



# The Flea

## TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN READY

By Stefan Schuster

The end is near and you'll find it much more calming than you expected. The Traffic Calming Work Group has completed development of the Cherrywood Neighborhood plan in cooperation with city staff. We are ready for you to be the judges of our proposal. The plan is the result of five work sessions, numerous smaller discussions, and participation from a great group of people taking time out of their evenings and commitments to help us think through our solutions.

The final draft that we are putting forward is influenced by concerns of movement through the neighborhood on the primary response routes: 38½, Cherrywood, and Wilshire and balancing the \$300,000 available from the city. Along these streets, we propose a variety of speed hump configurations. On 38½, the representatives had the idea of a gateway design by combining humps with a center median just east of Cherrywood and another set near Grayson just west of Airport. Another great solution is proposed at Clarkson and 38½ where a curb extension into the eastbound lanes will force traffic to slow and make a tighter turn. A crosswalk will enable kids and neighbors to walk across 38½ near a set of four speed humps to the west.

After considering the primary corridors, we focused on by-pass traffic on streets like Lafayette, Robinson, Hollywood, Dancy, Maplewood, and others. At this point, the plan seemed limited by funds available to address our needs and ideas. The draft developed by the group included some options for Schief-fer and additional speed humps on Maplewood, Lafayette, Clarkson, and 38½

that will not be installed due to higher bid price quotes than when we began earlier this year. Once we move towards implementation, we might get lucky and get a better bid and include these locations after all.

Many of you came out to the fabulous Art Fair and saw our draft plan. Most seemed pleased and thankful that we were getting something done. We also heard questions about why we are not proposing more stop signs. As a response, the criterion needed to get a sign installed does not really apply to neighborhood volume levels, yet we have many signs already. Anyway, no sidewalks or stop signs were included.

Now the plan needs your help and support. In January, the city will mail you a ballot to vote on the proposed plan. Sixty percent of the ballots received back by the city must support the plan for it to be implemented. Please help us support the plan by mailing in your ballot or bringing it to the Open House at Maplewood Elementary on Wednesday, Jan. 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Look for work to begin by summer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 322-0059 or at [hydroplan@hotmail.com](mailto:hydroplan@hotmail.com).

I would like to thank the active participants in our process: Leslie Lawson, Casey Blass, Earl Burg, Allison Ivey, Dave Westenbarger, Billy Pringle, Kathy Murray, Delores Duffy, Ken Casey, Lisa Schemanske, Peter Ketter, Marilyn Fenn, Glenn Reed, and Elizabeth Hilton. They worked through options that not everyone agreed upon, shared their and your concerns, and worked with several city departments to come up with the plan. ■

Cherrywood Neighborhood  
quarterly meeting:

**Wednesday, Jan 19**  
**6:30 - 8:00 pm**  
**Maplewood School library**

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

**Agenda:**

- Welcome and Agenda Review
- Housekeeping and Public Comments (10 minutes)
- 1. Officers' Reports (10 minutes)
  - a. Chair, Randall Terrell
  - b. Vice Chair, Kyle King
  - c. Secretary, Max McDaniel
  - d. Treasurer, Alex Garcia
- 2. Committee Reports (5 min. each)
  - a. Communications
  - b. Parks and green spaces
  - c. Planning and zoning
  - d. Traffic and transportation
  - e. Security
  - f. Hospitality
  - g. Pets
  - h. Nominating
- 3. Issues brought to the membership (10 minutes per issue)
  - a. By-laws revision, proposal for adoption and comments
  - b. Traffic calming, discussion of plan
  - c. Design guidelines, discussion of recent activity
  - d. Art fair update, report
  - e. Policy for dangerous properties, possible for adoption
- 4. Other Issues: (varied, 5 min. each)
- 5. Next Meeting: April 20
- 6. Adjourn (90 minutes maximum)

Contact Randall Terrell at  
473-8483, if you have an item  
you would like to add.

# CHERRYWOOD CALENDAR

## JANUARY

- JAN 10 7:30pm** — Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP), Genesis Presbyterian Church. (See Page 8)
- JAN 12 6:30pm** — CNA Steering Committee meeting, Taqueria los Altos
- JAN 19 6:30pm** — Cherrywood Neighborhood Association meeting, Maplewood School library. (See Agenda Page 1)
- JAN 26 7:00pm** — Cherrywood Book Club. For information e-mail [thedelaunes@austin.rr.com](mailto:thedelaunes@austin.rr.com).

## FEBRUARY

- FEB 9 6:30pm** — CNA Steering Committee meeting, Taqueria los Altos
- FEB 14 7:30pm** — Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP), Genesis Presbyterian Church. (See Page 8)
- FEB 15 6:30pm** — Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team meeting, Alamo Park. (See Page 7)
- FEB 23 7:00pm** — Cherrywood Book Club. For information e-mail [thedelaunes@austin.rr.com](mailto:thedelaunes@austin.rr.com).

## MARCH

- MAR 9 6:30pm** — CNA Steering Committee meeting, Taqueria los Altos
- MAR 23 7:00pm** — Cherrywood Book Club. For information e-mail [thedelaunes@austin.rr.com](mailto:thedelaunes@austin.rr.com).

