



[www.cherrywood.org](http://www.cherrywood.org)

October 2005

Volume 11, No. 1

# The Flea

## SAFETY FAIR

By Lex Dale Owens

The 4<sup>th</sup> Cherrywood Safety Fair is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 at Maplewood school.

The 2005 Fair is being upsized due to increasing crime. This is the first year neighborhoods in the Upper Boggy Creek area have joined the effort. Blacklands, Delwood II, Rogers/Washington-Holy Cross, and Wilshire Woods/Delwood I Neighborhood Associations are co-sponsors.

The Austin Police Department, Cothran's locksmiths, Austin health department, Home Depot, Austin Travis County EMS, women's and children's centers, McBride's Guns, Austin Fire Department, Travis County district attorney, and home-security vendors will present personal and home safety.

Demonstrations will include rape prevention, anti-burglary products, firearm safety, lighting for security, disaster preparedness, free medical screenings, locks and video surveillance, movies about home and business safety, and demonstrations from the EMS and fire departments that will amaze you.

A children's program will be provided during the safety fair. McGruff the po-

lice dog, AFD's burning children's room, and children's speakers and demonstrations will be there. Neighborhood food vendors are encouraged to provide tacos, BBQ, soft drinks, and desserts.

Officer Sheldon Salisbury, the APD district representative, has strongly supported the safety fair and promises to make it informative and entertaining. Please volunteer and contact Lex Dale Owens for more information, [lexdale@hotmail.com](mailto:lexdale@hotmail.com), 750-8296.

The APD commanders forums are scheduled each first Monday – Oct. 3, Nov. 7, and Dec. 5 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the APD substation at 812 Springdale Road. Neighbors are invited to meet with commanders and district representatives in East Austin to discuss community policing, grievances and problem areas. Lex Dale Owens, chair of the safety committee, has been nominated as a member of the Chief's Forum for two years.

More Neighborhood Watch groups have been formed but police say recent arrests indicate the Neighborhood Watch signs have lost some of their effectiveness. Sixty percent of arrests in our neighborhood are non-residents. A suspect has been arrested in the rape on 30<sup>th</sup> Street. Police have increased undercover sting operations. About 99

percent of the property crime in the neighborhood is drug related. Burglaries of vehicles are increasing. Please do not leave anything of value visible in your car. ■

## Cherrywood Neighborhood quarterly meeting:

**Wednesday, Oct 19**

**6:30 - 8:00 pm**

**Maplewood School library**

**Open to ALL residents  
of Cherrywood.**

**We need your input!**

### Agenda:

- 1) Officer's reports (10 minutes)
- 2) UBC report (5 minutes) See Page 6.
- 3) Safety and crime report (10 minutes). See Page 1.
- 4) Approval of new Steering committee members (15 minutes). See Page 3.
- 5) Consideration of expenditure for shared sign at Asbury United Methodist Church (10 minutes). See Page 7.
- 6) Discussion of Cherrywood as historic neighborhood (15 minutes). See Page 8.
- 7) Discussion of Cap Metro transportation alternatives (15 minutes)
- 8) UT Academic Health Science Center update (5 minutes). See Page 4.
- 9) Announcements (5 minutes)

**Next Meeting: February 15**

4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Cherrywood Art Fair!**

Benefitting the Maplewood  
Art Program!  
Free Admission!

\* **Sat- Sun Dec 10-11** \*

**11am-5pm** \*

Maplewood Elementary- 38 1/2 St  
and Maplewood Ave

\*

## THE SECRETS OF CHERRYWOOD'S SUCCESS

By Randall Terrell, Chair, CNA Steering Committee

There is ample evidence that the people of the Cherrywood Neighborhood are increasing their clout in local and even regional politics. The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association has played an important role in publicizing, coordinating or lending support to many of the successes that the neighborhood has had. More often than not, however, it is the individuals who get involved with a specific issue, rather than the CNA, who contribute to the neighborhood successes.

After my first year on the Steering Committee, from watching our neighbors, I've learned how a neighborhood should get involved, get active and get things done. Consistently, Cherrywood residents have jumped on issues early, even helping define some issues and the processes by which they can be resolved. This early engagement is followed by active, constructive, and persistent involvement by a few, or even very many, individuals.

Characteristically, our neighborhood's positions and activism emphasize the relationship of the issues or problems to the community at large, escaping the label of being NIMBYs or being motivated by self-interest. This focus on the greater community provides decision makers with the justification and opportunity they need to adopt Cherrywood's preferred solution. Perhaps because there is a core of long-term activists who live among us, Cherrywood folks also show a distinct willingness to seek and accept realistic solutions to neighborhood issues rather than unattainable ideals. Lastly, and not unimportantly, Cherrywood has demonstrated the ability to turn out the numbers when it is necessary to influence decision makers.

So, what can be done with these lessons? How about putting them to use? Capitol Metro is engaged in a study to determine how to connect Mueller, UT, the Capitol and downtown with the commuter rail and other transit services. The comment period is now. Go for it: [allsystemsgoconnections.org](http://allsystemsgoconnections.org). ■

## CHERRYWOOD CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

**OCT 12 6:30pm** — CNA Steering Committee meeting.

**OCT 19 6:30-8:00pm** — Cherrywood quarterly neighborhood meeting, Maplewood School library. (See Agenda Page 1)

### NOVEMBER

**NOV 5 11:00am-2pm** — Safety Fair. Maplewood School. (See Page 1)

**NOV 9 6:30pm** — CNA Steering Committee meeting

### DECEMBER

**DEC 10-11 11:00am-5pm** — 4<sup>th</sup> annual Cherrywood Art Fair (See Page 10)

**DEC 14 6:30pm** — CNA Steering Committee meeting

### JANUARY

**JAN 11 6:30pm** — CNA Steering Committee meeting

## Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://www.cherrywood.org>

P.O. Box 4010, Austin, TX 78765-4010

### 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
		Girard Kinney ('05)	478-5042
		Rebecca Kohout ('05)	415-9876
		Jack Newman ('05)	476-6616
		Charles Roadman ('06)	476-0599
		Dave Westenbarger ('05)	494-9905
		Chris Kadas ('06)	478-7966
		Lex Dale Owens ('06)	477-6555

