



November 2006

Volume 12, Number 1

The Quarterly Newsletter of
the Cherrywood Neighborhood
Association

www.cherrywood.org

Cherrywood Neighborhood Quarterly Meeting

**Wednesday
November 15
6:30–8:00pm**

Maplewood Elementary
School Library

Open to all residents
of Cherrywood.

We need your input!

Agenda

- » Call to Order
- » Security Issues – APD
- » Treasurers Report
- » SC Election
- » Recruiting/Nominations Discussion
- » Parks & Traffic Island Maintenance
- » P&Z Report & Discussion
- » Art Fair Review
- » CNA Film Series Proposal Discussion
- » Open Floor
- » Adjournment

Next meeting:
February 21, 2007

What's Your Reason?

by Jennifer Elsner

People join the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association's Steering Committee (SC) for a variety of reasons. I joined to get to know my neighbors better and to feel a sense of community. What's yours?

SC meets monthly at a local eatery to reconnect and oversee matters including, community building, planning and zoning, loitering, hospitality, parks and green spaces and security issues. This doesn't necessarily mean SC members are out there digging the trenches (although some do), picking up fallen rocks (although some do) or going door-to-door to welcome new neighbors (although...some do). At best SC serves as a resource for how to effectively take action on a plethora of neighborhood issues. At worst its an hour and a half meeting, monthly, in which to share a cerveza.

At this November's CNA General Meeting, six SC members complete their service and lucky for us, two have agreed to stand for re-election. In addition, two new neighbors have thrown their hats into the ring: That leaves two vacancies....

Every volunteer project obtains its strength from the people involved. SC is entirely a vol-

unteer effort and you can help the neighborhood in a variety of ways. WE NEED YOU! If you are interested in serving on SC, contact me at 692-7604. At the very least, cast your vote at the Quarterly Meeting (see sidebar).

Here are introductions to the four neighbors nominated for SC:

Harold Cook's Reason

I'm Harold Cook, and I've lived in Cherrywood for about 14 years. My philosophy is that neighbors help neighbors. We agree when we can, and when we disagree we do so without being disagreeable, and with great respect for a diversity of thought, background, and perspective. We should celebrate our neighborhood, and with that comes a responsibility to create and maintain a neighborhood worth celebrating. I'd like to do my small part to continue the Cherrywood winning streak. Thanks for your consideration.

Brian Keenan's Reason

I'm Brian Keenan, and my partner Kevin and I have lived in Cherrywood for about three and a half years, now. We have a dachshund named Ruby. I wanted to get involved in the neighborhood association because I think that this could be a very important time in our neighborhood's development. We're experiencing

a kind of gentrification and at the same time, we're expecting a lot of changes to our area because of the Mueller redevelopment. I want to help our neighborhood preserve its unique and diverse eclectic character while we grow into the city that we will become. Thank you for the opportunity.

Wade McElroy's Reason

Howdy! My name is Wade McElroy. My wife Karinne and I have lived in Cherrywood for about two years now. And we are also the owners of Clementine Coffee Bar on Manor Road. Owning a coffee bar in this neighborhood has been and continues to be one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. Between owning a business and living here in Cherrywood, I feel connected to this wonderful neighborhood and would love an opportunity to help out.

Mark Schiff's Reason

I'm Mark Schiff, and a Cherrywood resident for 15 years. I work building cabinets and furniture at the Splinter Group. My wife Beverly and I also had a soap making business, the first in Austin that we know of, for 10 years. My reason for joining SC is that I would like to preserve the historic character of the neighborhood. 🐾

Cherrywood Calendar

November

- 11/1 6:30 Mueller Neighborhood Coalition at Asbury UMC
- 11/7 Election Day**
- 11/8 6:30 CNA Steering Committee meets at Quack's
- 11/12 9:00 Second Sunday at Asbury UMC
- 11/15 6:30 CNA Quarterly Meeting held at Maplewood Elementary
- 11/21 6:30 UBCPT meets at St. George Episcopal Church