# WIRED: STAY INFORMED ELECTRONICALLY

By Gordon Bennett

Cherrywood is wired. (1) Our **Web page** at [cherrywood.org](http://cherrywood.org) has a ton of useful information. (2) Our **e-mail listserv** NeighborNet has 400 members who enjoy timely notices and discussion of local issues. You can subscribe at [cherrywood.org](http://cherrywood.org).

If you're not on NeighborNet, you miss postings on:

- Cherrywood issues
- Lost or found pets
- Reminders of meetings and events
- Updates on projects
- Warnings of scams
- y mucho mas...

Members have three options:

- Read messages as they are posted
- Read a daily digest
- Read at the Web site (no email)

All members can post.

Question? Ask Gordon at [gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu). ■

## Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://www.cherrywood.org>

### Steering Committee

<b>Chair</b> _____	Randall Terrell ('06)*	451-0346
<b>Vice-Chair</b> _____	Kyle King ('06)	476-0596
<b>Secretary</b> _____	Maxwell McDaniel ('06)	236-0223
<b>Treasurer</b> _____	Alexandra (Alex) Garcia ('05)	474-7532
<b>Members</b> _____	J. Scott Chasteen ('05)	791-6755
	Jennifer Elsner ('06)	692-7604
	Maddie Kadas ('05)	478-7966
	Peter Ketter ('06)	473-2736
	Rebecca Kohout ('05)	415-9876
	Jack Newman ('05)	476-6616
	Charles Roadman ('06)	476-0599
	Jennifer Smith ('06)	694-0298
	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> _____	Alexandra (Alex) Garcia	474-7532
	Dave Westenbarger	494-9905
• <b>Distribution</b> _____	Alex Garcia	474-7532

### 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> _____	Lex Dale Owens	477-6555
<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

## MEET THE NEW STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR: TWO-FOOT MANIFESTO

By Randall Terrell

More than most neighborhoods of our size, we face a variety of challenges and opportunities. We've got an airport transmogri-fying on one side, an interstate widening and sinking on another, and commuter rail running through the middle. We've got a host of other issues that affect Cherrywood directly, that I would name but for lack of space. Each one of these issues is important and each can change our neighborhood for better or worse. As an organized group, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association must stay on top of these issues and make every effort to ensure that our views are represented and heard.

Yet, with all those issues out there, I thought I'd use this first column as Steering Committee chair to do what all good politicians do. I'm going to ignore all those important issues so I can write about what I want to:

Walking.

I want you to walk more. I urge you to get out of your house and take a two-footed spin around the block. Or two blocks. Down to the park and back. Over to the grocery store. To school. To dinner. Explore Willowbrook Reach. Get some exer-

cise. Many, many people already walk in our neighborhood. If you don't, I ask that you join them.

Why focus on walking as a neighborhood issue? Blatant self-interest.

The issues that face our neighborhood are important because they threaten or promise to affect our sense of community, our identity as a neighborhood, our sense of place. So, rather than address each individual issue, I thought I'd take this column to try and foster a little growth in our community identity—that very thing we're struggling to protect when we engage on each particular local issue.

Walking is one way to do that. It's an easy, healthy, significant step we can take to help our sense of community grow. Walkers build an invisible network of connections—neighbors met, nods and hellos exchanged, faces recognized, common schedules, streets and routes shared—and those connections are taken back home. Over time, those connections become anchors, and those anchors define part of the community that is our neighborhood.

Now, getting the neighborhood walking may be a great idea, but it's obviously not the only way to help our community grow. Anything we can do to foster our sense of community will help preserve those things about Cherrywood that have made it such a great place to live. Really, anything will help. So get out and meet your neighbors, take your kids to Patterson Park, volunteer for the Maplewood PTA, help out at Cherrywood Green, sit on your front porch and wave at the passers-by. Or just take a walk. ■

## PINK GORILLA?

By Gordon Bennett, Peter Ketter and Girard Kinney

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association's Design Guidelines go to the printer soon. They suggest good practices covering compatibility, drainage, entryways, fire prevention, home security, landscaping, lighting, parking, space by the street and other elements. The Guidelines are for anyone contemplating construction or remodeling in Cherrywood. They list and illustrate several design elements especially appropriate for projects in our area.

The Guidelines came about because we have some new construction and lots of fix-up and expansion activity. Those contemplating doing it might appreciate knowing how to do so advantageously. Especially if you're a first-timer, you may be unaware of some important considerations. We assume you would

like to maximize your property's value. And if possible we assume you also would like to accommodate your neighbors.

Many specifics were suggested by architects. All specifics were vented for public discussion, and eventually passed unanimously by the membership in April 2004. Amendments will follow a similar procedure. Our Guidelines reflect an evolving consensus. By following them, we believe you will be doing what is best for you individually and for the community collectively.

Taste is hardly in question. You want to put a 10-foot high pink gorilla in your front yard? That's fine. It will be there for to you to enjoy and others to photograph. Nor is enforcement at issue. No Design Guidelines are required. And even if they were, the neighborhood association is in no position to monitor and take action if you fail to conform.

Rather, for example, we assume that owners and builders alike would prefer to put a retaining wall far enough back

from the street to allow a car door to open over the curb. Otherwise cars would have to park farther into the street.

Occasionally CNA becomes involved when a property owner requests a "variance." This is a petition to exempt a property from some city code requirement because of special circumstances. The city seeks approval from immediate neighbors and from the neighborhood association before granting a variance. In such cases, CNA might object if the proposal would violate a Design Guideline. A suitable form is included to copy and distribute to neighbors as needed. But in most instances, compliance is purely voluntary.