\* year term expires

### Communications

**NeighborNet & Web site:** \_\_\_\_\_ Gordon Bennett 477-7195

#### The Flea:

- **Editor** \_\_\_\_\_ Sue Taylor 476-1461
- **Associate Editor** \_\_\_\_\_ Dolly Ensey 494-9905
- **Design & Layout** \_\_\_\_\_ Bethany Andrée 473-2841
- **Advertising** \_\_\_\_\_ Alexandra (Alex) Garcia 474-7532
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dave Westenbarger 494-9905
- **Distribution** \_\_\_\_\_ Alex Garcia 474-7532

### Committees

**Hospitality:** \_\_\_\_\_ Rebecca Kohout 415-9876

\_\_\_\_\_ Priscilla Boston 478-1867

**Nominating:** \_\_\_\_\_ Jennifer Elsner 692-7604

#### Parks:

- **Cherrywood Green** \_\_\_\_\_ Brent Hay 236-8721
- **Patterson Park** \_\_\_\_\_ Isabelle Headrick 499-0621
- **Willowbrook Reach** \_\_\_\_\_ Dianne Sullivan, [dianne@e-side.com](mailto:dianne@e-side.com)

**Planning & Zoning:** \_\_\_\_\_ Girard Kinney 478-5042

**Security:** \_\_\_\_\_ Lex Dale Owens 477-6555

**Transportation:** \_\_\_\_\_ Stefan Schuster 322-0059

**Welcome Wagon:** \_\_\_\_\_ Rebecca Kohout 415-9876

### Representatives

**Austin Film Society:** \_\_\_\_\_ Dolly Ensey 494-9905

**Austin Neighborhoods Council:** \_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Tipps 431-0369

**Blue Ribbon Yard:** \_\_\_\_\_ Leslie Vieau 495-9569

**Maplewood:** \_\_\_\_\_ Kelli Kirk 414-1086

**Mueller Redevelopment:** \_\_\_\_\_ Jim Walker 499-0526

**Tree Planting:** \_\_\_\_\_ Mike Damal 478-9622

**Upper Boggy Creek Planning:** Stephen Kreger 477-4216

## STEERING AND NOMINATING COMMITTEES

By Jennifer Elsner

A lot of work is involved in handling the business of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, and the steering committee is the primary body making sure the work gets done. The SC meets monthly and ensures that the Flea is published and delivered and that the quarterly meetings are held according to the association's by-laws. The steering committee oversees many other matters including bookkeeping, planning and zoning, traffic calming, hospitality, parks and green space, yard of the month and security issues.

Six SC members who complete their service in October deserve special thanks: J. Scott Chasteen, Alexandra (Alex) Garcia, Girard Kinney, Rebecca Kohout, Jack Newman, Dave Westenbarger. And lucky for us, Rebecca Kohout and Jack Newman have agreed to stand for re-election.

You can help the steering committee conduct its business or bring ideas for improving the neighborhood to its attention. All SC members are listed on Page 2 of the Flea. Please feel free to contact any member with your offer to help or your ideas. And come to the quarterly meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 19 at Maplewood school to vote on the new members.

The nominating committee seeks candidates for election each fall and to fill vacancies between elections. It's not too late to throw your hat in. If you are interested in serving on the steering committee, contact any nominating committee member: Jennifer Elsner 692-7604; Priscilla Boston, 478-1867; Lex Dale Owens, 477-6555; Jim Walker, 499-0526; Dave Westenbarger, 494-9905. Also, there is a vacancy on the nominating committee, so if you wish to serve on it, contact any of the members.

Here are personal introductions written by the six neighbors nominated for the Steering Committee.

**David Greene:** My family (wife Deb Palmer and 2-year-old daughter Ellie) moved to Cherrywood just two months ago. This is Deb's first time in Texas, but I'm a Dallas-Houston native and am returning after nine years in Berkeley, Calif., and Worcester, Mass. I'm a civil engineer and community organizer with significant international experience in grassroots, collaborative water and sanitation projects. I have volunteered extensively on community efforts at home — most passionately election reform, community radio, and urban ecology issues. The strength of CNA was a major attraction for us, and I look forward to learning more about and contributing to this great neighborhood.

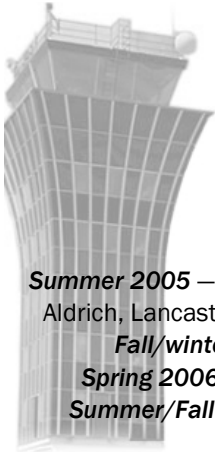
**Rebecca Kohout:** Neighborhood resident since 1973 (off and on, mostly on). Single, mother of two dogs, Bones and Henry. Cherrywood Neighborhood Association treasurer and hospitality chairman for five to six years. Started the CNA welcome wagon committee. Started the Cherrywood Blue Ribbon Yard. Realtor for 11 years, currently with Coldwell Banker United Realtors. Although I was born in West Texas, I've spent most of my life in this neighborhood. Its growth and well being are very personal issues for me. I've watched it change from a wonderful, inexpensive, Bohemian enclave to a family oriented, upscale, innercity community, and I look forward to helping guide it into the future with my neighbors.

