



# The Flea

## CONSTRUCTION IN THE 'HOOD HAS P & Z COMMITTEE HOPPING

By Girard Kinney

The last several months have seen quite a bit of activity in the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association area with respect to changes in land use, new duplexes, applications for variances and many residential additions and landscaping projects. The Planning and Zoning Committee has been working in several areas:

(1) Fielding questions and concerns from residents about construction and land use changes, and following up to determine how the neighborhood association may affect positive results. Recently we have provided status reports about projects and, in some cases, facilitated discussions among those most affected, which resulted in changes we have supported.

(2) Becoming involved when variances from city codes and ordinances are sought for projects within the neighborhood. We were involved in two recent cases at the Board of Adjustment, opposing one request for a variance and supporting the other. In both cases, it appears that the applicants and surrounding stakeholders are satisfied with the outcome. There are at least two pending cases in which we expect to help achieve projects that are assets to the property and to the street and neighborhood at large.

(3) Refining and expanding the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Design Guidelines to try to influence projects in the neighborhood to support values the association has adopted.

Gordon Bennett, with input from others, is rewriting the guidelines. We want to make them more useful by providing information to those who want to make their projects more neighborhood friendly and to lay out the bases on which the neighborhood association determines whether to support proposed zoning changes and applications for variances. The document is to be presented formally in the next Flea and voted on at the April neighborhood association meeting. To see it, in its evolving state, go on-line and open [www.cherrywood.org](http://www.cherrywood.org). Click Download Library, then Design Guidelines.

(4) Monitoring traffic and transportation planning in coordination with the CNA Traffic Committee and North Central Interstate 35 Neighborhood Coalition. Our goal is to achieve an efficient and neighborhood-friendly transportation component in our neighborhood association master plan. Recent activity includes involvement in the roadway improvements planned for access to the redeveloped Robert Mueller airport site (especially the intersections of 51st Street and Interstate 35 and Wilshire and Airport Boulevards. We continue to press for traffic calming, bike lanes and sidewalks at selected locations, and continue to discourage traffic through our neighborhood to the redeveloped Robert Mueller airport site. We monitor Capitol Metro and other transit and commuter rail planning.

(5) Monitoring planning, design and construction in our three neighborhood Parks —Cherrywood Green, Willowbrook Reach and Patterson Park.

In 2004, the Planning and Zoning Committee is considering making a priority the re-establishment of the "alleys" in "duplex nation," the area of two-story duplexes east and north of Maplewood School. We welcome input on this and all other planning and zoning issues in our neighborhood. Membership in the Planning and Zoning Committee is open to all interested residents who live within the boundaries of the neighborhood association. ■

**Cherrywood Neighborhood**  
quarterly meeting:

**Wednesday**  
**January 28**  
**6:30 - 8:30 pm**  
**Maplewood School library**

**Open to ALL residents**  
**of Cherrywood.**  
**We need your input!**

**Agenda:**

- Officers' reports
- Committee reports
- Discussion of hot topics on people's minds.
- Set date for second round of Neighborhood Watch sign installations.
- Planning & Zoning Committee presentation on Cherrywood's Development Guidelines.

Contact Stefan Schuster at 322-0059, if you have an item you would like to add.

# CHERRYWOOD CALENDAR

## JANUARY

- JAN 21** 6:30pm, CNA Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos.  
**JAN 28** 6:30pm, Neighborhood association meeting, Maplewood School library. All neighbors are welcome!  
**JAN 28** 7-9pm, Cherrywood Book Club. For more details e-mail [thedelaunes@austin.rr.com](mailto:thedelaunes@austin.rr.com).

## FEBRUARY

- FEB 11** 6:30pm, CNA Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos.  
**FEB 17** 6:30pm, Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team (UBCPT) meeting, location to be determined.  
**FEB 25** 7-9pm, Cherrywood Book Club. (See January above)

## MARCH

- MAR 10** 6:30pm, CNA Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos.  
**MAR 24** 7-9pm, Cherrywood Book Club. (See January above)

## APRIL

- APR 14** 6:30pm, CNA Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos.  
**APR 21** 6:30pm, Neighborhood association meeting, Maplewood School library. All neighbors are welcome!  
**APR 28** 7-9pm, Cherrywood Book Club. (See January above)

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



Cherrywood thanks new Cherrywood Watch partner Fiesta Mart and manager Steve Wilson for their donation of 8 signs to the Cherrywood Watch sign initiative.



Cherrywood thanks new Cherrywood Watch sponsor, Delwood Chevron, for its donation of 4 neighborhood watch signs. Cherrywood also welcomes the new managers and employees of Delwood Chevron (East 38 1/2 and I-35 frontage road). Stop by and say 'hi' to Sunil (left) and Sonjay.

