request: "Can you stretch these shoes?" or "can you shorten these heels?" Funniest inquiry: "do you repair brake shoes?"

Unclaimed shoes are usually donated to safe houses or ministries; and occasionally might be sold, but rarely thrown away.

Like the founder of Sammie's Shoe Repair, John Sr. and John Jr. continue the tradition of hard work and keeping the customer satisfied.

Providing good, old-fashioned service, coupled with expertise while plying their craft, these men have spent a lifetime taking care of business . . . and neighbors. Much has changed in Austin. We're glad that they're still neighbors!

So next time you think about steppin' out, then step into their shops to look good from head to toe. ■



from Elisabeth Sikes

GUERRILLA FILMMAKING

During the first week in June, a group of 13–18 year olds participated in Guerrilla Filmmaking, the first summer media camp offered by Austin Film Society and Austin Studios. Gathering each day at Asbury Methodist Church, the bunch jumped feet first into the world of Super 8 filming. Each happy camper learned about and experimented in both the technical and practical aspects of shooting movies. A screening of the resulting work, including titles such as "When Yashikas Go Bad", "All Because of a Water Bottle" and "Experiments in Animation," was later enjoyed by family and friends. Persons interested in future programs like these camps, should check www.austinfilm.org or call Elisabeth Sikes at 322-0145. ■



Guerrilla Filmmaking Participants (left to right): Griff Clipson, Paul King, Brian Kurkowski, Nick Pappas, Kana Harris, Giancarlo Bruni, Eliza Walton, Evan Andrews, Sebastian Scott, Ivan Scott, Jules Cing-Mars. Photo: Elisabeth Sikes

