



The Flea

CHULA EARNS NON-PROFIT STATUS

By Priscilla Boston, Kathleen McTee and Jane Walton, CHULA Board of Directors

CHULA (The Cherrywood Urban Landscape and Arts League) is now official. On July 7, 2006, the IRS responded favorably to our application to become a 501c3 organization.

We want you to know who we are, and what we hope you will help us to become.

CHULA was created to ensure that the arts and public outdoor spaces play a valued role in the educational, economic and cultural well being of Cherrywood and the other neighborhoods in the Upper Boggy Creek area.

CHULA's mission:

- To encourage enrichment of private landscapes and surroundings through art, design and creative activity.
- To enhance and preserve the beauty of public outdoor spaces through art, design and creative activity.

- To support arts and environmental education.
- To undertake and promote charitable events related to the appreciation of the arts and aesthetic landscapes.
- To seek grant funding and sponsorship donations for art education and public outdoor space improvements.

As a newly created non-profit organization, CHULA is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and aesthetic purposes. Of course, being a non-profit means that any donation that comes our way is tax-deductible for the donor. It also makes us eligible for grants from foundations and others that can be used for the benefit of our fair neighborhoods.

Neighbors residing or working in the Upper Boggy Creek area who are interested in helping achieve this mission can become CHULA members. For the low price of \$5, you can be a part of this exciting new organization. Membership gives you the right to vote for members of the board of directors. Members will receive first updates on CHULA projects and share ideas for promoting the arts and the artful landscape in the 'hood. Any current UBC resident, property owner or businessperson who supports our mission can apply (see information at left). Your membership will be confirmed by e-mail. In November, at the first membership meeting, we will elect two members to the board of directors.

Meanwhile, CHULA is forging full-steam ahead to make the 5th Annual Cherrywood Art Fair the best ever (see story Page 10). With the modest profits from last year's art fair, we have already

made initial grants to the Maplewood Elementary art and music programs, and to the 38½ Street bus stop landscaping project. Over time, our aim is to raise funds to begin grant programs for more and bigger arts and urban landscape improvement projects.

This exciting new development for the 'hood(s) welcomes your support and input. Consider joining us as a member, and stay tuned for updates on more CHULA events and projects to come. ■

Cherrywood Neighborhood quarterly meeting:

**Wednesday, Aug 16
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Maplewood School library**

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

Agenda:

- Call to order
- Security update, Austin Police Department
- Introductions, guests, new Steering Committee members
- Announcements and requests
- Fiesta bus stop area
- Proposed bylaw changes for elections (See Page 3)
- Q&A (10 minutes)
- Round table discussion on organization
- Meeting adjourned

Jack Newman, Steering Committee chair, presiding
Refreshments by Go Go Gourmet

Join **CHULA**

Send your

- 1) name
- 2) address
- 3) name of your resident neighborhood association or business
- 4) telephone number
- 5) e-mail address
- 6) \$5 check

and mail to:

**CHULA
c/o Priscilla Boston
4004 Vineland Dr.
Austin, TX 78722**

CHERRYWOOD CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 9 6:30 p.m.** — CNA Steering Committee meeting, Taqueria Los Altos. Open to Cherrywood residents to share ideas/opinions.
- 14 7:30 p.m.** — Friends of Patterson Park, Genesis Presbyterian Church. (See Page 8)
- 15 6:30 p.m.** — Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team, Saint George's Episcopal Church (See Page 4)
- 16 6:30-8:00 p.m.** — Cherrywood quarterly neighborhood meeting, Maplewood School library. (See Agenda Page 1)

SEPTEMBER

- 11 7:30 p.m.** — Friends of Patterson Park, Genesis Presbyterian Church. (See Page 8)
- 13 6:30 p.m.** — CNA Steering Committee meeting, Taqueria Los Altos. Open to Cherrywood residents to share ideas/opinions.
- 19 6:30 p.m.** — Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team, Saint George's Episcopal Church (See Page 4)
- 27 7:00-9:00 p.m.** — Cherrywood Book Club. "The Grass That Keeps This World," by Tom Bailey. For info, kate-nate@grandecom.net or 477-2684.

OCTOBER

- 11 6:30 p.m.** — CNA Steering Committee meeting, Taqueria Los Altos. Open to Cherrywood residents to share ideas/opinions.
- 17 6:30 p.m.** — Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team, Saint George's Episcopal Church (See Page 4)
- 27 7:00-9:00 p.m.** — Cherrywood Book Club. "Hounds of the Baskervilles," by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. For info, kate-nate@grandecom.net or 477-2684.

WIRED

By Gordon Bennett

Open Cherrywood.Org (nothing else needed) to find our neighborhood Web site. There's a convenient menu of useful topics. Select NeighborNet from the menu to subscribe to our listserv, which as of mid July included 605 members. If you have a question, ask Gordon, gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

Subscribers can post messages, post photos, and search the archive (5 years of content is saved). For reading you have three options: 1. Receive messages as they are posted (average of 12 per day). 2. Receive a daily digest (1 consolidated message posted after midnight). 3. Receive at the Web site (no e-mail).

If you were subscribed this quarter, you learned of

- CHULA (the neighborhood non-profit that has formed)
- Where to find a babysitter in Cherrywood
- CapMetro's plans for a Manor Road trolley
- Mike Stefanik's neighborhood Happy Hours
- The French Place July 4 parade
- Lost pets (all found!)