We intend to give copies of the Guidelines to concerned city staff, Realtors and developers active in the neighborhood, and to anyone else who requests one. We hope, largely by public education, the result will be to encourage more judiciously designed improvements in our midst. ■

## MUELLER AGREEMENT FINALLY SIGNED

By Jed Buie

On Dec. 2, the Austin City Council unanimously approved the Master Development Agreement (MDA) between the City of Austin and Catellus for the redevelopment of Robert Mueller Municipal Airport.

The Mueller Implementation Advisory Commission had unanimously recommended that Council approve the MDA as presented by city staff and Catellus. The signing signals the beginning of the Mueller redevelopment in earnest. Catellus and the city will continue to work with neighbors and the community as the project moves forward.

Highlights of the agreement include:

- **Tax base increase** – The total value of new buildings at final buildout is expected to be approximately \$1 billion in today's dollars, which at current tax rates will generate roughly \$4.5 million in annual property tax revenues to the city.

- **Financial implication** – It is estimated that the city will receive approximately \$10 million to \$15 million in taxes during the first 10 years, and \$55 million to \$65 million during the first 20 years over and above what is required to pay for the bonds. Once the infrastructure is complete, an increasing proportion of the taxes generated by the redevelopment will be available for the city's General Fund.

- **Employment** – The redevelopment will support roughly 10,500 long-term jobs in medical, office and retail industries. In addition, construction at Mueller is expected to generate approximately 10,000 total "job years." This means that during a 10-year build-out period, an average of 1,000 full-time workers would be employed in construction each year.

- **Affordable housing** – Of the approximately 4,600 residential units expected at Mueller, at least 25 percent will be affordable to low-income households. These will be distributed throughout the community.

- **Education** – A new neighborhood school will be part of the redevelopment. Discussions have occurred regarding a proposed Academic Health Center property at Mueller.

- **Health care** – The construction of the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas is under way. Additional medical offices are expected to locate within Mueller.

- **Transit** – Transit is essential to achieving a compact, pedestrian-oriented community. The Mueller Master Plan accounts for possible commuter rail service in the future, as well as Rapid Bus and expanded local bus service.

- **Open space** – The Master Plan incorporates approximately 140 acres of open space usable by the public, including neighborhood parks, a lake, sports fields, green ways with hike/bike paths and 15,000 new trees.

- **Pedestrian friendly** – Streets at Mueller have been designed to provide a network of pedestrian ways throughout the community.

- **Bicycle friendly** – Mueller will host a comprehensive network of bicycle facilities to extend the existing system of bike lanes adjacent to the property. A total of 13 miles of new bike routes, lanes and paths are planned.

- **Sustainability** – Mueller's design promotes green community design, green buildings and green infrastructure. The creation of a compact, walkable, transit-oriented development provides an alternative to automobile-dominant patterns. The Mueller redevelopment incorporates principles based on the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program and the city's own Green Building Program. The park system has been designed to reduce off-site flooding and to treat stormwater before it is released into natural streams.

- **Minority and women businesses** – Catellus has achieved approximately 25 percent Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise participation at the Mueller for the first phase of construction.

The Mueller redevelopment has an informative 166-page "Design Workbook" on-line at [www.ci.austin.tx.us/mueller/downloads/Exhibit\\_w.pdf](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/mueller/downloads/Exhibit_w.pdf). For construction update information and routes, as well as traffic information surrounding the project, please visit the project Web site at [www.muelleraustin.com](http://www.muelleraustin.com). (Please note that the Web site will be updated in the coming weeks to reflect additional project updates).

You may also contact Greg Weaver, vice president of Catellus, 473-0400; fax 472-4414; [greg\\_weaver@catellus.com](mailto:greg_weaver@catellus.com); or Pam Hefner, City of Austin principal planner; 974-3511; fax 974-78225; [pam.hefner@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:pam.hefner@ci.austin.tx.us). ■



Jed Buie is with TateAustin, the public relations firm for Catellus, which was chosen by the city to develop the former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport.

Progress photo from the Mueller redevelopment Web site, [www.muelleraustin.com](http://www.muelleraustin.com).

## NEW DISTRICT REP AND SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWS

By Lex Dale Owens

The revolving door with Austin Police Department assignment of district representatives has produced our fifth district representative in less than 15 months. Gratefully, after the resignation of our last district representative Joy Gamble, APD has appointed long-time Austin resident Senior Officer Sheldon Salisbury, who said, "I am committed for the next two years to this position."

Salisbury, past president of the Allendale Neighborhood Association, started out on a good foot by attending the 3rd annual Cherrywood Safety Fair just a few days after his appointment. He presented an excellent program.

The Safety Fair included more than 25 residents and representatives from EMS and the fire and police departments. EMS Unit 4, which serve our neighborhood, demonstrated ambulance equipment and the interior of the ambulance. Children viewed a safety movie after all the demonstrations while parents listened to speakers.

Austin Fire Department Engine 14 encouraged residents to explore everything on the fire truck, and the new GPS dispatching system in police, fire and EMS vehicles. Officials said the GPS system can locate an event within 3 meters and provide the fastest route to emergencies through traffic in real time.