Photos: Dave Westenbarger and Dolly Ensey

# Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://www.cherrywood.org>

## Steering Committee

<b>Chair</b> _____	Stefan Schuster ('04)*	322-0059
<b>Vice-Chair</b> _____	Maddie Kadas ('05)	478-7966
<b>Secretary</b> _____	Jennifer Smith ('04)	694-0298
<b>Treasurer</b> _____	Rebecca Kohout ('05)	415-9876
<b>Members</b> _____	Meg Brooks ('04)	474-6454
	Bree Buchanan ('04)	482-8468
	J. Scott Chasteen ('05)	791-6755
	Alex Garcia ('05)	474-7532
	Peter Ketter ('04)	473-2736
	Girard Kinney ('04)	478-5042
	Jack Newman ('05)	476-6616
	Lex Dale Owens ('04)	477-6555
	Dave Westenbarger ('05)	494-9905

\* year term expires

## Communications

<b>NeighborNet &amp; Web site:</b> _____	Gordon Bennett	477-7195
<b>The Flea:</b>		
• <b>Editor</b> _____	Sue Taylor	476-1461
• <b>Associate Editor</b> _____	Dolly Ensey	494-9905
• <b>Design &amp; Layout</b> _____	Bethany Andrée	473-2841
• <b>Advertising</b> _____	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
	Dave Westenbarger	494-9905
• <b>Distribution</b> _____	Jim Walker	499-0526

## Committees

<b>Hospitality:</b> _____	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
	Priscilla Boston	478-1867
<b>Nominating:</b> _____	Michael McClendon	482-0016
<b>Parks:</b>		
• <b>Cherrywood Green</b> _____	Katharine Beisner	708-9407
	Brent Hay	236-8721
• <b>Patterson Park</b> _____	Isabelle Headrick	499-0621
• <b>Willowbrook Reach</b> _____	Dianne Sullivan, <a href="mailto:dianne@e-side.com">dianne@e-side.com</a>	
<b>Planning &amp; Zoning:</b> _____	Girard Kinney	478-5042
<b>Security:</b> _____	Jules Vieau	495-9569
<b>Transportation:</b> _____	Stefan Schuster	322-0059
<b>Welcome Wagon:</b> _____	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876

## Projects

<b>Austin Film Society:</b> _____	Dolly Ensey	494-9905
<b>Blue Ribbon Yard:</b> _____	Mike Damal	478-9622
<b>Maplewood:</b> _____	Kelli Kirk	414-1086
<b>Mueller Redevelopment:</b> _____	Jim Walker	499-0526
<b>Tree Planting:</b> _____	Mike Damal	478-9622
<b>Upper Boggy Creek Planning:</b> _____	Stephen Kreger	477-4216

## SHOULD CNA SEEK NON-PROFIT STATUS?

By Michael McClendon

Several people have recently suggested that the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association become a non-profit corporation.

Such status may allow donors (such as HEB or Fiesta) to more easily deduct the value of their donations from their taxes, and thereby lead to more donations. It may allow the neighborhood association itself to avoid paying sales tax, and may help shield our leaders from liability.

On the other hand, a non-profit corporation is required to keep financial and other records that are open to public inspection, and to operate somewhat more formally than we do now. Filing fees of at least \$50 to the secretary of state and \$150 to IRS must be paid.

So, is non-profit corporation status a wise move? A subcommittee of sorts is exploring this issue. Members include Emily Schwartz, Gordon Bennett, Priscilla Boston, Rebecca Kohout, Jeff Folmar, Maddie Kadas, Dave Westenbarger, and me. Do you have any experience, information, or opinion on this subject? Would you like to serve on this subcommittee? If so, please come to the January general membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 28 at Maplewood School to discuss this issue, or contact me at 482-0016 or by email at [michaelmclendon@juno.com](mailto:michaelmclendon@juno.com). We hope to present our findings and recommendations to the steering committee no later than mid-February. ■

## TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

By Stefan Schuster

When talking traffic issues, we all expect the discussion to revolve around construction and delays. This update is no different.

First, the good news. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has asked Catellus, the Mueller developer, to work with neighborhoods and stakeholders in devising solutions to road connections on Airport Boulevard. After working with several neighborhood liaisons, a design for the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Airport has been agreed upon.

The so-called "Longhorn" design will not allow direct access from Wilshire into the airport but will force traffic to turn east onto Airport only. The final design meets TxDOT criteria, allows for easy construction, and still provides a relatively safe crossing of Airport Boulevard for pedestrians. A light at the intersection will control traffic flow on Airport and allow pedestrians to walk into Mueller and allow vehicles left-turn access into Mueller.

The bad news is that everything else on the transportation front seems to continue to be delayed. After a year's delay, we

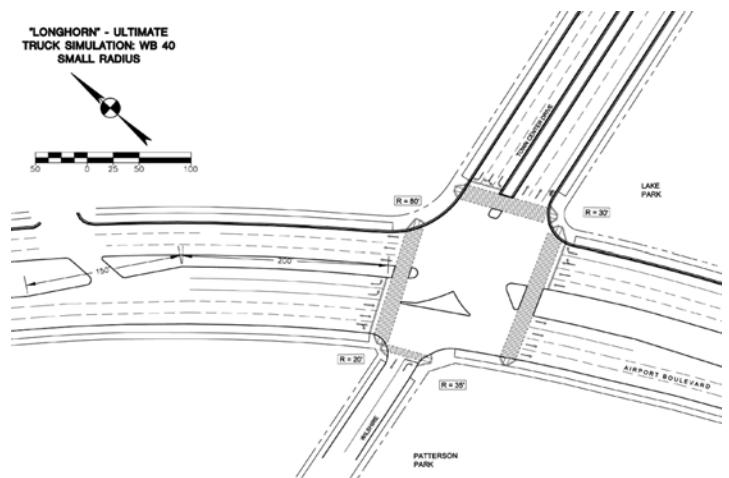
## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS SELECTED