Stay informed. Share your opinion (of local concerns). Become involved. ■

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://www.cherrywood.org>

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

Steering Committee

Chair	_____	Jack Newman ('07)*	476-6616
Secretary	_____	Jennifer Elsner ('06)	692-7604
Treasurer	_____	Rebecca Kohout ('07)	415-9876
Members	_____	Gordon Bennett ('06)	477-4195
		Amy Brotman ('07)	589-8545
		Harold Cook ('06)	477-4649
		David Greene ('07)	828-7450
		Girard Kinney ('07)	478-5402
		Pauline Porter ('06)	322-0717
		Mark Schiff ('06)	478-3420
		Randall Terrell ('06)	451-0346

*year term expires

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Planning & Zoning: _____ Girard Kinney 478-5042

Security: _____ Lex Dale Owens 477-6555

Welcome Wagon: _____ Rebecca Kohout 415-9876

Representatives

Austin Film Society: _____ Dolly Ensey 494-9905

Blue Ribbon Yard: _____ Leslie Vieau 495-9569

Book Club: _____ Jeanne Arbuckle 477-2684

Cherrywood Choices: _____ Dolly Ensey 494-9905

Mueller Redevelopment: _____ Jim Walker 499-0526

T-Shirts: _____ Frances Delaune 477-1986

Tree Planting: _____ Mike Damal 478-9622

Upper Boggy Creek Planning: Stephen Kreger 477-4216

More details and updates at Cherrywood.org,
click on committees.

RECRUITING MEMBERS

By Jennifer Elsner

The Steering Committee is the heart of Cherrywood Neighborhood Association. Dozens of volunteers have given us dozens of projects that cumulatively add up making Cherrywood and 78722 a very pleasant place to live. But the association needs to keep its heart pumping. For this we need 13 folks who can meet regularly an hour and a half a month to help with decisions, suggestions, and/or expertise.

DECISIONS need to be made. For making them, it's crucial to gather several perspectives.

SUGGESTIONS need to be voiced. We need fresh thinking and/or guidance regarding how CNA operates/gets involved.

EXPERTISE is desired. We endlessly benefit from the diversity in knowledge and experience of Steering Committee members.

COMMITMENT is critical. Your passion knows no bounds, but only requires your attendance and involvement in our 1.5 hour, monthly meeting. (2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:00p, Taqueria Los Altos)

Our robust association supports endeavors – by coordinating, facilitating, funding, helping, and publicizing our neighborhood desires. And makes possible much more than individuals by themselves could do. What goes on in our community is initiated by imaginative, energetic volunteers who step away from the computer and dig dirt and plant plants on 38 ½ Street, give voice at City Council meetings, organize parades, art fairs and film screenings, honor fellow neighbors' gardening prowess and simply engage in the "hum" of the Steering Committee meetings.

In the next few months the Nominations Committee will be recruiting for a new slate of Steering Committee members. Seven members' terms expire this year and we need you and your energy to stand for these vacancies in our November election.

Feeling a tinge of public spirit? See http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/_cwd/Nominating.pdf. Or contact me at textimage@mac.com. ■



Help prevent crime in our neighborhood.

Call 311

Report any crime, no matter how small:

- ▶ Automobile break-ins
- ▶ Home break-ins
- ▶ Missing packages or mail
- ▶ Items stolen from yards/sheds

Call 911

Call with suspicious activities and pay attention to people:

- ▶ Going door-to-door or pushing a lawnmower
- ▶ Loitering around a house or car
- ▶ Driving repeatedly through the neighborhood

PROPOSED BYLAWS UPDATE

By Gordon Bennett

Here are two proposed bylaws amendments that will be considered for adoption at the Aug. 16 neighborhood meeting. (SC stands for Steering Committee.)

(Article IV. Membership). Add a new paragraph: **"The SC may invite a non-resident individual with substantial involvement with Cherrywood to be an Affiliate Member. No more than two Affiliates may serve the SC at any time. But otherwise Affiliates may vote and**

serve on committees. The SC may later revoke an individual's Affiliate Membership."

The change would grant, by Steering Committee invitation, member status to individuals who are integral parts of our community but who do not live here. Eligible for Affiliate status, on SC invitation, might be someone doing business in Cherrywood, a Maplewood teacher, a pastor of a Cherrywood church, or a locally active member of a neighborhood non-profit.

(Article VI. Steering Committee. Section D. Meetings of the SC). Revise the quorum requirement by striking "seven members," and substituting new language to make the requirement read: "A

quorum of the SC shall be **a simple majority of current members but never fewer than five.**"

The purpose of this change is to keep the SC functional when members move or find it impossible to participate, as has happened recently.

Neither proposed change alters the nature of the association. Both would smooth its operation.

Full text can be found online at Cherrywood.org. Article XIII provides that they may be amended, altered or repealed by a 2/3 vote at any meeting of the membership, provided that the exact wording of the proposed change(s) is included in the agenda of the required meeting notice. ■

FROM THE CHAIR

By Jack Newman

Perspective is a powerful and universal phenomenon. All of us are focused on our own lives, our concerns, our needs, our wants. The same is true for most all other human social constructs, such as our neighborhood. Crime is increasing, it seems by the NeighborNet traffic. Litter, transients, mass transit routes, UT employee parking incursion, fending off outside attempts by tennis interests to regionalize Patterson Park, and so much more. The weighty issues never, it seems, stop coming.