Officer Salisbury showed everyone his patrol car and provided a report on the decrease in crime in our area, which he said APD "felt was the result of our strong Neighborhood Watch Program." He gave instructions for home safety survey appointments, which anyone can arrange, in which an APD officer is sent to your home or business and make recommendations for better security. Officer Salisbury provided information the

recent arrest of a rape suspect through DNA evidence.

The Safety Committee has appointed a working committee of Meg Brooks, Randall Terrell and Lex Dale Owens to resolve the situation involving an unoccupied house. We expect a solution in the next few months. The city removed all the trash immediately. We are working on other problems with crime around the Manor Road/Larry Lane area. Please let me know if you have other problems that need our attention. The Safety Committee greatly appreciates everyone's participation

Neighborhood Watch received approval from the Steering Committee to install 25 to 30 additional signs. This should complete our placement of Neighborhood Watch signs at most of the perimeter street entrances to the neighborhood. Block captains are erecting the interior signs. I have installed 25 signs at entrances where existing poles were available, but the majority of new signs will require digging a hole and placing a post in concrete. We will let you know about the work party for volunteers.

The question of calling 911 comes up more than any other issue. APD recommends calling 911 in almost all circumstances. The APD operator will redirect your call to 311 if necessary after hearing your situation. 311 is mainly used for follow-up reports and crimes that have occurred in the past. Look at [cherrywood.org](http://cherrywood.org) under Safety and Security for a list of circumstances to call 911 and 311. Remember, criminals are looking for opportunity. Don't be one. ■

*Officer Salisbury introduced himself to the neighborhood with an e-mail in November. It said, "My name is Sheldon Salisbury. I am a 19-year veteran of the Austin Police Department and past Vice President of the North Austin Civic Association. I look forward to working with you and plan to be here for the next two years. My office number is 974-4498 and my e-mail is [sheldon.salisbury@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:sheldon.salisbury@ci.austin.tx.us). We also have a new lieutenant. His name is Joe Regalado. His phone number 974-4418.*

## BYLAWS, BYLAWS GET YOUR BYLAWS HERE

By Randall Terrell

Proposed revisions to the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association bylaws will be discussed at the Jan. 19 association membership meeting with the intention of adopting the draft as a proposal for adoption. If the membership approves of the proposed revisions, the bylaws will be officially proposed and set for final adoption at the spring quarterly meeting.

The revisions constitute a significant reorganization of the current bylaws. Among the substantive changes of note are a proposed limit of \$500 on financial expenditures by the Steering Committee accompanied by explicit authority for the treas-

urer to spend up to \$100 between Steering Committee meetings without previous Steering Committee approval.

Everyone is encouraged to take a look at both the old bylaws and proposed bylaws. Although the proposed revisions are too long to publish here, the bylaws are available online. The current bylaws have their own link (under a drop down menu) on the [Cherrywood.org](http://Cherrywood.org) site. The proposed revisions are available as a download from the CNA Library at the same site. If you don't have a computer or need a hard copy of the bylaws, please call Randall Terrell at 473-8483 (after business hours) and leave a message asking for a copy. You may provide feedback through e-mail to [rterrell@starbirdterrell.com](mailto:rterrell@starbirdterrell.com).

All comments received about the proposed revisions will be reviewed by the bylaws committee and may be rejected or proposed for adoption within the final version of the bylaws. Everyone's input is welcome. ■

## PLANNING, ZONING, PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

By Girard Kinney

Some activities of the Planning and Zoning Committee in the last few months:

- We recommended to the Steering Committee that we support Hancock Neighborhood across Interstate 35 in its attempt to soften the impact of an office building adjacent St David's Medical Center and wrote a letter to the Board of Adjustment, which helped achieve a success.

- We monitored developments at an Airport Boulevard site just south of Schieffer and will act as a liaison with new owners to try to further neighborhood interests as that property is developed.

- We kept an eye on the St David's parking lot north of Edgewood, for which there are rumored development plans.

The P&Z Committee is charged with pursuing an established vision for the system of parks and green spaces in our neighborhood. Cherrywood is blessed with Patterson Park; an official city park (see separate article). Congratulations to FOPP for the grant they have been awarded.

Willowbrook Reach is an "undedicated" green space looked over by Friends of Willowbrook Reach chaired by Dianne Sullivan. A plan is being developed to address planting and mowing and the need for major erosion control. We almost lost the excellent Willowbrook Reach sign as a result of recent flooding and erosion.

Cherrywood Green, our wonderful little undedicated "mini-park" on 34th, between Cherrywood and Kern Ramble, is over-seen and improved by Friends of Cherrywood Green, co-founded and chaired until recently by Brent Hay. FOCG has done amazing things with this space; we have beautiful, environment-friendly plants, a crushed granite trail, a doggy poop bag dispenser, fruit trees, a cadre of mower volunteers, systematic removal of non-native plant species and tender loving care. Most recently, we have reached an agreement with the city whereby for an investment of less than \$800, the city will provide a tap to a city water line under the sidewalk along Cherrywood and provide and install a water meter, a hose bibb and a "T" for a future drinking water fountain. The city will pay the monthly water bill as long as our usage does not become excessive. Final details have been worked out, and we should see work on this soon.

Concordia Rest, Bermuda Triangle, Cedar Down or whatever you choose to call the little triangle at Concordia and 37th had two large cedar trees until recently when one was destroyed.