**Jack Newman:** Houston native. U.S. Navy (Active) 1967-1973. UT-Austin, 1964-1965, 1974-1977, B.S. in RTF. Married Judy Barre in 1978. Lived in this neighborhood since 1979. Licensed Realtor since 1983; own realty business since 1985. Appointed special commissioner on the Travis County Board of Condemnations 1986-1989. Chair of Citizens for Airport Relocation (C.A.RE.), a principal organizer for closing Mueller. Multiple offices, Maplewood Elementary PTA, CAC, CLT; Austin Interfaith liaison; Maplewood/CNA liaison. Multiple CNA offices since 1982, including current term on Steering Committee. Immediate past Flea editor. Three kids all born here, one each attending Maplewood, Kealing Magnet and McCallum.

**Shani Snoddy:** My name is Shani Snoddy and I have lived in Cherrywood for a little over a year. I am PTA president at Maplewood Elementary, where my three children attend school. I have 8½-year-old twin girls (Ajhalei & Idrissa) and a 7-year-old son (Daveon) who are my inspiration and joy. One of my concerns as a parent and employee of Maplewood is traffic calming, as we are unable to walk to school safely each day. I have Mary Ann and Furry Feet, my two gorgeous hens, DooDah, my crippled duck as well as Jett, Heidi and Carla, our pygmy goats; each is a constant source of entertainment for our family. I am passionate about my beliefs and concerns; community is one of them. I hope to be a positive asset to the steering committee and bring to it a sense of diversity that those in East Austin appreciate.

**Heather Telo':** Thirty-six years old, born in Austin, raised in Crestview, graduated from McCallum, moved to Cherrywood three years ago, after returning from living in Milan, Italy, for five years. My husband is Italian, a blues musician who plays every Tuesday night at TC's on Webberville. As a child I was taken to the Armadillo World Headquarters, Split Rail and Sid's. I am an industrial designer. I received my degree from Pratt Institute in New York. I lived in Tokyo after graduation. My profession has often taken me away from Austin. I have five chickens, and I quilt on Sundays with my aunt, uncle and cousin. I am dedicated to maintaining the character of our neighborhood. Most of my immediate neighbors have all been here since 1970. I am concerned about gentrification, super-duplexes and commercial corridors dividing our neighborhood in the future.

**Megan Woodburn:** My sister and I moved to Cherrywood neighborhood about seven months ago. We rent a house on Werner Avenue and I know I want to buy a home in this neighborhood. I work at a statewide non-profit called Texas Appleseed and I do catering events on the side. I have recently joined the Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team and I look forward to learning more about our community. ■



## MUELLER UPDATE

By Jed Buie

### Mueller Calendar

- Summer 2005** — Mueller and Barbara Jordan boulevards and Aldrich, Lancaster and Philomena streets open to the public.  
**Fall/winter 2005** — First residential builders selected.  
**Spring 2006** — Groundbreaking for regional retail center.  
**Summer/Fall 2006** — Residential Welcome Center opens.  
**Late 2006** — Medical office building opens.  
**Winter 2006/07** — Regional retail center opens.  
**Spring/Summer 2007** — Dell Children's Medical Center opens; first Mueller homes go on sale.

### Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas

Phase One of the state-of-the-art children's hospital, owned and operated by Seton Healthcare Network, remains on schedule with an expected completion date of summer 2007.

Also under construction at the children's hospital campus are a 127,000-square-foot medical office building, slated to open in late 2006, and a new Ronald McDonald House to serve families of children being treated at the medical center. At 460,000 square feet, the medical center itself will be three times as large as the current Children's Hospital of Austin at Brackenridge.

### Green Building at Mueller

Mueller intends to develop a model of "green urbanism," combining the sustainability of a compact, walkable, mixed-use, transit-oriented urban village with state-of-the-art practices for Green Building and design. Throughout the Mueller community, choices have been made that help manage the development's impact on environmental quality.

One of these choices is already under way — an on-site power plant being built by Austin Energy and slated for comple-

tion in summer 2006. This plant will provide electricity to a Mueller "microgrid" and chilled water for air conditioning to the Dell Children's Medical Center and nearby employment centers. This all-in-one cooling-heating-power plant — the second built by Austin Energy — creates substantial environmental benefits. It allows Mueller properties to share HVAC infrastructure and lower their energy bills significantly, and it allows Austin Energy to generate cleaner electricity to meet on-site needs at Mueller, thus helping improve regional air quality.

### Construction

A new phase of deconstruction has begun at Mueller. Work will focus primarily in the areas west of Mueller Boulevard and west of Aldrich Street to remove any remaining asphalt and structures. In addition, the metal hangar in front of the Austin Music Network will be removed. This work is expected to continue until late December 2005 or early January 2006.

### University of Texas System Update

For the last year, UT System leaders Drs. Ken Shine and Jack Stobo have met regularly with Mueller neighbors to discuss a potential academic health center and to address concerns and issues associated with a presence in the redevelopment. The health center would involve research and education facilities and would likely locate near the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. None of this will happen without substantial philanthropic involvement. The next meeting with neighbors to discuss the health center will be in October.

### Mueller Project Contacts

For more information, please visit [www.muelleraustin.com](http://www.muelleraustin.com) or contact Greg Weaver, Mueller senior vice president, (512) 473-0400, fax (512) 472-4414 or [greg\\_weaver@catellus.com](mailto:greg_weaver@catellus.com). Pam Hefner, City of Austin principal planner (512) 974-3511, fax (512) 974-7825, [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 photos are from the Mueller redevelopment Web site, [www.muelleraustin.com](http://www.muelleraustin.com).*

## TRAFFIC CALMING

By Gordon Bennett

The traffic calming plan we voted for in February is rounding the final turn: The city's traffic division has a winning bid that was expected to be put on the City Council agenda for Sept. 29. By the time this Flea arrives, the council is expected to have approved the bid.