Occasionally it helps to refocus, to step outside the limits of our everyday lives and get a fresh perspective on our perspectives. A 4th-of-July week in New Orleans provided me and my family such

a re-ordering of how we see our lives, our city, our neighborhood and our home. In person, we saw homes, businesses, stores, churches, hospitals, schools and institutions of all kinds that make up a city vacant, ruined, and rotting. One's perspectives of his own situation undergo transformation. Fortunately, much of the city was luckier and is available to visitors.

There are many signs of hope in New Orleans: a man pulling the flooded insides of his house out and rebuilding; a shop owner on a ladder, painting his weathered store a bright white to bring attention to his still being in business; kids playing in yards in front of houses with no power, but with parents on the porch laughing at them. The perspective of all of these folks has been about survival, and now for many it has moved to getting on with life.

The old New Orleans attractions were mostly available to us: The French Quarter's 4th of July parade and the fantastic pyrotechnics launched from barges on the Mississippi River, the city zoo—surprisingly intact, unmatched food, music, tours, street cars, the quaint but comfortable 150-year-old hotel suite on Rampart Street, the steamboat cruise and history tour around the harbor. And most of all the people who were happy we were there and let us know.

I promised more than a few of them that I would pass on the increasingly good news of New Orleans and encourage anyone thinking about a trip to consider their city. My promise is now kept, and my encouragement is real: Go.

How does all of this fit into our neighborhood newsletter? Very easily, it seems to me, but that's just my perspective. ■

UPPER BOGGY CREEK PLANNING TEAM

By Stephen Kreger

The Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team (UBCPT) met on May 16, June 8 and July 18.

Blackland Community Development Corporation, represented by Bo McCarver, asked UBCPT to support a zoning change for the property known as the Stewart project. The zoning would change from SF-3 to GR-MU-CO-NP. Four lots would be combined into one and uses that are not neighborhood friendly would be prohibited. The Blackland neighborhood supports the project, and UBCPT unanimously approved a motion supporting it.

The property known as 4206 Bradwood has a new address, 4141 North I-35. The owner, former Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox, sought the address change. The house is not zoned for commercial use. The WWD1 neighborhood and UBCPT are concerned about how it will be used.

The City of Austin plans to extend a water line from 45th Street to the Mueller tract through the WWD1 neighborhood. Leslie Lawson of WWD1 spearheaded a campaign to route the pipeline around the neighborhood. A meeting is scheduled in early August with the city and the Texas Department of Transportation, and it is hoped that they will agree to re-route.

Bo McCarver and Girard Kinney are members of a task force of neighborhoods that would be affected by the Redeemer

Presbyterian Church's plans for the tract of land at 2105 Alexander Ave. UBCPT encouraged the task force to seek a delay from the Planning Commission until it can meet again with the church to seek an agreement.

UBCPT voted to give \$470 remaining from the \$20,000 the UBCPT received from the city to L.L. Campbell Elementary School.

The UBC streetcar committee formed to study effects of the proposed Capital Metro street car route through the UBC Planning Area merged with other neighborhoods affected by the route. One result is that a public workshop is scheduled Sat., Aug. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Joe C. Thompson Center at the University of Texas. This workshop will review all aspects of the route and will include major stakeholders such as Capital Metro, UT, the city of Austin and CAMPO.

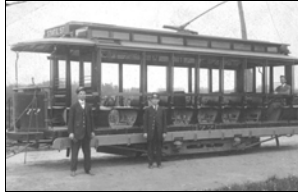
UBCPT voted to ask the city to clean sections of Boggy Creek that flow through the planning area.

Andy Sarwal of East Avenue IG LP gave a presentation to the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association and the Blackland Neighborhood Association of his company's plan for the Concordia University tract. Blackland did not take a position on the project. The Cherrywood Planning and Zoning Committee and Steering Committee conditionally supported it with an affordable housing component and traffic mitigation. The UBCPT did not endorse the project, but will work with the CANPAC Planning Team on the west side of I-35 to determine whether to support the project.

The planning team will meet Aug. 15, Sept. 19, and Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at St. George's Episcopal Church. ■

MANOR ROAD STREETCAR?

By Gordon Bennett



Capital Metro proposes a streetcar route between Mueller and downtown. It would exit Mueller onto Manor. Going west, it would cross Airport and intersect the soon-to-open commuter rail line. It would make a few stops along Manor Road. It would go under I-35 on Dean Keeton. It would cross the UT campus on San Jacinto. Going down Congress, it

It would be electric-powered and quiet. It would be "articulated" (2 connected cars, together carrying 100 passengers). And it would run at frequent intervals. As envisioned, it would resemble the Portland Streetcar that opened there in 2001.

By state law, since new track would be laid, a referendum would be neces-

would turn west on 4th Street and end in a passenger rail station at Seaholm. So far, we know it would run in traffic lanes, like buses.

sary. It could occur in November 2006 or May 2007. Voters all over town would have to approve. So for it to pass, Cap Metro undoubtedly would have to offer distributed benefits, possibly future lines elsewhere were the "pilot" to succeed.