December

- 12/6 6:30 Mueller Neighborhood Coalition at Asbury UMC
- 11/9 & 10 Cherrywood Art Fair at Maplewood Elementary
- 12/9 9:00 Second Sunday at Asbury UMC
- 12/13 6:30 CNA Steering Committee (meeting place TBD)
- 12/19 6:30 UBCPT meets at St. George Episcopal Church

January

- 1/3 6:30 Mueller Neighborhood Coalition at Asbury UMC
- 1/10 6:30 CNA Steering Committee (meeting place TBD)
- 1/14 9:00 Second Sunday at Asbury UMC
- 1/16 6:30 UBCPT meets at St. George Episcopal Church


Cherrywood.org

by Gordon Bennett

Open Cherrywood.Org (nothing else needed) to find our neighborhood Web site. There's a convenient menu of useful topics, and a community calendar. Select NeighborNet from the menu to subscribe to our listserv, which as of mid-October included 635 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). You have three options for reading: 1. Receive messages as they are posted (average of 12 per day). 2. Receive messages as a daily digest (only one consolidated message posted after midnight). 3. Read messages at the Web site (no e-mail).

If you were subscribed this quarter, you learned of:

- 38½ Street improvements
- Tree planting
- Quacks changes
- Crime reports
- Local fitness and yoga classes

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

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://www.cherrywood.org>
PO Box 4010, Austin, Texas 78765-4010

Steering Committee

Chair	Jack Newman
Secretary	Jennifer Elsner
Treasurer	Rebecca Kohout
Members	Gordon Bennett Amy Brotman Harold Cook David Greene Girard Kinney Pauline Porter Mark Schiff Randall Terrell

Communications

NeighborNet	Gordon Bennett
Web site	Gordon Bennett
The Flea	
» Editor	Jennifer Elsner
» Associate Editor	Dolly Ensey
» Design	David Shields
» Advertising	Rebecca Kohout Dave Westenbarger
» Distribution	David Greene

Committees

Budget	Rebecca Kohout
Cherrywood Art Fair	cherrywoodartfair@gmail.com Pricilla Boston Kathleen McTee
Communications	Jennifer Elsner
Nominations	Jennifer Elsner
Parks	Girard Kinney
Planning & Zoning	Girard Kinney
Welcome Wagon	Rebecca Kohout

Representatives

Austin Film Society	Dolly Ensey
Blue Ribbon Yard	Leslie Vieau
Book Club	Jeanne Arbuckle
Cherrywood choices	Dolly Ensey
Mueller Redevelopment	Jim Walker
T-Shirts	Frances Delaune
Tree Planting	Mike Damal
Upper Boggy Creek Planning	Stephen Kreger

More details and updates at www.cherrywood.org
click on **committees**

From the Chair

by Jack Newman

This November 7th we will once again be afforded the opportunity to vote, or not to vote. It is customary for commentators on the subject of our elections to remark on the low percentage of our U.S. citizens who actually bother to go to the polls, and plead with one and all to 'do their duty'. After many years of observation, I am no longer sure that I want simply a high body count wandering through the voting process. If you haven't made any effort to understand the issues and players from local to state, national and beyond, just how will you choose your voting machine selections? The *Statesman*, the *Chronicle*, on-line resources, all offer their particular insights into who the candidates are, what they propose to do in office, and other information including what future expenditures are being proposed in the way of bond issues.

The date of our November general meeting is the 15th. We will know as we gather together who our next governor will be, and who has been elected senator, and the names of other important office holders who have just been put in charge of our welfare, by us, or without us, depending on whether we invested the 20 minutes to stand in a usually short and fast-moving line of neighbors the day before, or 10 minutes at Fiesta before that during early voting. Even if TV is your primary news source, you know that Austin traffic is terrible, that our schools need attention, that health care cost increases are indefensible, that tens of millions of us do not have health insurance, that job layoffs are happening to thousands, that huge companies continue to seek mergers that may be against your best interests, and that these and so many more things important to you and your family will be affected by who represents us.