By Michael McClendon

J. Scott Chasteen, Alex Garcia, Maddie Kadas, Rebecca Kohout, Jack Newman and Dave Westenbarger were elected to serve two-year terms as Steering Committee members at the October general membership meeting of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association. They join Meg Brooks, Bree Buchanan, Peter Ketter, Girard Kinney, Lex Dale Owens, Stefan Schuster and Jennifer Smith, whose terms on the Steering Committee expire in October 2004. Congratulations to the new members, and thanks for all the hard work of all "Steers."

At press time, the Steering Committee, which chooses its own officers, had decided by an e-mail vote that Stefan Schuster will be Chair, Maddie Kadas will be Vice-Chair, Jennifer Smith will serve as Secretary and Rebecca Kohout will continue as Treasurer. The Steering Committee also agreed to formalize these selections at its Jan. 21 meeting. Thanks to Stefan, Maddie, Jennifer and Rebecca.

The Nominating Committee, which I chair, is always seeking steering committee nominees. If you are interested in joining this fun group, please call me at 482-0016, or email me at [michaelmclendon@juno.com](mailto:michaelmclendon@juno.com). ■



are still waiting to hear from TxDOT on the next phase on Interstate 35 redevelopment plans. Its environmental assessment and impact statement is due any time now, the Federal Highway Administration is moving towards eliminating consideration of historical designations and park infringements, and at the same time weakening citizen review opportunities. Generally, this results in a multitude of opportunities for you to get involved and help us. May your transportation dreams come true in 2004! ■

## UBCPT ADOPTS BYLAWS, CHOOSES OFFICERS

By Stephen Kreger

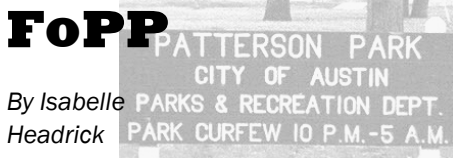
The Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team (UBCPT) has adopted bylaws, elected officers and developed a list of issues for 2004. Stephen Kreger was re-elected as chair, Ora Houston was elected as vice-chair, and Desiny Villarreal was elected secretary.

The issues the team will address in 2004 include encouraging various City of Austin departments to act on the action items in the plan, pursuing the downgrading of 38½ Street and Manor Road when that issue comes before the CAMPO board, working with the other neighborhood planning teams on the Featherlite development project, and approval of the "Front Porch" ordinance.

The representatives from each of the UBC neighborhoods

are Lex Dale Owens and Stephen Kreger from Cherrywood, Desiny Villarreal and Kim Sierra from Delwood II, Mary Hurst and Lavon Marshall from Roger Washington/Holy Cross, Jay Velgos and Leslie Lawson from Wilshire Wood/Delwood I, and Bo McCarver, Ora Houston, Evolia Givan (renter representative), and Deborah Tolar (business representative from Kestrel Printing) from Blackland. Only Blackland has found a renter and business representative, so the other neighborhoods need to address that issue. If anyone knows of a renter or business person in the Cherrywood neighborhood who might be interested in being on the team, please ask him/her to contact Stephen Kreger at 477-4216 or email at [tark427@hotmail.com](mailto:tark427@hotmail.com).

The Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team bylaws are on the Cherrywood Web site at [www.cherrywood.org](http://www.cherrywood.org), and there are copies of the plan at Maplewood Elementary School. Stephen Kreger also has a copy available. The next team meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 17 at a place to be determined. The Cherrywood NeighborNet will have a reminder or residents can call Stephen Kreger at 477-4216 for additional information. ■



By Isabelle  
Headrick

This fall was marked by two events of major importance at Patterson Park: First, the city's Parks and Recreation Department held a community forum Sept. 29 to solicit input on the idea of expanding Pharr Tennis Center into a regional tennis center...and input it did receive! Approximately 70 people attended and, to make a long story short, loudly and clearly communicated to PARD that this did not fit in with the desires of the neighborhood.

PARD got the message, and in response to a letter drafted by Emily Schwartz, wrote Friends of Patterson Park that, "Based upon input staff got at the meeting the project to expand Pharr Tennis Center will not proceed."

The second event was that our new playscape was finished. It has been a joy for me personally to take my two sons there, to meet parents in the neighborhood I didn't know before, and to watch other parents and children meeting each other. I am gratified by the outpouring of positive feedback.

However, there is still much to do:

The playscape itself needs a few additions (e.g. more benches, monkey bars); and Friends of Patterson Park is working hard to pull together funding for an ADA-accessible concrete sidewalk up to the playground. We hope to celebrate both the construction of the playscape and the completion of the sidewalk this spring.

In other news, Priscilla Boston and Mark Smolen are applying for a recreational trail grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife. This should put us on our way toward building a full trail system. Additionally, Earl Burg was successful in requesting that the city lay fresh dirt over the old gravel road that has divided parts of Patterson near Brookview and Schieffer. Big thanks to Earl, Priscilla, Mark, and of course Emily.