Why streetcars? Wouldn't buses be cheaper and more flexible? Advocates answer:

- They're quieter
- They're larger-capacity
- Fixed routes have a more certain effect on development

Other cities' transit successes center on rail. Austin is lagging. ■

PLANNING AND ZONING

By Girard Kinney

Here's the status of issues in which the P&Z committee has been involved recently.

Redeemer site: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, owner of the tract bounded by Manor Road, the railroad, MLK and Alexander Street, seeks support of bordering neighborhoods to exceed the 40-foot height limit.

The property is zoned CS, which allows many uses not wanted by the neighborhoods, and the church can be built without any variances. The neighborhoods might be able to achieve some goals in three community-produced plans by recommending allowing only for the sanctuary to exceed 40 feet.

A joint task force of the Upper Boggy Creek and Rosewood Neighborhood Planning Teams is trying to reach a compromise that would include an enforceable Master Plan. That plan probably would be a Planned Unit Development that would include street-oriented retail with upstairs residential along Manor Road, MLK and the north and south portions of Alexander, with the church complex set back from Alexander, and dense landscaping along Alexander. The proposed compromise would include shared parking hidden from street views along the railroad, and the one higher structure on the east side of the cloistered church compound, adjacent the tracks.

Concordia site: On June 21, the P&Z committee received a presentation from the new owner of the Concordia University site across I-35 from Cherrywood. Andy Sarwal, owner and developer, and his architect, Larry Speck, showed drawings and described their concept. Their plan includes pedestrian oriented uses and "great streets" amenities, a park, preservation of most of the protected trees, a hotel and five residential towers up to 295 feet high.

The P&Z Committee voted unanimously to recommend support for the concept conditional on the potential negative traf-

fic impact especially on the I-35 feeder roads, Manor Road, 32nd Street and 38½ Street, the provision of adequate transit including fixed-rail to the site, and inclusion of a robust affordable housing program. The CNA Steering Committee unanimously endorsed the concept with the same conditions.

Airport Blvd. at Schieffer tract: The new owner still wants a zoning change that would allow some flexibility of uses (present restrictions, for instance, would not allow medical services). The P&Z Committee needs a task force chair to plan a community forum on this issue.

3206 French Place: This vacant lot, which has several beautiful protected trees, was purchased by Eric Hepburn and Christie Drechsler Hepburn, who live on Hollywood and have engaged architect Christy Seals to design a home for this site. They asked the P&Z committee to support a variance to set the house back far enough to save protected trees. There was a mixed reaction, simultaneously praising the skillful design, but raising concerns about scale, privacy and other aspects that were perceived to have a negative impact on adjacent properties. A task force chaired by Stan Strickland began negotiations with the Hepburns and Seals. Shortly thereafter, the Austin City Council amended interim single-family regulations, removing the maximum setback. So the applicants no longer need a variance to build. The architect has applied for a building permit. The owners and their architect are trying to deal with some of the issues raised by the neighborhood as they modify their plans to meet other code requirements.

2706 Dancy Street: The P&Z Committee recommended approval of a request by Ms. Seals for the intrusion of a porch/mudroom into the side-yard setback in her design of an addition/remodel of this residence. This case had not been taken to the Steering Committee.

For further information about these and other planning and zoning issues, or to join the P&Z Committee, contact Girard Kinney. ■

MUELLER UPDATE

By Ryan Orendorf

Dell Pediatric Research Institute — The Dell Pediatric Research Institute at the University of Texas will be a children's health and biomedical research center. It will be adjacent to the Dell Children's Medical Center, and is scheduled to open in 2009. In May, The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation announced a \$50 million gift to UT, of which \$38 million will be used toward establishment of the institute. The Dell family foundation will match every privately-funded donation dollar-for-dollar up to the gift amount.

Public art — Mueller recently invited the Austin community to critique four proposals for a signature public art project that will be installed along the I-35 edge of Mueller south of 51st Street. This art will serve as a gateway to the west entrance. Although the public comment period is over, the finalists' proposals can be viewed at www.cityofaustin.org/aipp. Mueller will announce the selection this summer.

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory — Mueller's first commercial project is set to break ground in the Town Center this summer. Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, an Austin-based educational research and professional development non-profit, will move into a 50,000-square-foot office as early as fall 2007. For more information visit www.sedl.org.

Retail development — Mueller will announce the development's first regional retailer anchors this summer. The first retail, expected to open in spring 2007, will bring seven to 10 anchor stores and several community-oriented shops. The regional retail center, approximately 366,000 square feet, will be at the northwest corner of Mueller.

Milestones — Initial homebuilder announcements, fall 2006; Retail tenant announcements, late summer 2006; Mueller central information center opening, early 2007.

For more information, visit www.muelleraustin.com or contact Greg Weaver, Mueller senior vice president, 473-0400, or greg_weaver@catellus.com, or Pam Hefner, City of Austin principal planner 974-3511, pam.hefner@ci.austin.tx.us. ■



51ST STREET WATER TOWER

By Priscilla Boston

Since the May article on the 51st Street Water Tower Committee, much has happened behind the scenes. The committee has worked to educate City Council on the rationale for our recommended design for the tower at Mueller and to recommend how it

could be funded. Here are excerpts from a July 7 letter sent to Council by the committee.