Elections can and do often turn on a small percentage of the votes cast. Just a few more or less votes one way or the other will decide some winners and losers. Wouldn't you really prefer to have your own personal insights and preferences counted? Get informed and go vote: your conscience and your future will thank you.

Change: Love it? Hate it?

by Jennifer Elsner

After many years of service to the Flea, Sue Taylor and Bethany Andree have decided to step down from their Editor and Designer positions. A huge thank you seems too small a gesture for the creativity, hard work and dedication they have offered Cherrywood by way of this publication. David Shields and I hope to build on their successes and continue the work they have fostered.

Heraclitus stated "There is nothing permanent except change", but I prefer William James' musing: "1. Start immediately, 2. Do it flamboyantly, 3. No exceptions."

Immediately, you will notice a different look to the Flea, but even more we want over the next few issues for you to feel the expanded participation of CNA member authorship, reflecting a greater diversity of voices in the neighborhood. This and future issues will not only include important articles from our committee chairs, but more curious contributions from neighborhood photographers, authors and artists (see "He He Ha Ha and Ho Ho" article). Also, the addition of a visually bold interview intends to offer a deeper look at some the people who make up our awesome neighborhood. The news of Cherrywood can take many forms. Have an idea? Share it with us: textimage@gmail.com

We desire to create a newsletter that will inform as well as engage the diverse talents our neighborhood has to offer. Love it or hate it ... be a part of it. 🐾

Cherrywood Book Club

by Jeanne Arbuckle

"A wonderful thing about a book, in contrast to a computer screen, is that you can take it to bed with you." – Daniel J. Boorstein

The Cherrywood Book Club is going strong! In November, we will read our 50th book! Our book selection over the last four plus years has included books from all genres — including among many others mysteries, biographies, a play, classic literature, not-so-classic literature, and even a few so-called children's books.

In keeping with Halloween, we are reading Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* for our October 25th meeting. It should be fun talking about this classic mystery novel and re-visiting Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. Our November selection, *The Namesake*, sounds like it will be a beautiful story of self-discovery by a young Indian man who is a first generation American.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Jeanne Arbuckle at 477-2684 or e-mail me at katenate@grandecom.net. We meet on the fourth Wednesday of most months from 7:00 – 9:00pm. We rotate our meetings among members' homes with the host providing refreshments. We love to include newcomers, so if you are interested, come see what it's like. 🐾

October 25, 2006

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

November 29, 2006

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

January 24, 2007

The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

February 28, 2007

Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer

Friends Of Patterson Park News

by Isabelle Headrick

On October 1, a group of neighbors gathered in Patterson Park to clear weeds from the new trail. Big thanks to Marshall Bruni, Larry Hill, Rick Behal, Danny Smith, Joanne Smolen, Kelly Miles, five-year-old Ethan Miles and Priscilla Boston for grooming the trail and to Mark Smolen for organizing it. Now that cooler weather and some rains have arrived we will be preparing to assist Parks and Recreation Department in planting new ground cover on the western slope.

Some other issues that Friends of Patterson Park is in the process of addressing:

Barriers to cars driving on the park: Sadly, while the trail has proved a boon for joggers and walkers, it has also become a driveway for some picnickers. We have noticed an increase in cars and trucks jumping the curb cuts on Schieffer and driving along the trail to the picnic tables. This is (of course) not only illegal and dangerous to pedestrians, but it compacts the soil around the post oaks, compromising the health of this already-endangered and precious resource. PARD had said that as part of the trail project it would move limestone boulders, like those around the Hancock golf course, along the Schieffer border; however, somewhere along the way that plan was scuttled without FoPP's knowledge. We have been told to call 311 if we see people driving on the park; but this seems to be a weak solution at best. FoPP is in the process of pursuing this with PARD; in the meantime please call 311 if you see cars or trucks parked inside the park.