Friends of Patterson Park needs YOU. We are seeking individuals to bring their passion and dedication to the good work of restoring our beloved Patterson to the ranks of Austin's first-class parks. We are well on our way, but there is a lot of work to be done. We welcome anyone with an interest in Patterson to come to our meetings at Genesis Presbyterian Church (usually the second Monday of the month).

For more information on FoPP, call Isabelle at 499-0621 or e-mail

[isanews@texas.net](mailto:isanews@texas.net). As always, 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 701 Brazos Street, Suite 170, Austin, Texas 78701. Please note the new address for APF. ■



The new playscape at  
Patterson Park.  
Photos: Dolly Ensey

## RAIN BARRELS AND WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING

By Emily Teykl

In addition to the toilet replacement program described in the October issue of the Flea, the city of Austin offers other water conservation programs, including the "Water-Wise Landscaping Rebate" and sale of rainwater collection barrels. Taking advantage of these programs can reduce your water bill, save money on landscaping, minimize yard maintenance, improve the health and quality of plants, and eliminate the need for costly and toxic chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

**Rain barrels:** Landscape irrigation comprises 25 per cent of municipal water use in Texas. In an effort to promote rainwater harvesting, the city is selling 75-gallon rain barrels through April for \$45 (retail is \$120). And the sales location is right in our neighborhood.

The rebate requires installation of the barrel within a month of purchase and for the collection system to be operational for five years. Installation is as simple as placing it under redirected rain gutters or where the roof forms a downspout that will stream water into the barrel. You may be surprised how quickly your barrel will fill up and how far the stored water will go in your garden.

You can get a rain barrel at 4005 Airport Blvd. (between 38 1/2 Street and Wilshire Boulevard) at these dates and times:

- Saturday, Jan. 17, 9 a.m. to noon
- Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m. to noon
- Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m. to noon. Last sale.

Bring your picture ID and water/utility bill. Cash and checks only. First come, first served. Limit four barrels per customer, \$45/each for first two, \$75/each for third and fourth.

After the last sale, you can apply for a \$30 rebate for barrels purchased elsewhere. For more information on this and all the City's water conservation programs, go to: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/>.

**Water-wise landscaping:** Now is the best time of year to plant trees and shrubs so that they will have time to develop new roots before putting out foliage in the spring. The city offers up to \$500 in rebates for the purchase and installation of native and well-adapted shrubs, perennials and trees.

To participate in the program, the gardener should prepare a site plan with program-approved plants. The plan, program application and a plant list are then submitted to the city for approval. Once the plan is approved, the gardener has a year to execute the plan. Finally, the gardener sends all receipts to the water conservation office. A final inspection is performed, and the gardener receives a rebate check.

Reduce water-use, yard maintenance, and help restore native landscapes by participating in this worthy program.

For more information, call the water conservation office at 974-3560, or visit the city's Web site to download an application, view the plant list, or view photos of participating homes.

Look for the Grow Green Plant Guide at the Monarch Food Mart on 38½ Street. This free, detailed color brochure describes program's approved plants. This is a great reference for any gardener. ■



## 7TH ANNUAL CHERRYWOOD TREE PLANTING

By Mike Damal

On Saturday Nov. 1, five volunteers—Mike Damal, Lisa Tipps, Jim MacKay, Michael Sullivan and Dave Westerbarger—planted 10 trees and delivered seven more to be planted by homeowners in our neighborhood.

Three trees were planted earlier, bringing a total of 20 trees planted this year and making our seven-year total just short of 200. (I have not been keeping exact tabs throughout the years, however this year I am starting the "official" count at 195. From now on I will add to this number.) That certainly is a significant number for the neighborhood, and will help preserve the beautiful foliage we enjoy for future generations.

If you missed out on this tree planting and still are interested, please call me for any advice. It still an excellent time to plant a tree—the sooner the better. However any time between now and March is fine. It's best to allow the root system of the trees to adapt over the winter to prepare for our harsh summers.

Nurseries are removing their Christmas stock to make room for more trees and landscape materials, so a good variety of trees can again be found at nurseries and home improvement centers.

If you have received a tree, be sure to water it well. Light rains have not been sufficient to give the deep watering that these trees need. Remember a trickling hose for a couple hours at the base of the tree will give the tree the water it needs to develop a deep root system. Do this every two weeks if we have not had substantial rainfall. It does not matter that your tree has no leaves. Its root system is still growing and it needs water.

If anyone has any other questions feel free to email [mdamal@peoplepc.com](mailto:mdamal@peoplepc.com) or call me at 478-9622. ■

## SHARING YOUR INTERESTS WITH A CHILD

By Rob Faubion

Cherrywood Choices

Your neighbors are making a difference in the lives of Austin children, including Cherrywood youth, as they befriend a child by sharing a bit of time each month.

Cherrywood resident and Big Sister Brandie Gould says being matched with her Little Sister has been and still is an amazing experience for both of them. Even though her job is taking her to Dallas, Brandie will stay a big part of her Little Sister's life because of her experience with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas.