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

At the April 6, 2006, City Council meeting, the Austin Water Utility recommended a design for the 51st Street reclaimed water tower different from one chosen by the community. Several citizens and members of the 51st Street Water Tower Project Advisory Committee (PAC) came to the Council that day requesting the City to fund the Alternative 4 design, which is estimated to cost more. We asked that funding be found for it that would not affect water utility rates or defer any projects. With only general cost estimates for both designs, the council did not approve either, but instead voted to add \$100,000 to the contract for the water utility's consultant, Camp Dresser & McKee Inc., to provide a more defined cost estimate for Alternative 4. The utility was to report back within 60 to 90 days. With that deadline approaching, members of the PAC have reassessed our recommendation to the City Council.

Contemplating the probable and possible choices to fund

the anticipated additional cost for the Alternative 4 design, the PAC members have come to the conclusion that increasing rates for reclaimed water users would be an appropriate method of funding the tower. ... However, we remain supportive of other sources of funds in addition to our recommendation for a reclaimed water rate increase as the primary method of funding the tower.

The Alternative 4 design was guided by criteria set by the members of the PAC, a coalition of stakeholders that includes representatives from the Austin Studios, Catellus and the neighborhoods surrounding Mueller. The PAC determined that due to the tower's size and visibility, it should have civic landmark status. ... Of the proposals presented to us, only Alternative 4 met all of the criteria as listed in our January 31, 2006, recommendation letter.

Even with an increase adequate to fund design Alternative 4, reclaimed water rates can be enough lower than rates for potable water to provide an incentive for customers to choose reclaimed water when feasible. ...

Between November 2002 and April 2005, the Austin Water Utility made no contact with the neighborhoods, the Mueller Neighborhood Coalition or with the RMMA Plan Implementation Advisory Commission. Had the utility worked with the community during the full planning period of this project, we feel that the project would have received more design consideration early on, and consequently, a budget that would have enabled an acceptable tower design. ...

Yours very truly,

51st Street Water Tower Project Advisory Committee

Rachel Blackney, *Austin Film Society*; Priscilla Boston, *Cherrywood*; Girard Kinney, *Cherrywood*; Rick Krivoniak, *Windsor Park*; Ruth Marie, *Windsor Park*; Vanessa Ronsonette, *Delwood II*; Roger Taylor, *JJ Seabrook* ■



MAPLEWOOD NOTES

By Kelli Kirk

It was a very tough choice, but after having the pleasure of being school counselor at Maplewood for the past four years, I have decided to make an intercampus change and teach sixth grade. As I have written in *The Flea*, and said to just about anyone who will listen, Maplewood is an amazing community of teachers and families. My two daughters are fortunate to have Maplewood as their neighborhood school and I am very fortunate to work there. It seems that working in the role of classroom teacher, one I served in for nine years previously, will be a better fit for me as a mother and educator. Not to mention how absolutely thrilled I am about teaching our brilliant and sometimes quirky sixth graders wonderful literature and world culture concepts, building classroom community, mentoring the young Mustangs (ponies?), and having a lot of fun.

While the lion's share of the school's veteran teachers will be returning to campus in August, there are also fresh changes taking place at Maplewood. New staff members will include a bilingual kindergarten teacher, who also happens to be a neighbor and Maplewood parent; a science guru second grade teacher from Bonnie, TX; and a new school counselor who is a Cherrywood neighbor as well. Big decisions are being made with quality, commitment, and community as priorities. Our school is also growing each year; now kinder through fourth grades have three classrooms each.

Parents and teachers will continue the work of building campus and neighborhood community through common interests and passions. Maplewood has become known as the "green school" because of teachers' and parents' commitment to a project-based curriculum with a cross grade-level common theme of environmental appreciation and awareness. Planning groups are still in the process of seeking funding for our Solar Science Lab. If you have any ideas about funding resources, please contact science chairperson and kindergarten teacher, Dr. Pauline Walker, at 414-4402. ■

38½ STREET BEAUTIFICATION

By Pauline Porter

Sixty-six feet of weeds, poison ivy and trash were transformed into a garden of southwestern plants that serves as a pleasing welcome mat to our neighborhood. On a warm May 27, 15 volunteers with shovels, rakes, hoes and a rock bar took on revamping this eyesore on 38½ Street that had become a repository for bottles, cans, food wrappers and other trash. In less than eight hours we had installed lantana, jasmine, soft- and red-leafed yucca and had framed the plants with crushed red granite. Patrons of the bus stop at Robinson smiled and encouraged us as we worked.

The idea for improving this spot was conceived after discussions with Keep Austin Beautiful. Its philosophy is "more beauty = less litter." The effort has already shown its value by a noticeable decrease in litter along this strip.

Trash still accumulates around the bus stop itself. We are working with Capital Metro to deal with this ongoing problem. In the meantime, volunteers are keeping the bus stop as clean as possible.

Contributions by many people helped

make this beautification project a reality. I'm proud that we were the first project the Cherrywood Urban Landscape and Arts League (CHULA) made a contribution to. CHULA is responsible for bringing us the Cherrywood Art Fair around the Christmas holidays. Keep Austin Beautiful provided a grant to defray most costs for the mosaics and plants in the traffic islands on 38½ Street and also provided a small contribution to this effort.

Wonderful neighbors opened their hearts, pocket books and put on gloves. Martin and Veronica Barrera, Stefan and Periwinkle Schuster, Patrick and Rosana Carol and Denise Mayorga contributed funds and labor. Danney Ursery and Gay Goforth, thank you for your contributions. Also thanks to the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association for its contribution of \$225.