The bid came in at \$315,000, which is more than budgeted. But the traffic division identified an extra \$39,000. So, Council willing, the whole plan still might be implemented.

After Council approval, a "notice to proceed" was to be issued, expected in mid-October. After that, the contractor is given 90 days to complete the work. If this schedule is kept,

the project should be finished by mid-January.

You can see a sketch of planned measures at [asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/TCWG-04Nov.pdf](http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/TCWG-04Nov.pdf) (1 page, 240K). Several streets will have "speed cushions" as marked. These bumps are 6 feet wide, not street-wide. Drivers could maneuver to dodge them, but still must slow. 38½ Street from Lafayette to Clarkson will have curbs extended into wide lanes. This will reduce ambiguity where two lanes gradually narrow to one, increase visibility for left turners onto 38½, and slow turns into Clarkson.

The curb extensions will be concrete unless volunteers or the neighborhood association offer to make them planters (about 110 sq. ft. all together) and water them as necessary. Some pedestrian crossings will be striped, and some signs added. ■

# MUELLER WATER TOWER

By Priscilla Boston

In 1998 the city announced its intention to build a water tank for recycled (“grey”) water at the Mueller site. The idea was embraced by all, and the Neighborhood Stakeholder Group (neighborhood representatives who had been involved since the original CARE group in the early 1980s) recommended that it be an elevated tower at the north-west corner of Mueller, as can be seen in early versions of ROMA’s Mueller Master plan. Subsequently, and without neighborhood input, the city decided that it would not be elevated but a ground-level tank adjacent the Delwood II neighborhood. At some point it was discovered that errors in hydrological calculations had been made in design, and that the tank needed to be elevated. Assuming that the Delwood II neighborhood would not want an elevated tank nearby, and apparently without considering the location at 51<sup>st</sup> and I-35 that had been favored by the neighborhood stakeholder group in 1998, a unilateral decision was made to place the water tower on city-owned land on 51<sup>st</sup> Street adjacent the Film Studios. All this happened without consultation or input from the neighborhoods. This year the new location and the fact that it was to be an elevated tank were finally made public.

Girard Kinney brought the issue to the Cherrywood Steering Committee, and in July Cherrywood called for support from one of our sister association in the Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition, Windsor Park. The city’s Water and Wastewater Department had announced plans to install a 170- to 200-foot tall water tower as part of the city’s reclaimed water system adjacent the Film Studios on 51<sup>st</sup> Street. The more that was learned about what the city was planning, the more concerns mounted. Rick Krivoniak of Windsor Park testified before City Council regarding the lack of neighborhood involvement in the selection of the site, the

lack of any urban design or architectural expertise on the team, and the importance of a worthy structure. A Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of nearby neighborhood associations was quickly assembled.

Priscilla Boston volunteered to represent CNA on the 51<sup>st</sup> Street Water Tower PAC and has been attending biweekly meetings since August. Girard Kinney also attends, serving as an adviser to the group. The good news is that the PAC has successfully advocated for the involvement of an architect in the design of the tower. The bad news is that the PAC was unable to influence a re-consideration of the site.

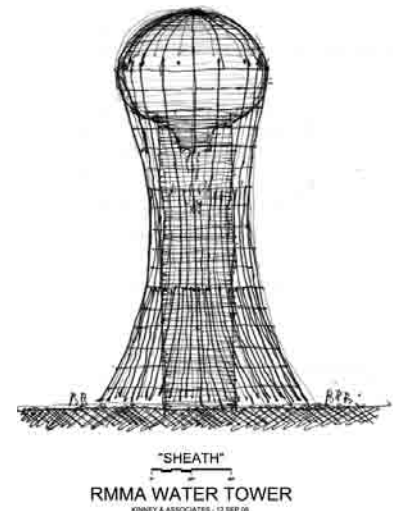
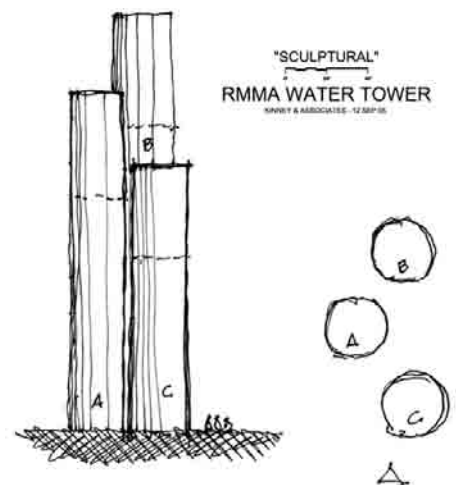
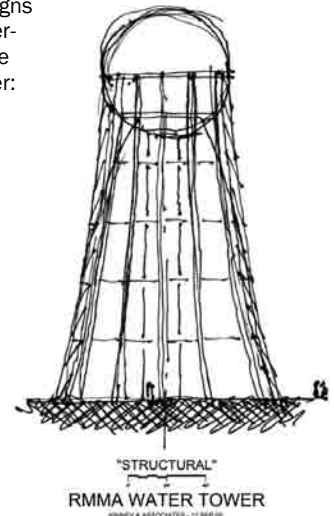
The PAC expressed concern about “low initial cost” as a project requirement, arguing that the water tower will be the tallest, most dominant feature at Mueller. The city’s Design Commission, Cherrywood and Windsor neighborhood associations all sent letters to the City Council documenting this concern, and Catellus took the lead on bringing design advisers, including Kinney and an architect from the Roma Design Group, to the table. The criteria they proposed include:

1. The tower should be celebrated as a civic landmark.
2. While housing functional uses at or in the tower base is a consideration, it is not a requirement that it be a visitable destination. While the tower grounds should be thoughtfully designed and have a pleasant approach and ground level integration, the tower’s look and function as a landmark is the more important concern.
3. The tower should not carry a permanent mark, logo, or branding of any entity.
4. The design of tower should express its function as a water storage and distribution facility. This could be reinforced by providing a permanent explanatory exhibit of the reclaimed water system at the base or under the tower.
5. The structural system of the tower should be expressed and celebrated.