Helping children reach their potential through mentoring relationships with adult volunteers is the focus of this organization. Studies show these type of relationships significantly increase the quality of life for participating children and decrease their chances of truancy, violence and drug or alcohol use.

Whether playing basketball at Maple-



wood, searching through binoculars for animals and birds at Willowbrook Reach or registering for a library card, activities can have profound life- and skill-building effects for the child. And the adults have fun.

As a Big Brother or Big Sister, you spend time with your little sibling three times a month. As a "Big Couple", a married or partnered couple shares in the responsibilities of mentoring a child and provides an example of a loving, healthy relationship.

Volunteers who serve as a "Big in School" meet with a child at his school for less than one hour each week at Becker, Blackshear, Boone, Hart or Palm schools.

High school juniors or seniors serving as "Teens Big in School" can mentor a child three times a month at designated partner schools, such as McCallum High School.

The latest program, "Sports Buddies," pairs children and adults who love sports. Buddies watch games and participate in sports. Initial sponsors include Round Rock Express, Austin Ice

Bats, a fencing club, a martial arts academy, a rock gym, several tennis associations and UT recreational teams.

Or you can grab your bowling ball to strike it rich for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas' largest annual fundraiser. From Saturday, Feb. 21 through Sunday, Feb. 29, join Fire Station #14's firefighters, businesses, civic clubs, professional organizations, law enforcement agencies and schools to "Bowl for Kids' Sake" at Highland Lanes on Burnet Road at 183. Contact Rob at 472.5460, extension 234.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas serves the children of Travis, Williamson and McLennan counties, from its headquarters near Cherrywood on Tillery Street at Airport Boulevard. Since 1971, this group has matched more than 700 children in Travis County. ■

*Rob Faubion is director of customer relations for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas. For more information, visit [www.bbbscentraltx.org](http://www.bbbscentraltx.org) or [www.cherrywood.org](http://www.cherrywood.org), then click on Cherrywood Choices to read this group's profile. Cherrywood Choices was created to connect neighbors with neighbors, individuals, families, businesses and organizations with opportunities to be served and to serve people who live or work in our neighborhood.*

## BLUE RIBBON YARD

By Priscilla Boston

Congratulations to Brent Hay, Katharine Beisner, and Eva Riquelme, winners of the Fall 2003 Blue Ribbon Yard award for the work they've organized at Cherrywood Green. This fall saw the completion of a granite path through this park space.

Brent credits Katharine as the impetus for cultivating the lot at the corner of Cherrywood Road and 34<sup>th</sup> Street as a park space. Initially given to the city by the developer of the subdivision, the lot was never developed as formal city park due to budget limitations. "We can do something with this" was the rally call Katharine sounded, and from the beginning, Cherrywood neighbors have responded with donations of time and energy.

The group has operated informally, having just enough meetings to plot their next steps. "I guess you could say I'm the main person doing the landscape design," says Brent. "We



Photo: Dave Westenbarger

used a Xeriscape approach for the flower bed we put in last spring, and have planted a few natives along the creek side, as well as slowly removing the non-native species and the poison ivy

growing down there."

The next big push for Cherrywood Green is to get a water spigot with a water fountain installed. The group had access to a neighbor's spigot for a while, but when that resident moved away, they had to revert to bringing in buckets of water to make sure new plants stay alive. Look for a fundraiser this spring.

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association's Blue Ribbon Yard committee this month will begin operating under the leadership of Mike Damal. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Mike at 478-9622. ■

## A FEW FRIENDLY REMINDERS FOR FIDO'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS

By Laurie Felker

There's been a bit of barking lately about our four-legged Cherrywood residents. Although several issues have been raised, most agree that our neighborhood can be a peaceful place for both human and dog with a healthy dose of common sense and communication. Still, maybe we all can use a couple reminders.

**Leash your dogs** – City ordinances require all dogs to be on leash at all times unless they are behind a fence or in designated areas. Period. Fines go up to \$500. For a list of leash free areas, visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/dogparks.htm>

Not leashing your dog increases the risk your furry friend will get lost, tangle with strays or be injured by the speedy cars that pass through our 'hood. Your dog may be friendly, and even if it's with you, other dogs may not be. Even great dogs have been known to be unpredictable with new dogs, people or in strange circumstances. Remember that not all people love dogs. Some people have had traumatic experiences, so leashed or fenced dogs provide peace of mind.

**Scoop that poop** – Simple enough. Your neighbor probably doesn't want your dog pooping on the lawn. Animal feces can be a health hazard, and it's especially tactless when our dogs "go" at Maplewood School or the fabulous new Patterson Park playground.

Not scooping Fido's poop is an environmental issue, too. Rainwater runoff collects in streams, and animal feces, when not properly disposed of, will pollute watersheds, like our little stretch of greenbelt through Cherrywood. Some ecologically enlightened dog owners have talked about using eco-friendly poop bags (not plastic). Please let the rest of us know what you're using, so that we can join you.