Many thanks to Heather Telo and Emily Bankston. They helped conceive this project and stayed on board even though it looked like we would not beat the summer heat. We were also fortunate to have the advice and guidance of Chris Martin of "Plant it Green." His can-do attitude and professional advice regarding design and potential problems helped us complete this project quickly. Chris and my husband Robert were scheming ways to make money using

our crew in the future. Amy Brotman helped by picking up many of the plants wholesale. She and her husband Dan were on the crew. Also working hard were Nicholas Porter and Melanie Guerrero.

Thanks to Custom Stone, Home Depot and Shoal Creek Gardens for giving us price breaks. Monarch Mart donated ice. We came in right on budget. However, we would not have eaten without the generous contribution of tacos from Mi Madre's. Special thanks to Jennifer, Eric and Ashley for providing water to keep the plants alive. There is lots of love invested in this project, please help us keep this area clean. ■



FRIENDS OF PATTERSON PARK: POOL? AND TRAIL!

By Isabelle Headrick

The other evening my family took a dusk-time stroll to Patterson, where we kicked a soccer ball around the field. In between painful kicks with open-toed sandals and listening to the encouraging cries of "Bad one, Mom!" and "Gosh, Mom, guess today isn't your day!" from my sweet, adorable 6- and 9-year-old sons (OK, I actually did have a lot of fun), I had the joy of observing the number of people out using the new trail. Joggers, couples, families with kids—it seems that the trail has touched the hearts and cardio-vascular systems of many of us ...and our dogs.

Some work remains. In the next few weeks, PARD will spread a thick layer of mulch to temporarily protect the western slope of the park where construction vehicles removed the (admittedly sparse) grass. In the fall, PARD will supply us with appropriate vegetation to plant on that hillside. Also in the fall, the Department of Public Works will finish the section of sidewalk coming from the playground down to Wilshire Boulevard.

Now it is our turn as a community to step in. FoPP has offered to coordinate the planting of the new ground cover in October. In addition, our trail will need maintenance—fresh gravel spread periodically, weeding, etc. To this end, we will organize regular workdays (we will provide the tools and work gloves). If you are interested in volunteering alongside your neighbors, please contact Mark Smolen at smolen@sbcglobal.net or call Isabelle at 499-0621.

On another note, FoPP is pleased to announce its next major initiative: a push for an expanded and renovated pool. (Excitement, people.) It is our hope to build a neighborhood-scale pool that can accommodate lap swimmers in addition to children of various ages. If you are interested in joining this effort, please come to our next FoPP meeting or get in touch with me.

The next Friends of Patterson Park meetings are scheduled for Monday, August 14 and Monday, September 11 at 7:30 at Genesis Presbyterian Church. For more information on FoPP, call Isabelle at 499-0621 or e-mail isanews@texas.net.

Patterson is closer than ever to being the park Friends of Patterson Park envisioned when we began to meet 4½ years ago. We are at a turning point, being close to finishing one major project and ready to take on two new ones. Please join us as we move into this new phase. ■

ARE YOU LISTENING?

By Dolly Ensey

Recently KOOP community radio station moved its administrative offices to its new place on Airport Boulevard. Soon it will be broadcasting from this location. In late September and early October, KOOP will conduct its membership drive and invites its new neighbors to walk over to participate. While neighbors help out answering phones, they'll also see KOOP's new digs. Already a member? Donate on behalf of a non-profit with the Business Roll Call Memberships, which are announced two to three times per day throughout the pledge drive. 472-1369 or info@koop.org or <http://www.koop.org>. ■



TREE PLANTING YEAR 10

By Mike Damal

A lot of trees – 245 – have been planted in the past nine years during fall tree plantings in Cherrywood. We will continue the tradition this year with a tree planting in October or early November.

Anyone interested in trees can e-mail mdamal@peoplepc.com (preferred) or call me at 478-9622. The cost per tree runs from \$15 to \$25, and we usually have a selection of Chinese pistache, burr oak, red oak, live oak, cedar elm, crepe myrtle or redbud. These trees range from 6 to 10 feet in height, and if you want larger trees I can pick them up on request.

We have neighborhood volunteers to plant the trees, and we have people experienced in the best places to plant them. So all you have to do is sign up. For the price of a pizza you can help the environment and beautify Cherrywood.

This event will be posted on NeighborNet. If you do not have Internet access, call me and I will provide you with details.

If you are interested in volunteering to help plant trees, it will be on a Saturday morning. This is not hard work and is a lot of fun. Please e-mail or call me to volunteer.

Another reminder for those who have newly planted trees (within the last two years), it is imperative to water them during hot summer months. Let a garden hose trickle at the base of the tree for a few hours—the surrounding soil should be "mushy." Do this twice a month. A good deep watering will ensure deep root growth, and will give newly planted trees a good start for healthy growth in coming years. ■

NEW THEATER NEIGHBOR

By Michael "Sully" Sullivan

Salvage Vanguard Theatre recently celebrated its 10th year and has achieved local and national recognition including two cover stories in American Theatre Magazine, two Austin Chronicle cover stories, dozens of local theater award nominations, and major grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Salvage Vanguard, which has staged productions in theaters around Austin, now has its own production space, at 2803 Manor Road, east of The Vortex Theatre.