At the time of this writing (late September) there is reason for optimism because, although we were unable to

achieve a more appropriate water tower site (it could have been a part of the gateway to Mueller), we have a commitment to add an architectural firm with urban design expertise and to adopt the design criteria created by the PAC. ■

A sampling of the designs being generated for the water tower:



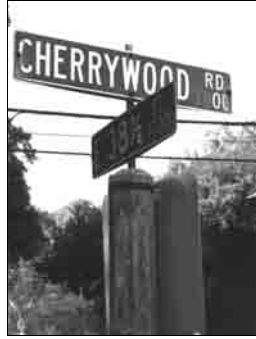
## PLANNING AND ZONING

By Girard Kinney, Chair, Planning and Zoning Committee

The Planning and Zoning Committee has dealt with several issues over the past three months:

### Airport Boulevard property

The committee hosted a visioning session about the property south of Schieffer on Airport Boulevard, a site that has received attention in previous Flea reports. The visioning session allowed folks who live around the site to voice their support for restrictions that had been imposed in the 1980s and have effectively prevented development of the site over the past 20+ years. Although there has been considerable opinion offered by many residents throughout the neighborhood over the last few years for uses that are not allowed under the current restrictions on the site, the folks who had offered those



suggestions did not attend the first visioning session. Several people among those who got the original restrictions imposed suggested uses of the property at the meeting that they had forgotten had been restricted by the 1980s restrictive

covenant. Several people attending requested a second visioning session, and asked that we try to get folks who have ideas about uses of the site to attend and share those ideas. A second visioning session will be planned in October or November.

### Illegal curb cuts and other complaints

The committee has fielded complaints about curb cuts that have been made without permits and a variety of related violations of the Neighborhood Design Guidelines and City Ordinances. Some of the complaints involve illegal signs and others involve the illegal con-

version of single-family residences to multi-family use. We have been effective in getting city personnel to focus on our complaints and progress is being made in each case.

### Planning tools

The long sought planning tools that Cherrywood has asked be added to the Upper Boggy Creek Plan may be approved by the City Council before the first of the year. These include front porches that can be within 15 feet of the front property line, limiting impervious cover to 40 per cent in the front yard and placement of garages and carports behind the front facade of houses. They were presented at a public meeting in September, and will go to the Planning Commission and Council in October and November.

All residents of the Cherrywood neighborhood are welcome to attend all meetings of the CNA Planning and Zoning Committee, and to be members as well. Please contact Girard Kinney, at [girard@kinneyarchitects.com](mailto:girard@kinneyarchitects.com) or 478-5042. ■

## UPPER BOGGY CREEK UPDATE

By Stephen Kreger

At a special meeting Sept. 20, the Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team (UBCPT) presented Plan amendments to the residents. The proposed changes are 1) creating four sub-districts within the planning area, 2) adopting various design tools for each sub-district, 3) adding a recommendation to downgrade Manor Road from an "arterial" to a "neighborhood collector," and 4) removing language, which was included in the original plan by mistake, regarding the vacant tract on Airport Boulevard between Schieffer Avenue and 40<sup>th</sup> Street. The UBCPT passed all amendments at a previous meeting.

Item 1 allows each of the five neighborhoods that comprise the planning area to be a sub-district, giving each area more control of its destiny.

Item 2 allows sub-districts to select design tools they want involving parking placement, garage placement, front porch extension, and front yard parking. The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association chose all four. Item 3 formalizes an action that has already been taken by the City Council and CAMPO. Item 4 corrects a mistake in wording in the original plan. The amendments will be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval.

At the regular meeting after the amendment review, Richard Suttle made a presentation and answered questions about the Redeemer Presbyterian Church project. This tract is not in the UBCPT's geographic area, but is just across Manor Road. This is a large church project that will serve a large number of people and is not considered a neighborhood church. There is concern about the traffic impact as well as the appropriateness of the project. However, the current zoning allows the

church to be built. The church is asking for an increase in height of the building and the steeple.

Jim Walker presented information on the upcoming City of Austin bond issue. There are numerous projects under discussion for inclusion and some of those are in the UBCPT area and in Cherrywood. Jim's main point for the UBCPT as well as the individual neighborhoods is to participate in the process to ensure our neighborhoods have as many projects as possible included in the bond proposal. Contact Jim Walker for more information.

Lex Dale Owens discussed the Safety Fair, which is scheduled for Nov. 5 at Maplewood Elementary School. Private vendors as well as police and fire representatives will be there and as much support as possible is needed. (See the article on Page 1 for more information). ■

## FOLIAGE, FENCES AND SETBACKS

By Girard Kinney

This review of city regulations offers tips about what homeowners can do and cannot do on their property and on the adjacent rights of way.

1. Protected trees are those more than 18 inches in diameter at 4 1/2 feet above the ground, any species. The city uses 19 inches diameter and larger as a working definition. A permit is required to remove, prune more than 20 percent of, or trench within a certain distance of a protected tree. If a protected tree is dead, the city waives this if it is photographed before removal to prove it was dead. But sick or "in-the-way" protected trees require a permit to remove. Someone from the city will inspect before granting the permit.