**Doggone it!** – NeighborNet has proved an excellent tool for reuniting lost dogs with their families. Another tool is registering your pet with the city, which is required by law and costs \$5. It includes many benefits such as the Red Carpet Service: a free ride home for your roaming dog on its first offense, Guaranteed Emergency medical services, and Vacation Alert. Pet registration is available through most vets, Animal Trustees

of Austin and the Town Lake Animal Shelter. See <http://www.austinspca.com/adopt/registration.html>.

Free Lost & Found postings are available at [www.lostdogs.com](http://www.lostdogs.com). Posting signs on street-light and telephone poles is against city ordinance, so please don't do it, and if you do, please remove the posters in a timely manner.

**When Cujo attacks** – Hopefully, the above reminders will curb any so-called "bad dogs" and the effects of their bad behavior on our community. However, should an incident occur, we must recognize the need for appropriate steps to reach a safe and reasonable solution. At the last Cherrywood Neighborhood Association meeting, many present were of the opinion that talking with the people involved is a better option than feeling fearful of "bad dogs" and their owners. It's amazing how much can be accomplished by one friendly neighbor-to-neighbor conversation. Some problems are one-time incidents and some aren't, but you won't know until you ask.

**Cherrywood's Web site** – [www.cherrywood.org](http://www.cherrywood.org) – and electronic mail listserv both are great tools for many neighborhood issues. Feel free to contact Laurie at 220-8626 to discuss your concerns, questions or ideas, so maybe we can work it out. ■

## MAPLEWOOD NOTES



**Your Neighborhood School  
3808 Maplewood Ave., 414-4402**

The first semester of the 2003-2004 school year has flown by with many fun community activities happening at Maplewood. We erected a greenhouse for student use on the south side of the building (check it out) and were happy to host November's Cherrywood Art Fair, which not only supported local artists, but also the student art program at Maplewood. Many thanks go to the artists and organizers of the event. Hopefully this will become a community tradition.

Students have been on several educational field trips, including the 5th grade to the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston to

view selections from the permanent collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art, a real treat. Also, we welcomed Cherrywood resident Geoff Potter as a staff member. Maplewood is lucky to have him as our new computer lab assistant.

Upcoming events include Awards Assemblies for students on Jan. 14, Back to School Night (part 2) Jan. 15, and a Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. Jan. 16. The Maplewood Black History Program will be on Feb. 26. Keep your eye on the Maplewood marquee for updates. Thanks to Craig and Cole High, father and son team, for maintaining the marquee this year.

As always, Maplewood WELCOMES community involvement. Deneen Frazier Bowen is a Cherrywood neighbor and actor who regularly reads to our fifth graders. The kids love her visits. If you are interested in supporting your local public school in any way, please stop by the Maplewood office or give us a call at 414-4402. ■

*This Maplewood news column is written by Kelli Kirk, a counselor at Maplewood who lives in our neighborhood.*

## NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY: THE NOWLIN FAMILY'S HISTORY INFLUENCES OURS

By Peter Ketter

Although most of Cherrywood's physical characteristics are the result of 20th-century growth and development, the impact of an early frontier family is still evident in at least one part of the neighborhood. Anyone living between Manor Road, I-35, Edgewood and Cherrywood occupies the former homestead of Peyton Wade (P.W.) Nowlin (1802-1884). He was a Kentucky-born descendent of Irish immigrants who came to Austin around 1847 after spending several years in Missouri and built a log home near what is now 28th and I-35. He'd brought his wife, Martha, and at least a few of their seven children, although some were born in Austin.

In 1847, Cherrywood was relatively far from central Austin, which was a fledgling town of about 850 people, and P.W. was probably engaged in agriculture. Cotton was the most common cash crop of the region, but the Nowlins' roughly 70-acre homestead was more likely devoted mostly to providing for the family, with a small area reserved for growing cotton.

Although this was before the Civil War, it is hard to know whether Nowlin

owned slaves. In 1850, just under half of Austin's families owned slaves, but the majority of those would have been larger plantation owners, who were often politically and socially prominent. Small family farmers usually didn't own slaves, and a general lack of Nowlin's mention in local history seems to suggest that he was more of a hard-working independent farmer than a plantation boss.

By the end of the 19th century, Austin was growing enough that Cherrywood was gaining appeal as speculative land for future development. Nowlin's only son died prematurely, and when P. W. himself died in 1884 his land was divided among four of his daughters and their husbands, some of whom have familiar names.

His eldest daughter Lucy married John Winfield Scott Dancy, an early legislator. They inherited and expanded the Nowlin family home, and divided her piece of the homestead, between Manor, I-35, 30th and Drury (the alley behind Lafayette), into the "Dancy Addition."

Addie Nowlin married David N. Robinson, a state official. Addie or her daughter built the home on 32nd that is

now the Children's Advocacy Center. When her granddaughter first divided their parcel between 30th, I-35, Edgewood and Drury into the "Avalon Addition," she kept a large plot of land intact around the house, preventing Robinson and Dancy from continuing through to Edgewood.

Addie's son-in-law, K.C. Miller, platted the small "Nowlin Heights Addition" between Manor and 30th, along a new street he named for his father and his wife's grandfather, both of whom were named "Lafayette." Both this and the later "Lafayette Heights Addition" between 30th and Edgewood were on a strip of land inherited by Nowlin's daughter Mollie Dinkins.