SVT's home will be a 9,600 square-foot facility with a 100-seat performance space, a rehearsal hall that can double as a 50-seat stage, a fully equipped scene shop, a costume shop, 14 artist studios, an exhibition gallery/lobby and offices.

Since beginning the company in 1994, Jason Neulander, founder and artistic director, has directed and produced more than 50 world premiere theater projects in Austin.

Sully: How does it feel to have your own space?

Jason: We've been homeless since we started, so a new space feels pretty great. We'll finally be able to control our schedule and to serve as support to a whole bunch of other artists and arts groups. Plus, it's great to be anchored in a neighborhood that already has an interest in what we're doing.

Sully: Will it change Salvage Vanguard?

Jason: Yes. I think the biggest change is that we'll be identified with the venue, rather than with just the work we're producing. That means first we have a responsibility to ensure that all the work in the space that we're not producing is as good as the work we are producing; and second, that we'll have a ton more visibility.

Sully: Your Web site indicates you have productions scheduled through 2007. Will one of these be the first in the new space?

Jason: Right now, we have "Thrush" scheduled to open the space this fall, but that depends on how fundraising goes. If we're not able to get construction done by then, we'll open the space with "Mother Courage" in the spring.

Sully: Will you re-stage any of your award-winning productions in the new space?

Jason: I'm sure we will, but we don't have any specific plans.

Sully: The floor plan exhibited at the open house included artist spaces. Is part of SVT's mission to serve both the visual and performing arts?

Jason: Our mission is primarily to serve theater artists; however, theater combines all the art forms: writing, dance, visual arts in the costumes and sets, and music, so it makes perfect sense to house all the disciplines under one roof.

Sully: Will you continue *ArtReach*, your educational program for at-risk teens, at the new theater space?

Jason: Yes. Plus, we'll be creating classes for teenagers.

Sully: How can Cherrywood support Salvage Vanguard?

Jason: First, help us build the space. We need volunteers and donors. They should contact Etta Sanders at etta@salvagevanguard.org

And, of course, when the theater opens, we want the neighborhood to come see the shows. We want to be good neighbors, and we want the neighborhood to feel welcome. You can track the progress at <http://salvagevanguard.org>. ■



Photo by Mario Champion



Mural design by
Derek A. Rosenstrauch

ASBURY SIGN

By Gordon Bennett

We're awaiting final installation with baited breath. When it's complete, Asbury United Methodist Church will be able to announce services and special events. Cherrywood Neighborhood Association will be able to announce everything from the Art Fair to tree planting.

Is such collaboration between church and neighborhood association consistent with church-state separation. Is it proper? Should Cherrywood make common cause with Methodists?

You bet. Let me explain. Quietly and unobtrusively, Asbury United Methodist Church has become a precious jewel. Asbury's pastor and his energetic wife are as community-minded as any of us. They sincerely want Asbury to be a Cherrywood institution. George attends our Steering Committee meetings. He opens his church to any community function whose organizers ask. He even initiated the move for a collaborative sign, which incidentally will be lit at dusk.

This church exemplifies the best face of Christianity – the face that studies ancient texts and traditions in search of contemporary spiritual meaning. It explicitly rejects arbitrary truths and hierarchically determined orthodoxies. Were Jesus with us today and living in Austin, he would be comfortable in this congregation. This is a powerful (and maybe controversial) statement. But go see for yourself. Go personally and meet the Reverend George and Wanda Holcombe. You'll see what my words here only suggest.

When it's finished we plan a memorable joint celebration. And Cherrywood will have ascended another rung on the ladder of community building.

Meanwhile, the monthly food collection for the Capital Food Bank is going well. Since Cherrywood neighbors and Girl Scouts started contributing, donations have doubled. Asbury takes everything to the food bank. Some 2,000 families depend on the food bank. Most are single women with small children. The food bank depends heavily on its donors. We can all feel good about this joint charitable endeavor. ■

ARTISTS WANTED

By Kathleen McTee

The Fifth Annual Cherrywood Art Fair seeks artists, musicians and volunteers for our neighborhood's biggest annual event. Temperatures are in the triple digits now, but before we know it, the holidays will be upon us. If you're an artist or craftsperson, it's not too early to be lining up opportunities to vend your wares and give Austinites a chance to shop locally for friends and family.

I'm proud to say that what began as a lark has grown into one of Austin's best and most highly regarded fall art shows. Last year, 44 artists delighted fairgoers with beautiful original paintings, jewelry, woodwork, ceramics, clothing, accessories, textiles, glass and more. Two days of art and music at Maplewood Elementary raised \$1,000 for the art and music programs at the school, and birthed CHULA, the Cherrywood Urban Landscape and Arts League (see article Page 1).

If you're an artist, this is a great chance to showcase your work and sell to discerning buyers. The Cherrywood Art Fair forbids imported wares – no artist ever has to compete with booths full

of under priced, mass-produced junk. And fairgoers are assured that everything they find is handmade and high quality. For musicians, this is a great chance to perform, sell CDs and swag, and advertise other shows you're playing. We pride ourselves on taking care of artists – booth fees are fair, help is available for load-in and load-out, and even the complementary snacks are first-rate.