2. If you do anything to disturb the roots of a protected tree, you need a permit. By ordinance, the root zone of a tree is a circle whose radius in feet is equal to the diameter in inches. Thus, a 19-inch diameter tree has a root zone that is 38 feet in diameter. You can't legally dig a trench, place a foundation, build a retaining wall, place a footing for a fence, place impervious paving, etc. within the root zone of a protected tree without a permit.

3. Trees 18 inches and less in diameter on your property can be pruned or removed without a permit.

4. Trees are deemed to be on your property unless 2/3 of the trunk at the base is in the right of way.

5. Trees, branches, bushes, etc. that are in the right of way are owned by the city, but keeping them clear of sidewalks and from hanging too low over the street is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. The city does not fine owners for not maintaining the bushes and trees in the right of way, and the city will do the work if a complaint is registered, after leaving a "door knocker" notice at the house asking the owner to trim or remove. If the homeowner requests that the city trim brush or remove trees in the right of way, the city will do it, but it will be done to the full

extent of the ordinance — workers will trim everything from 24 inches above ground up to 14 feet overhead, from the curb to your property line.

6. If you think a tree at least 2/3 in the right of way is dangerous, it is suggested that you call 311. If city inspectors consider it dangerous, the city will remove it quickly, whether or not it is protected. If they don't think it is urgent, but you request removal, the city will put it on a schedule. If you want to avoid the possibility that the city will also remove everything else above 24 inches and below 14 feet in the right-of-way, you can legally remove it yourself, but you must report it first if it is a protected tree.

7. Owners of corner lots are required to keep brush trimmed in a strip 40 feet from the corner and 10 feet wide along each curb (regardless of property line). This is required to prevent visual obstructions from 24 inches off the ground to 14 feet above ground.

8. Privacy fences are limited to 6 feet high with two exceptions: if the property line slopes, the fence must be an average of 6 feet, not to exceed 7 feet any location; and where there are substantial changes in elevation the maximum height can be extended to 8 feet by obtaining a letter from the city.

9. Uncovered decks and stoops up to 36 inches high can extend 3 feet into setbacks. For instance, in side-yard setbacks, an open deck can extend to within 2 feet of the property line. Note that any deck or porch that is 30 inches or more high must have a guardrail. ■

## DESIGN GUIDELINES

By Gordon Bennett

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association's Design Standards and Guidelines are available. For a copy, ask CNA Planning & Zoning Chair Girard Kinney <girard@kinneyarchitects.com>, 478-5042. You can pick one up at any neighborhood meeting, or in the CNA file at the Maplewood library. Also they're on-line at Cherrywood.Org | Design Guidelines

These guidelines are for architects, contractors, homebuyers, and anyone contemplating a neighborhood building or remodeling project. Copies are being given to members of the Design Commission, Planning Commission, City Council, and other city folk in case they become involved with a petition from Cherrywood.

The guidelines are recommended practices. They praise compatibility, fireproofing, front porches, landscaping, non-glare exterior lighting, shade, pedestrian safety, proper drainage, and the like.

A theme running through is "windows on the street." This is partly security-related — allowing neighbors to keep an eye on what's going on outside. And it is partly social — encouraging residents to know and interact with neighbors.

If one wishes to maximize property value, following as many of these guidelines should help. ■

## A SIGN AT ASBURY

By Randall Terrell

The Steering Committee has voted to recommend to the membership that we pay 50 per cent (up \$1,000) for a share of a new sign proposed for the Asbury United Methodist Church at 38 1/2 Street and Cherrywood.

The church has been very helpful to the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association and the neighborhood in general, including hosting meetings, conducting food drives, spearheading a community wireless project, and hosting a voting precinct. Participation in construction of the sign would help the church and give CNA a right to publicize our meetings or other events on a portion of the sign.

Despite having more than 30 percent of neighborhood households subscribed to NeighborNet and distributing the Flea quarterly, we're always looking for additional ways to inform neighbors, especially those who don't participate in our Internet group. The Asbury sign can improve our outreach to the community. ■

## HISTORIC CHERRYWOOD

By Lisa Tipps

We have a wonderful neighborhood with a lot of character, old trees and many homes built 50 or more years ago. This makes us eligible for National Register Historic District designation, an effective tool being used by similar Austin neighborhoods as they try to protect and preserve their essential character. As more of the older Austin neighborhoods attain this status, we will see more attempts here at big-time development, or what one neighbor calls hyper-gentrification.

If we get NRHD designation, then no teardown can occur without a public hearing at the Landmark Commission. That puts the brakes on building large, out-of-scale multi-family projects that, as we have all seen elsewhere, can change the character of a neighborhood. Obtaining the NRHD designation is not an overnight process, so it seems time for us to consider and discuss the possibility. These questions came up during a Steering Committee meeting:

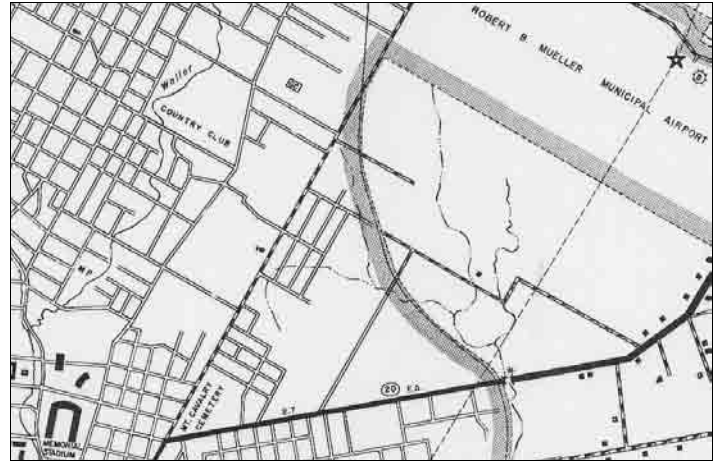
**Would it raise our taxes?** By limiting the number of McMansions and out-of-scale multiplexes in Cherrywood, it would actually help to keep our taxes lower. Tax incentives for historic preservation make it more affordable to construct improvements in certain situations.