The railroad right of way, which soon will carry passenger rail service, may someday also be part of a regional bike/pedestrian trail system. Many creeks and tributaries form a network of green spaces that provide habitat for plants and animals. The mature overhanging oaks, cedar elms and other species of trees make our neighborhood enviable for walking.

For more information, or if you would like to serve on the CNA Planning and Zoning Committee, please contact Girard Kinney, 478-5042, girard@kinneyarchitects.com. ■

## RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT PROGRAM UPDATE

By Brian Block

### Review of the Residential Parking Permit Program

The purpose of the RPP program is to discourage long-term parking by non-residents on residential streets. A minimum of 66.7% of the residents on each street must be in favor of the program, and a minimum of 75% of the available on-street parking must be occupied during the hours identified for inclusion in the program.

### Cherrywood Streets in the RPP

In March applications for the RPP were submitted for the four streets in Cherrywood listed below. Two of the four streets met the criteria for the program, and the RPP was implemented there. The other two streets were just short of the 75% requirement. The two streets that did not meet the criteria were reviewed again after the RPP was implemented to determine if the parking had shifted. Unfortunately, the second

review was done during the summer when the demand for street parking is reduced. The city has a rule that streets can only be reviewed once every six months. The two streets that are pending will be eligible for another review in January.

The results were:

- Dancy - 28th to 29th (**81% occupied**) **Included in RPP**
- 28th St - Robinson to Dancy (**100% occupied**) **Included in RPP**
- 28th St - Dancy to Lafayette (**71.4% occupied**) **Pending**
- Lafayette - Dean Keeton to 28th (**66.6% occupied**) **Pending**

### Next Steps

The city will review the two streets that are pending approval in January. If the RPP is implemented on these two streets, additional steps would include informing the residents on adjacent streets that the RPP is being implemented and that the parking problem could shift to their street. Residents on these streets will be offered the opportunity to extend the boundaries of the RPP program to their street.

If you have any questions about the program or if you live on one of the streets included in the program and would like parking permits please contact: Brian Block, bsbloock@gmx.net (email preferred) or 391-0621 (daytime phone). ■

## ASBURY CHURCH AND THE FUTURE

As Asbury United Methodist Church's congregation grows small, the church is considering its future and that of its building at 38½ Street and Cherrywood Road. Gordon Bennett thought about the role the church has played in our community and in the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association. Here is a "Talking Paper" he put together in November.

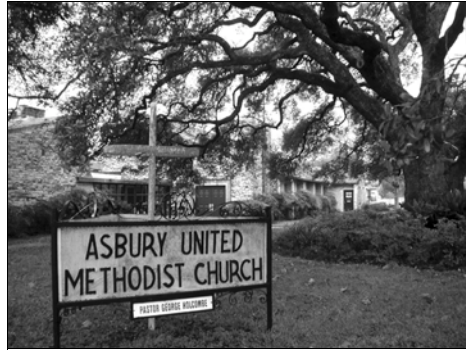


Photo by Dolly Enseley.

An interesting problem is how two important community institutions — Asbury United Methodist Church and the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association — might act in concert for mutual benefit.

Asbury ([http://www.gbgm-umc.org/asburyumc\\_austin/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/asburyumc_austin/)) began as a neighborhood congregation. Members who lived nearby founded it in 1948, and raised the graceful stone building at Cherrywood Road and 38½ Street. It continues to be one of our cultural and activity centers. Our children enjoy its Open Door Preschool (<http://www.opendoorpreschool.org/>). We meet there. We vote there. Any time we ask a favor of the church, the answer unwaveringly is yes.

And yet, demographic changes have stretched the original tie. The church founders have aged and moved away, though some still attend worship. Community churches in general have lost ground to mega-churches and TV ministries. The upshot is that the Asbury congregation physically has drifted away from the Cherrywood community.

This is a loss. There is even talk of the church closing and the property being put up for sale. Imagine Asbury Business Park with a Physicians Weight Loss Center franchise instead of a sanctuary. Could happen. It would be as bad as the Austin school district closing Maplewood Elementary School. Our whole sense of neighborhood and community would suffer.

Can we prevent such a future? Maybe, if we shake hands:

1. Asbury and CNA can discuss it together.
2. We can allow time for trial and error.
3. We can combine small initiatives into a whole.

Asbury, for its part, must entertain hosting initiatives designed to appeal to Cherrywood residents, who for the most part are a generation younger than the Asbury members. These initiatives may include a spiritual component, but not necessarily. They must begin at the beginning, addressing existing community interests that might be largely social.

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, for its part, must join with Asbury members to generate ideas. What might 78722 residents find interesting and valuable that involves the church? First discussions should be totally uncritical "ideaphoria" in the nature of a "focus group." We should write down every idea that occurs, no matter how silly it might sound.

Noontime concerts? Dance lessons for shy teens? Friday night child care? Showcase for local artists? Pot luck suppers? Gatherings to thrash out neighborhood social or ethical issues, such as what we should do about the homeless among us? Gripe sessions? Introduction to contemporary Christian Mystics? Part-time job fairs? Remodel the building? Recruit new tenants? Who knows? Nothing should be out of bounds. THEN (and only then), after our imaginations are exhausted, should we start eliminating less promising suggestions. The list that survives should be our menu of choices to consider, refine, and try. ■

## UBCPT UPDATE

By Stephen Kreger

The Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team (UBCPT) met Nov. 30 at The Vortex. Several items were discussed including the zoning change requested by The Vortex. The Team approved the zoning change, with a caveat to allow the theater to sell beer and wine. The caveat is that a Restrictive Covenant with a Provisional Roll-over will be recorded stating in essence that if the theater ceases to do business or if the property is sold, the zoning will revert to its current status. This provision allows the owners to get what they want, but protects the neighbors from a new owner or a different business doing something that is not compatible with the neighborhood.