What's in it for volunteers (besides the snacks)? Simply a fun weekend hobnobbing with artists, musicians, neighbors and friends, and benefiting the arts and the artful landscape in our 'hood. Can't lift boxes full of pottery? Only have an hour? No problem. Whatever your schedule or abilities, you can help and have fun.

Visit the Web site at www.cherrywoodartfair.org to download an application. We give special consideration to artists from the Upper Boggy Creek area. (If you're reading this, that means you.) But we feature work from all over Central Texas, and we receive many more entries than we have booth spaces. Applications must be received by Sept. 30. Send yours in early for best results.

If you're not an artist or musician, and

you cannot volunteer, you can still participate by spreading the word. Mark your calendar, e-mail your friends, print out an application for a talented friend, post the event on your blog. And plan to come to Maplewood School on Dec. 9 and 10 to do some holiday browsing and shopping. Unlike the teeth-grinding experience of a December weekend mall or the big-box stores, it'll put a smile on your face. ■

Fifth Annual Cherrywood Art Fair

**December 9-10 @ Maplewood
Elementary School**

**Applications and info at
www.cherrywoodartfair.org**

Artist Coordinatrix:

Kathleen McTee/kat@artcloth.com

Musician Coordinator:

Luke Torn/luketorn@gmail.com

Show Chairperson/

Volunteer Coordinator:

Priscilla Boston/

peboston@juno.com

4TH OF JULY PARADE

By Jeanne Arbuckle

Each year, the French Place 4th of July Parade gets better and better. This was the eighth year. The weather co-operated. It was sunny, but not too hot. It was fun to watch people gathering from all directions as they strolled to the starting area at French Place and 28th Street. There were decorated bikes and strollers, music makers, a walking ukulele player, a juggler, and patriotic and funny costumes. We were thrilled to see neighbors of old and lots of new faces. Better yet, there were lots of kids.

We counted more than 100 neighbors when we reached our destination – Cherrywood Green. There, we enjoyed cookies, watermelon, and lemonade supplied by French Place neighbors. Hot dogs were provided by our neighborhood's own GoGo Gourmet.

Some neighbors decorated their yards with flags and placed decorative banners across the parade route. We appreciate the people who came out to cheer us on. To see more pictures of the parade, go to www.cherrywood.org and click on the album link.

If you have ideas for next year's parade, want to help organize, or have an interest in helping with decorations along the parade route, please contact Ray Jordan at 477-2684 or at katenate@grandecom.net. ■



EVERYTHING'S JAKE

By David Levy

In April of this year, my family and I plopped our tired butts down on the stoop of our new home on Robinson Avenue one year after our business was kicking into gear. Actually, I lived in Cherrywood back when I was single in 1992 while renting 3403 Lafayette. Even as a newcomer to Texas from New York City during the early '90s, I fell in love with this area and its dignified charm. I didn't live here long but really loved Pato's Tacos. As a professional musician, I played all styles of music, including jazz, rock, funk, reggae, country, klezmer, swing and joined the group Lucky Strikes, playing drums for them for 10 years.

My wife Patti, a former mortgage underwriter; her 20-year-old son Seth; Jake, a border collie mix; Farkle the cat, and I really love living in this area. The friendly people, the restaurants, the feeling of community (parties) and the general vibe. Mostly, I appreciate the sameness of the neighborhood...but also love all the new restaurants and cafes that have sprung up in my absence.



Our family business is named after Jake – it's a “feel good” name – Jake's Fine Natural Foods. Jake, obviously, oversees the entire operation, with Farkle as his right paw man. Seth works for his mom and me at the kitchen whenever he can. Our kitchen is in East Austin near 7th and Pleasant Valley. We manufacture gourmet granolas plus specialty foods that can be found around Austin and at East Side Cafe's “Pitchforks and Tablespoons,”

Wheatsville Co-op and the Austin Farmer's Market.

It's hard to criticize such a cool place as Cherrywood. I've lived all over Austin and have found few places that have the relaxed, upbeat feeling that this does. We do have one pet peeve, however. The mosquito situation is rather irksome, to say the least. Patti is really sensitive to their bites, and they seem to be very attracted to her. We just wish there was a way to rid the entire area of them. Perhaps people could be more aware of standing water and realize that is the No. 1 breeding ground for those little buggers.

Still, Cherrywood is just about the coolest 'hood in all of Austin. It's great to be back. ■

Pictured above: Patti, Jake and David Levy. Photo by Farkle.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON



To the left are two photographs taken by Jack Darby of a yellow-crowned night heron in Willowbrook Reach.

Smaller than the great blue heron, the yellow-crowned night heron is 21 inches long. Adults have red eyes with a black face and chin with a broad white auricular stripe, a pale yellowish forehead and buffy-white crown. With a blue-gray neck, chest, back and belly, they have dark centers to back feathers with a lovely trailing crown feather.

BLUE RIBBON YARD

By Leslie Vieau

Each of the four nominated yards looks great. It was very close, but the winner and our summer Blue Ribbon Yard is Joel Quast at 1800 E. 39th St. Joel's yard looks wonderful throughout the year. It is a mix of foundation shrubbery and annuals, and every section of the yard is a joy to look at. The walkway is friendly and inviting; there is a lovely section of shade loving flowers in interesting containers, and the seasonal decorations are beautifully integrated and cheerful. Joel will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery. ■