**Would it restrict our ownership rights?** Basically, the government bodies involved are loath to act against a property owner's wishes, but the designation may restrict the upward land value potential, and there is some "moral" obligation to maintain your historic property.

**How would this work?** There are two parts: the national and the local. An ordinance allows for local historic districts, but there is no way to implement them yet. Becoming a National Registered Historic District while waiting to act under the local ordinance lays the groundwork and establishes a first line of defense against unwise projects.

**Is the Landmark Commission involved?** The Landmark Commission is not connected with the national historic application process, but the NRHD designation makes it necessary to get approval from the Landmark Commission before doing a teardown.

**If we were to do this, what would be the first step?** We could write a simple proposal asking Greg Smith of the Texas



Historical Commission to look at our neighborhood determine what parts would qualify as "mid-century modern" or earlier.

**What research is required?** We would need to list every structure, when it was built, in what style, what modifications had been done, and who the residents were. This could be done using tax rolls and the Texas History Center. It could be a "windshield survey" using a historical architect who drives around and does it or who trains us to do it. (We have a lot of architects in our neighborhood as well as people who have begun the work of gathering our history.)

We need a sponsor to be nominated. For example, Terry Myers of Preservation Central did a lot of the work and sponsored the Old West Austin Neighborhood. They did some calendars and other fundraising to be able to pay for help.

National Register designation could be an important tool as we seek to preserve and enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood as urbanization occurs. If you are interested in further exploring this possibility, please contact Lisa at 431-0269. ■

### AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL

Lisa Tipps has become Cherrywood's representative at the Austin Neighborhoods Council, which acts as a coordinating body for the efforts of Austin Area neighborhood groups. The ANC meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, and Lisa reports regularly to the Cherrywood Steering Committee. You can contact her at 431-0269. ■

## SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT

The design of a new sewer line along East 40th Street and Willowbrook is nearly complete, according to a spokeswoman for the Austin Clean Water Program. The lines are being replaced to prevent sewer overflows into the branch of Boggy Creek that runs through Willowbrook Reach. This work is part of a larger project that has been rescheduled to begin construction in the summer of 2006. The city says 700 feet of existing 10-inch sewer line will be replaced with 12-inch sewer

line along East 40th Street and Willowbrook Drive between Cherrywood Road and a manhole in the creek. Four existing manholes will be replaced and a new manhole will be constructed along the proposed pipeline route. The city says the work will not disturb Upper Boggy Creek and no trees will be removed for the work, although trimming of overgrown branches may be done before construction to allow equipment enough room to maneuver without damaging trees.

As construction draws closer, a schedule will be developed for Cherrywood residents, and neighbors will be invited to a "meet the contractor" gathering. ■



## FRIENDS OF PATTERSON PARK

By Priscilla Boston

FOPP's major concerns these days are 1) what can we do to move the city to begin construction on the hike and bike trail, 2) what improvements should we focus on next, including how best to ensure that they complement park plans at Mueller, and 3) how to effectively advocate for the city to put in a larger, deeper pool when they redo the one that's there.

**1)** The primary problem with the trail is drainage and seepage along Wilshire Boulevard where the park abuts Genesis Presbyterian Church. The degree of slope precludes having the trailhead there. The church is willing to have the trail begin on its property, but the grant won't cover a trail on private property. The church also wants a curb, gutter



and sidewalk on its property. For best access, the trail needs to start at the corner of Schieffer, Cherrywood and Wilshire. Many phone calls, e-mails, and meetings later we think we have succeeded in getting the right people to the table and have identified a design solution. Public Works has agreed to join the project and to fund the curb and sidewalk and we hope construction will start any day now. We are assured that it will be complete before the end of the grant period next summer.

**2)** FOPP met at the park in late July to identify areas for our next focus and agreed that our top priorities are to pro-

tect oak trees, to add recreational facilities for teens and to improve the pool. FOPP members met with Greg Weaver of Catellus to discuss links between Patterson and Mueller green spaces. FOPP asked Mueller landscape architects to take on design needs at Patterson, particularly in relation to: drainage on the west side of the park, drainage near the volleyball court, the lack of vegetation around picnic areas, resulting in dirt wash after rains, especially on the Schieffer side of the park, and the underused areas of the park along Airport and around the volleyball court.

**3)** The pool. Truth be told, we are waiting for a leader to take this on and that person could be you.

In other news, Isabelle Headrick is taking a much-deserved break from leading FOPP. The remaining core members have decided to meet when business emerges. Meetings will be posted to NeighborNet. And we are in the process (albeit a slow) of developing a Web site. ■

## POTLUCK SUPPERS

By Gordon Bennett

We've had four now. They're fun. Folks bring a dish or salad that is convenient to prepare. We socialize awhile, and then entertain group conversation. They last 1½ hours from 6:00 to 7:30p. Come if you enjoy meeting neighbors and talking. An announcement will be on NeighborNet (at Cherrywood.org).

About 30 attend. Half are from Asbury, half from Cherrywood. The food and desserts are delicious. Congregation members provide silverware, iced tea, apple juice and sometimes wine. Kids run about. The atmosphere is very informal. The whole idea is to get to know one other better outside a framework of scheduled meetings, agendas, reports and tasks.

We invite a guest each time. Rather than an after-dinner talk, they just field questions for a few minutes on a question of current interest. On Aug. 24 Officer Joel Pridgeon from APD's Child Abuse Unit told us much more than we had heard about sexual predators and how the law treats them. Probably we'll do it again in late October.