The planning tools issue is closer to resolution as the last sub-district was to decide what it wanted to do by Dec. 15. The Cherrywood sub-district chose to adopt all three of the tools: 1) impervious cover and parking placement, 2) garage placement, and 3) front porch setback. The sub-district consisting of Blackland and Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross chose tools 1 and 2. Once the third sub-district, Delwood II and Wilshire Wood/Delwood I make a decision, the amendment process will begin.

CAMPO is scheduled to vote on the Manor Road issue in the spring. The CAMPO staff did not agree with the Austin City Council and city staff regarding the downgrading of the street. The team will send letters to the CAMPO Board members supporting the downgrade.

The Team won the Neighborhood Association of the Year award from the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department for our contributions to the Alamo Rec Center, Patterson Park, and Maplewood Elementary School. Doris Kingston of the Alamo Recreation Center nominated the team. The award is carved on a piece on wood saved from Treaty Oak tree. The team will try to display it at Maplewood Elementary School.

The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2005 at a location to be named later. ■



## MAPLEWOOD NOTES

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

Fall semester at Maplewood is coming to a close. Reflection of the past few months is positive and filled with community spirit. However, our hardworking, talented staff has also been struggling with the task of balancing the curriculum demands of the district, which are driven by the TAKS test, a state standardized test, and providing students with project based, hands on, FUN learning experiences.

One successful response has been our grant-funded after-school enrichment program. Students enroll in classes about the environment, cooking, solar energy and sewing, to name a few. Classes will continue throughout the school year and are taught by school personnel and by talented community members. If you are interested in teaching an after-school class, please contact Rosemary Salazar at 414-4402.

October included our annual Fright Fest, which was spooky fun for all. Thanks to business donors Washington Mutual and Crescent Real Estate who helped with funding to purchase prizes and supplies. In November, more than 100 Maplewood

family members attended our Thanksgiving lunch. It was such fun. Thanks to you all and to our hard working cafeteria staff who accommodated the extra folks.

This December, Maplewood hosted the annual Cherrywood Art Fair. It was a huge success and earned more than \$1,200 towards the Maplewood Student Art Fund. Hundreds of people attended and more than 40 artists displayed wonderful work ranging from paint on canvas to wooden Christmas trees and Santa sleighs. If you didn't get a chance to view the great work, there's always next year.

In other news, the annual Maplewood book fair was held for a week. There were many wonderful children's books for sale and it was right before Hanukkah and Christmas time. Also in December 6th graders attended a three-day fieldtrip to the Outdoor School. The students and teachers were involved in team-building experiences and a curriculum based on respect for ALL of our surroundings—very valuable.

We are looking forward to an equally busy and fun spring semester. Watch the marquee for events such as potluck dinners, student performance programs and Spring Fling. Remember, if you know how to do something fun, have some talent to impart to our eager students, and the time to teach an after school class, please contact us at 414-4402. ■

*This Maplewood news column is written by Lucas Grisham, 5th grade student, and Kelli Kirk, a counselor at Maplewood who lives in our neighborhood.*

## FOPP GETS BIG GRANT FOR TRAILS

By Isabelle Headrick

Time to jump up and down, everybody: Friends of Patterson Park is thrilled to announce that we were awarded a National Recreational Trails Grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for \$99,250. This money will be used to build a crushed granite trail for jogging and biking around the perimeter and through the park. It also will be used for construction of a concrete sidewalk leading from Wilshire Boulevard (near the intersection with Schiefer and Cherrywood) up to the playground. This is the culmination of two years of hard work, the lion's share of which was done by Priscilla Boston and Mark Smolen. I am so grateful to Priscilla and Mark for all their hard work and ask you to please take time to thank them for their contributions.

In other news, FoPP has, it seems, gained a reputation around town for our work preventing the expansion of the

Pharr Tennis Center. The Galindo Elementary Neighborhood Association along with others in south Austin has been fighting an eerily similar proposal to expand the tennis center in South Austin Park. Like Patterson, South Austin is a relatively small, neighborhood-based park with a diversity of uses, which would be hurt by the addition of ten new tennis courts, new locker rooms, and a new tournament facility. It seems that we were oddly fortunate to be the first neighborhood on which this was tried and that the backers of this idea are more persistent this time around. I have consulted with the chair of the Galindo association's parks committee a couple of times and am gratified to report that our success is inspirational to the folks there.

Please join us on Saturday, Jan. 29 at 6 p.m. for a NEIGHBORHOOD POTLUCK AND COMMUNITY VISION MEETING at Genesis Presbyterian Church. What vision do YOU have for Patterson Park?

Would you like to see a community garden, pool improvements, skate park, more erosion control? How do you see Patterson connected in the future to the Mueller greenspaces across Airport Boulevard? Bring your food, your appetite, your energy and your ideas to share with your neighbors. Don't miss this opportunity to pull together as a community to create and invest in a vision for our park.