The other piece of the homestead between Manor, French Place, Edgewood and Cherrywood belonged to daughter Annie LeSueur and later became what we know as French Place.

Developed in stages over time, each daughter's parcel became a sub-neighborhood. Look around on your next walk and you might notice differences in the age and types of houses, as well as the layout of streets and lots.

If you know more about the history of the Nowlin family, or if you'd like to find out about the history of your part of Cherrywood, please contact the author at: [peterketter@hotmail.com](mailto:peterketter@hotmail.com). ■

## STEVE FOR ART'S SAKE

Steve Mignone is an artist who lives in South Austin but admits to "great fondness" for our neighborhood. After an exhibition at the Davis Art Gallery and due to the largesse of Asbury United Methodist Church, he was offered the use of the little white house at 1603 E. 38½ St. as a studio.

Soon, Steve was linked with the Amundson Arts Council, which had been formed by a group of neighbors, parents and artists seeking to promote creativity and support the arts as regular funding



© Steve Mignone

disappears. The council is named for Arthur Amundson, a founding member of Asbury church who is of Scandinavian heritage.

The council recommended holding a week-long art camp for school children. With a generous food donation from

Fiesta, last summer an art camp began the first in a series of workshops. Two dozen students, including three youth from Faith Home, responded with imagination to art instruction from Steve and Cherrywood neighbor Colleen Sommers. Future art events will be for all ages, including printmaking and clay molding

classes.

Mignone's personal work is influenced by Degas and Saul Steinberg, freely mixing whip-snap comic invention with lush charcoaled impressionist fields. His terra cotta sculptures are specifically related to various graphic themes. Steve's art work and that of artist and friend Sev Coursen will be on exhibit Saturday Jan. 31st. Look for signs outside the studio for details.

As Artist-in-Residence, Steve will continue applying Scandinavian folk art floral motifs to the exterior of the studio to brighten the structure and to embellish an already exquisite neighborhood. The Scandinavian decor is a tribute to Arthur Amundson and the other Scandinavian people who settled this neighborhood. ■



## ART FAIR A HUGE SUCCESS

The Second Annual Cherrywood Art Fair filled Maplewood Elementary School with 44 artists and hundreds of shoppers on Nov. 22 and raised more than \$1,500 that was donated to the arts program at the school.

It was more than four times larger than the first neighborhood art fair, which featured nine artists in 2002.

The payoff came on Dec. 15, when the art fair committee presented a check for \$1,568.45 to the Maplewood art program. That amount does not include \$600 raised from food sales to benefit the sixth grade, which is planning a trip to NASA headquarters in Houston.

The gift to the school included \$918 from the auction of pieces donated by participating artists, \$1,073 from booth fees, \$70 in cash donations. Expenses totaled \$492.55.

Besides benefiting our neighborhood school, the art fair generated a lot of holiday cheer, not to mention pleasurable shopping for gifts and just looking at varied art. The hallways buzzed with energy as folks walked from the library to the gymnasium and picked up snacks and art items while visiting with friends and neighbors. There was plenty of good music and lots of activities for children.

Art included paintings, clay art, jewelry, textiles, purses, glass, collages, photographs, printing, furniture, greeting cards, metal work, clothing, cushions, and much more. The parking lot at the school was full a good portion of the afternoon.

The art fair committee worked tirelessly to pull off this successful event (and lay the groundwork for the 2004 edition). These folks include Kathleen McTee, artist coordinator and lead planner; Cynthia Ballesteros, music coordinator; Priscilla Boston, volunteer and publicity coordinator; Marilyn Fenn, Web site design and ad design; Audrey Gray, banner and sign creation; Liz Potter, flyer design; Jennifer Ober, art activities coordinator, and Minnie Russell, food coordinator.

Music was provided throughout the afternoon by Mood Swings, Curb Appeal, Boxcar Preachers, all from the neighborhood, and Cordy Lavery.

Thanks go also to volunteers Craig High, Michael McClendon, Mike Hurewitz and Joe Roberts, who helped artists load and unload at the school, and to sixth grade parents, especially Marshall Bruni and the Guajardos, who handled the food, including feeding the artists.

The committee was inspired by statistics that show that children who study art are more likely than their peers to be recognized for academic achievement, elected to class office, participate in a math and science fair, win an award for

school attendance, win an award for writing an essay or poem, attend music and dance classes, participate in youth groups, read for pleasure and perform community service (such as helping with a neighborhood art fair).

They were also inspired by Elliot Eisner of Stanford University who said in a 2000 speech that learning about the arts teaches children to make good judgments, understand that problems may have more than one solution and that there are many ways to see and interpret the world. ■

Cherrywood Art Fair 2003 raised money for the Maplewood art program.  
Photos: Audrey Gray



## Calling all CHERRYWOOD ARTISTS

HELP BRING CHERRYWOOD'S ARTISTIC WORLD INTO THE TECHNOLOGICAL WORLD . . .