These potlucks are part and parcel of a joint "Building Community" initiative by the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association and Asbury United Methodist Church. This congregation and its pastor are interested in being more of a community institution. They're succeeding. This quarter they hosting the potlucks, have rented space to the Campfire Girls, are negotiating with the Cub Scouts, and are planning a new sign in the churchyard that will publicize neighborhood events and church dates. With CNA they are exploring the feasibility of community wireless and a network that would make the Internet more accessible.

All five endeavors promise to strengthen our community. ■

## WIRED:

### STAY INFORMED ELECTRONICALLY

By Gordon Bennett

Open [Cherrywood.org](http://Cherrywood.org) to find our neighborhood Web site. Once there, select NeighborNet to subscribe to our listserv. Questions? Ask [gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu).

Subscribers can post messages, post photos and search the archive. You can choose among three options:

- Read messages as they are posted (5-10 per day)
- Read a daily digest (posted at midnight)
- Read at the Web site (no e-mail)

If you were subscribed this quarter, you heard about:

- Local help for Katrina and Rita evacuees
- Goings-on at Maplewood Elementary School
- Information for Cherrywood moms
- Building community project
- Wireless Internet project
- Cherrywood crime incidents
- Potted plant pilferage
- and more... ■

## ART FAIR NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

### ART TODAY FOR THE ARTISTS OF TOMORROW

Last year the Cherrywood Art Fair raised more than \$2,000 for the Maplewood Elementary School art program and the PTA. This year we aim to top that by having a two-day event, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

In order for the art fair to be a success we need your help. If you have a couple hours or a couple of days, come have some fun, eat some good food, listen to some great music, and do your holiday shopping while helping to raise some money for our school.

Volunteers are needed for:

- Sponsors: Would you or someone you know like to be a sponsor? There are promotional and tax-deduction benefits.
- Entertainment: We need bands / entertainment of all kinds (as long as it's not too loud).

- Help with set-up on Friday evening and Saturday morning and breakdown Sunday evening. This involves moving some tables and chairs, and helping artists load/unload their wares, and a little clean up.

- Greeters at the entrance to hand out Cherrywood Art Fair information.
- Relief folks to be on hand to give artists and other volunteers a break.
- Help with the kids' art activities.
- We also will need lots of delicious refreshments for the artists and volunteers.

- And more still to be determined

Check out the Cherrywood Art Fair Web site [www.CherrywoodArtFair.org](http://www.CherrywoodArtFair.org) for more information.

Volunteers can sign up by contacting Rick Behal at [behalske4@earthlink.net](mailto:behalske4@earthlink.net) or 477-5876. Sponsors, artists and musicians, please contact Priscilla Boston at [peboston@juno.com](mailto:peboston@juno.com) or 478-1867.

Even if you can't help out, we sure hope to see you there. ■

## WELCOME BROCHURE

The Hospitality Committee is pleased to announce the production of the Welcome Brochure for new neighbors.

Edited and compiled by Jennifer Elsner and Rebecca Kohout with help from Stephen Kruger, Girard Kinney, Gordon Bennett, Isabelle Headrick, Priscilla Boston, Dave Westenbarger, Sue Taylor, Lex Dale Owens, Leslie Vieau, Brent Hay, Ray Jordan and Mike Damal, the brochure is off the press and being distributed to new neighbors.

Because the welcome baskets were discontinued in January, you may have fallen between the cracks of our visits. If this is the case, please forgive the gap and call us for a delivery of the brochure. If you are new to Cherrywood and would like to receive a brochure and/or a quick visit from our hospitality team, please call Rebecca at 415-9876.

## 3 NICE THINGS TO DO IN 3 MINUTES

(1) Respond to a 1-question poll at [Cherrywood.org](http://Cherrywood.org). It seeks your view of the best next step for commuter rail. Five choices range from very cautions to very aggressive. CapMetro is getting cold feet about extending its "starter line" to Mueller and to a future transit hub at the site of Seaholm Power Plant. If we have 100 or more responses, and a strong consensus, we could comment and maybe make a difference.

(2) Before Halloween, show your receipt to the Customer Service Kiosk when you make a purchase at Highland Mall, and associate it with Maplewood Elementary. Our school is competing for a \$2,500 prize. Every additional receipt could make a difference. We were in second place late in September.

(3) Before Nov. 15, vote on-line for Maplewood in another contest. No purchase necessary. Maplewood is one of the schools entered in the Dell/Microsoft's FutureReady competition. The Web site is at [www.futureready.org](http://www.futureready.org). The five winning schools get a \$10,000 mobile computer lab. ■

## BLUE RIBBON YARD

By Leslie Vieau

It was close with five nominees, but it was also clear, and our late-summer Cherrywood Yard of Fame designation goes to Dawn and Robert McKinney, 3903 Grayson.

This is a creative yard, filled with objects and art. Dawn does most of the gardening, with Robert's helpful labor. He showed me the side and back yards too, and they are delightful. Here is one neighbor's description:

Around a big shade tree at the center is much accent landscaping. Two other trees appear not to be living, but contribute nonetheless. The smaller one near the curb looks almost as if it were sculptured. The larger one on the south property line is embellished with a sort of spiral-shaped metallic mobile. (I don't know what to call it.) It fits though, suggesting an artist at work. That side of the yard is rich with decorative landscaping. There are several plant varieties and textures, rocks, a stone lantern, cacti, flowers, a colorful banner, even five small figurines of trolls.

Please stop by and see this yard. Dawn and Robert will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Big Red Sun. Congratulations, and thanks for your gift to the neighborhood. ■