The next Friends of Patterson Park meetings are scheduled for Jan. 10 and Feb. 14 at 7:30 at Genesis Presbyterian Church. For more information on FoPP, call Isabelle at 499-0621 or e-mail 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 815 Brazos Street, Suite 1001, Austin, Texas 78701). ■



## 8TH ANNUAL CHERRYWOOD TREE PLANTING IS A SUCCESS

By Mike Damal

On Saturday, Nov. 13, Javier Bautista, Lola King, Jim MacKay, Mike Sullivan, Gretchen Phillips, and Mike Damal planted 12 trees and delivered an additional 12 for a total of 24 trees planted throughout Cherrywood. We lucked out with the weather—the rain held out while we were planting, and of course, storms the next week gave all these newly planted trees a very good start. All the volunteers agreed that this was a fun and rewarding experience.

Varieties planted or delivered included crepe myrtles, two varieties of red buds, pecan, Chiquapin oak, Monterrey oak, red oak, dogwood, Bradford pear, and Mexican plum. This year we had more variety than most. With the 24 trees planted this year, our 8-year total is 219 trees. We chose Gretchen Phillips' red bud planted on Robinson as the ceremonial 200th tree.

This still is an excellent time to plant trees. With all the rain we had, the ground is "like butter" and it's very easy to plant. It's best to get the trees in the ground to take advantage of all this rain. Rainwater is always superior to using a hose and will promote deep root growth so these trees will survive our normally hot, dry summers.

If anyone has general questions on tree planting, please feel free to e-mail me at [mdamal@peoplepc.com](mailto:mdamal@peoplepc.com). I'm not a tree expert, but I would be more than happy to share what I know or give you another opinion. I plan to continue this tradition next year. Look to next summer's Flea and the NeighborNet for more information. ■

## SIGN SIGN, EVERYWHERE A SIGN ~ KEEP CHERRYWOOD BEAUTIFUL

People posting garage/yard sale signs in our neighborhood are encouraged to remove them by the evening of the last day of the sale; even those persons attending these events should gently remind sales' hosts to remove their signs promptly. Note that sales can be electronically advertised on our neighborhood's e:mail listserv. Contact Gordon Bennett at [gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu) for more information. ■



Volunteers:  
Top Row (L-R): Javier Bautista, Mike Damal, Gretchen Phillips, Lola King. Bottom Row: Mike Sullivan, Jim MacKay.

Photos by Dolly Ensey.

## AUSTIN CLEAN WATER PROGRAM IN CHERRYWOOD



Surveyors saying they are contractors for the Austin Clean Water Program have been working along Cherrywood Road and in Willowbrook Reach for the last couple of months.

The Austin Clean Water Program is an EPA-mandated program to clean streams by repairing or replacing broken and overflowing sewer lines and manholes. The office staff of this program says residents will be notified later in the process, during a design stage, and will be able to influence final decisions.

The spokeswoman said surveyors are locating not only the sewer lines but also trees, structures, utilities and anything else that would be a factor in repairing or replacing sewer lines and manholes.

For more information about the Austin Clean Water Program, call 684-3204, e-mail [lisa.rhodes@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:lisa.rhodes@ci.austin.tx.us), or visit the Web site [www.ci.austin.tx.us/acwp/](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/acwp/). ■



Photo by Dolly Ensey.

# THIRD ANNUAL CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR MAKING WAY FOR A FOURTH

By Maddie Kadas

We did it. Thanks to literally hundreds of hours of volunteer work from you wonderful neighbors and Maplewood parents and teachers, and the sponsorship of many businesses and our own Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, the Third Annual Cherrywood Art Fair was a resounding success. As participating artist and web goddess Marilyn Fenn noted:

All day, everywhere, people seemed to be having quite a good time – artists, food-sellers, shoppers, kids, parents, musicians, volunteers . . . The entire school was infused with such a festive air. Most of the artists said they had very good sales. It was evident right from the start that there was great traffic – much better than even last year, and it barely slowed down. If one were to sum up the entire art fair in one word, that word would be "smiles."

Although all the figures were not in at the time of the Flea deadline, early numbers indicate that about \$2,000 was raised for the Maplewood art program and Maplewood PTA at the Dec. 11 event. That's pretty good earnings for a day of fun, art, music, food and sunshine. This is a great achievement for our neighborhood and may just spur us to do it again next year.

And in case you were wondering just how many folks it took to pull this off and whom to thank:

**Art Fair Coordinator:** Priscilla Boston

**Art Fair Team Members:** Cynthia Ballesteros (*Music*), Richard Behal (*Logistics and Set Up*), Olivia Derr (*Decorations*), Marilyn Fenn (*Web Page and Booth Map*), Nichole Flanagan (*Food and Sponsorship*), Audrey Gray (*Silent Auction*), Maddie Kadas (*Publicity*), Kelly Miles (*Volunteers*), Kathleen McTee (*Artists*), Jennifer Ober (*Kids Art Activities*), Liz Potter (*Poster Designer*), Minnie Russell (*Coffee and Dessert*), Jane Walton (*Budget and Financials*)

### Sponsors:

**Level I:** Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, Maplewood PTA, Aguas Frescas de Austin, The Austin Chronicle, Blue Shoe Marketing, Beveridge & Diamond, P.C., Marta's Flan, Kin-kos, Vivo Cocina Mexicana