**ACTORS**  
**ANIMATORS**  
**AUTHORS**  
**BANDS**  
**CARTOONISTS**  
**DANCERS**  
**DIRECTORS**  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNERS**  
**MURALISTS**  
**MUSICIANS**  
**PAINTERS**  
**POETS**  
**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
**SCULPTORS**  
**SCREENWRITERS**  
**SINGERS**  
**SONGWRITERS**  
**WEB DESIGNERS**  
**WRITERS**

We are assembling a handy online reference acknowledging the creativity of neighbors - past or present - by compiling an assortment of bibliographies, discographies, filmographies, photographs, webographies or similar listings - showcasing the creative talent that enlivens our neighborhood!



Send information, including website addresses, to:  
cherrywood78722@yahoo.com

LOOK FOR THIS ARTY ARRAY ONLINE  
in 2004  
<http://www.cherrywood.org>



## WELCOME

Rebecca Kohout has been delivering welcome baskets, courtesy of Fiesta, to the neighborhood's new residents. A warm welcome to homeowners who have moved here recently, including:

- Vance Shtraikh and Carol Peralta, 3305 Larry Lane
- Larry Shoemaker, 3306 Merrie Lynn
- Alison Mote and Wendy Mitchel, 1209 E. 31st St.
- Edward and Lee Warren Fells, 1300 E. 29th St.
- Peter Strehlitz & Alison Bush, 4008 Cherrywood Road
- Tina Brown and Barbie Cohen, 1501 E. 34th St.
- Andrew Gomez, 3716 Werner
- Billy and Alissa Jones Zachary, 3203 Larry Lane
- Kelly Hodges, 3308 Larry Lane
- Matt Colbert, 3404 Larry Lane

If you have bought a home in Cherrywood in the past several months and have not heard from the neighborhood association's welcome wagon, it is because you weren't home when Rebecca came to deliver your basket. Please call her at 415-9876 to set up a time for delivery. Your basket is waiting. ■

## CHERRYWOOD IS WIRED

(1) Our Web page at [www.cherrywood.org](http://www.cherrywood.org) has lots of permanent information.

(2) Our e-mail listserv has 330 members who enjoy timely notices and discussion of local issues. You can subscribe to "NeighborNet" at [www.cherrywood.org](http://www.cherrywood.org). This past quarter you would have learned about:

- missing (and almost always found) pets
- service groups recruiting volunteers
- notices of neighborhood meetings
- planning for the Cherrywood Art Fair
- neighborhood park improvements
- redevelopment plans at the former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport site and the Featherlite tract
- The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association's "Neighborhood Watch" campaign
- reviews of new local eateries
- discussions of residential parking permits near UT
- y mucho mas...

## TWO HEARTS BEAT AS ONE

Cherrywood neighbors are always at the heart of something. Two neighbors who happen to live across the street from each other are providing you with a wonderful way to celebrate Valentine's Day weekend.

As Ballet Austin's production director, Lisa Byrd will produce four performances of the popular "Director's Choice/3x3" program. The show, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, will leap onto the Paramount Theatre stage Feb. 12-14 at 8 p.m., plus a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee.

The show, comprised of 3 "brand-spankin'-new dances" and 3 "jumpin', jivin' jam sessions", will feature the music of Lisa's neighbor, singer songwriter Tucker Livingston. Tucker, who recently returned from a tour in India, will soon release his debut recording.

Joining Lisa and Tucker are Grupo Fantasma and Shawn Colvin who have collaborated with Austin choreographers Dwight Rhoden, Gina Patterson and Stephen Mills to "create pure energy." Tickets are available at [www.balletaustin.org](http://www.balletaustin.org) or 476-2163. ■

## MORNING WALK

By Priscilla Boston

Looking for a rewarding way to start the day? Join your neighbors in a top o'the morning walk around your neighborhood. It's a great way to get your exercise.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, regular physical activity reduces people's risk for heart attack, colon cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure, and may reduce their risk for stroke. It also helps to control weight; contributes to healthy bones, muscles and joints; reduces falls among elderly people; helps to relieve the pain of arthritis; reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression; and is associated with fewer hospitalizations, physician visits

and medications. Physical activity need not be strenuous to be beneficial. People of all ages benefit from moderate physical activity, such as 30 minutes of brisk walking five or more times a week.

Three Cherrywood residents meet every weekday morning at 5:30 at 38½ Street and Cherrywood Road for a brisk 30-minute walk through the neighborhood. We have found that it's a fun and easy way to meet health experts' recommendations.

"I love starting my day this way," says Leyla Cohlmiya, a high school chemistry teacher. "I feel energized for my busy day ahead."

"We picked a central spot to meet up each morning hoping that more neighbors might join us over time," states Girard Kinney. "Each day we head off in a different direction. Over

the course of two or three weeks we have covered the entire neighborhood".

In order to reap the benefits from a fitness program, you must maintain a commitment to it. As for me, knowing that folks are waiting at the corner for me to arrive is just the pressure I need to keep me on track. Left to my own devices, I'll come up with a good excuse to blow off exercising. And as for the 5:30 a.m. start time, while it sounds pretty darn early, I look at it like this: I'm gonna have to get up anyway, what's one hour earlier? In the summer, it's still cool at that time of the day, and in the winter it's downright invigorating. Besides, winter or summer, dawn just may be the most special time of day.

Just give it a try for a week, and you'll be a convert to this simple way of integrating fitness into your life. ■