**Level II:** Dolce Vita, El Chile Café y Cantina, Julio's Café, John Mueller BBQ, Gene Johnson Automotive, Groovy Lube, Fiesta, Lakeside Imports, Mi Madre's, Pato's, Tin Star, Uncommon Objects, Tamara Wiggins

**Volunteers:** Erica Albright, Amy Averett, Amanda Braziel, Meg Brooks, Mike Blood, Ken Casey, Amber Dawkins, Jennifer Elsner, Laura Eisenberg, Dawna & David Fisher, Ian Flanagan, Jeff Folmar, Alex Garcia & Jim MacKay, Leigh Gorman, Debra Haas, Kelly Hodges, Chris Kadas, Rebecca Kohout, Girard

## Cherrywood Art Fair 2004



Cherrywood Art Fair 2004 was a festive scene of shoppers, artists, food, music and creativity!!

Photos by Gordon Bennett and Dave Westenberg.

Kinney, Kyle King, Leslie Lawson, Cynthia Lee, Michael McClendon, Julie Meacham, Marybeth & Eric Metcalf, Kirsten Moody, Maryann Overath, Anna Presley, Joy Petty, Sasha Rasco, Vanessa & Ken Ronsonette, David Salisbury, Lisa Schemanske, Stefan Schuster, Jennifer Smith, Shani Snoddy, Christine & Randall Terrell, Luke Torens, Cindy Soo, Scheleen & Jim Walker, Becky Weaver, Nadya & Eric White, Katherine Williams

We sure hope we didn't forget anyone and apologize if we did. If you have comments, suggestions or want to help with next year's fair, please contact Priscilla Boston at [peboston@juno.com](mailto:peboston@juno.com). ■

## THE SOUND OF OUR TOWN GOT SWEETER

Text and Photos by Hannah Neal

You know how everybody's always lamenting the fact that talented musicians often end up leaving Austin to pursue their careers elsewhere? Well sometimes they do, but sometimes they come back. Such is the case with two of Austin's treasures, axeman extraordinaire, Elias Haslanger, and his wife, pop princess, Amy Atchley. After braving the ruthless music scene, crowded subways and brutal winters of New York City for over four years, this musical couple is back in the 'hood at last, and we couldn't be happier.

A Houston native, Amy earned her BA in vocal performance from UT, then spent several years touring, performing and writing with Austin-based bands, Hush and Fabu. The Houston Press described hers as "a performance to melt hearts and stimulate intellects." Amy followed her successful collaboration with these two acts with her acclaimed solo debut, *Speeding*. During her time in New York, Amy cultivated a strong presence playing venues like the legendary Bitter End, and culminating in the release of her second CD, the beautiful and poignant "Wish." She's won praise



from critics such as the New York Times' Andrew Taber, who wrote that her songs "rumble with emotion."

Since her return to Austin, Amy's been delighting fans by diving right back into the scene, playing regular gigs at the Saxon Pub, and giving back to the community in her role as Events Coordinator for Meals on Wheels and More. If you want to get a copy of Amy's new CD or stay on top of her play dates, check out her Web site at [www.amyatchley.com](http://www.amyatchley.com).

Born and raised in Austin, Elias studied saxophone at UT and Manhattan School of Music, then earned a master's degree in composition at SWT. He's had three award-winning CDs, "Standards," "For the Moment" and "Kicks are for Kids," which have had worldwide airplay and earned top spots on Gavin Jazz charts. Texas Monthly called his a "classic sounding jazz with a serious groove that will grab you with its quiet

confidence." Elias is praised for creating and projecting his own sound, and is often compared to the immortal Coltrane. While living in New York, Elias got to hang out with Elvin Jones, shed with Wynton Marsalis, and tour with jazz great, Maynard Ferguson. Offstage, he kept his fans entertained with an online journal, riffing on everything from the jazz scene to politics to baseball (one of his favorite things). You can catch Elias at his regular Elephant Room gigs, where he has a loyal following of devotees who pack the house when he plays. If you'd like to join in Eli's blog, check out his discography or see where he's playing next, visit his Web site at [www.elijazz.com](http://www.elijazz.com).

Sound good? Well, don't just take my word for it. Go see what music critics and fellow Austinites have been raving about for years, and show these talented neighbors just how glad we are to have them back. ■

## WRIGHT'S LIGHTS, LANDSCAPE HONORED

By Mike Damal

This quarter's yard of fame goes to Ralph and Hosea Wright at 3106 Cherrywood Road. Mr. Wright is often seen attending to his yard in the early morning, and it is a delight to see any time of the year.

The Wright's gardens are always well tended and have a variety of perennials and annuals. This time of year is special in that the Wright's have a spectacular Christmas light display that has influenced the other neighbors on the 3100 block of Cherrywood. It's one of the brightest streets for Christmas lights that I have seen in the neighborhood. (Even the UT students on the sailing team at 3009 have decorated a sailboat in lights, including blue "sea lights" for water.)

Mrs. Wright told me that every year she says she's not going to put up Christmas lights; however every year she changes her

mind. The Wrights will receive a \$25 gift certificate from our sponsors, Big Red Sun Nursery, at 1102 East Cesar Chavez, [www.bigredsunn.com](http://www.bigredsunn.com). ■



Photo by Dolly Ersey.