Completing the trail: As you have undoubtedly noticed, one section of the trail remains unfinished—the “on-ramp” from Wilshire Boulevard that lies on Genesis Church property. We expected the department of Streets and Bridges to have constructed that section by now and are working to get an answer on when it will be built.



Kelly Miles



Rick Behal, Priscilla Boston and Marshall Bruni



Mark Smolen and Larry Hill

As mentioned in the previous issue, we are pursuing the idea of getting a new pool at Patterson. Nothing to report yet...

If you want to give feedback to PARD yourself (sometimes it helps for them to hear from people directly) on these issues or any others you may call the Director, Warren Streuss, at 974-6700 or our maintenance supervisor, Jimmy Cone, at 927-8363.

Friends of Patterson Park meetings are typically scheduled for the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm at Genesis Presbyterian Church. For more information on FoPP, call Isabelle at 499-0621 or e-mail isanews@texas.net.

Now it is our turn as a community to step in. FoPP has offered to coordinate the planting of new ground cover in October. In addition, our trail will need maintenance—fresh gravel spread periodically, weeding, and more. To this end, we will be organizing regular workdays (we will provide 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. Please join us! 🐾



Salisbury at Asbury

by George Holcombe

On Sunday, September 17, Asbury UMC celebrated Civil Servants Sunday and invited Senior Police Officer, Sheldon Salisbury, our neighborhood police officer to the service. Ofc. Salisbury gave a report on the work of the police department in Cherrywood and his career as a police officer. Worship committee members, Polly Pridgeon and David Southmayd, presented Ofc. Salisbury with a plaque expressing the appreciation of the church for his service to the community and thanked him for his service. It was a grand time and brought the congregation closer to the community and those who contribute to its care. 🐾



Blue Ribbon Yard

by Leslie Vieau

Neighbors, thanks to all who nominated yards and who voted. These yards were wonderful and the votes were very close! I hope to see the others nominated again.

Our winner by one vote is the home of Regina Rogoff and Sam Jones at 1705 Schieffer. After the Flea comes out, Regina and Sam will receive a \$25 Gift Certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery.

Congratulations! This yard has everything—trees, shade, greenery, variety, and color. It is very well kept. The lawn is lush. The whole scene is very inviting. It must be a pleasure for Genesis parishioners and Patterson Park visitors to view from across the street as they come and go. 🐾

Mueller Community Update

by Rick Krivoniak

As of November 1st, 2006, the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas is in its 25th month of a 27-month construction schedule. Patients will begin occupying the building just prior to the planned June 2007 grand opening. The adjacent Strictly Pediatrics Ambulatory Surgical Center/Medical Office Building is also nearing completion and will open around the same time as the hospital. Pediatric medical and surgical specialty groups are among its 15 tenants.

Along with the Ronald McDonald House, also expected to open in 2007, Mueller will soon become the heart of pediatric health-care in central Texas. The University of Texas Dell Pediatric Research Institute will break ground around mid-November, so expect some activity on the block immediately north of the Children's Hospital, especially at the corner of Mueller and Barbara Jordan Boulevards. Landscaping will surround the block where it won't interfere with construction. A project trailer will be located on the site, and UT has indicated that the Hensel/Phelps Construction Co. will welcome visitors if they have questions about the project.

The Austin Studios celebrated their sixth anniversary at Mueller on October 14th. Along with a party, the Studios promoted Bond Proposition 4, a \$31.5 million proposal for Arts in Austin that is part of the November 7th bond package. The Studios are in line to get \$5 million of that should it pass, which will go towards improving electric service, soundproofing and air-conditioning at the former airplane hangars. The Studios have brought more than \$650 million into Austin's economy in the last six years with commercials, music videos and such films as *The Life of David Gale*, *The Rookie* and the recently released *Infamous*.

The first phase of regional retail tilt-walls popped up quickly. The architecture of the retail area will have a cohesive style, so the buildings aren't "branded" and won't have the typical chain store appearance. Many of us can still identify former Taco Bell stores because their branding was so distinctive. The shopping center will surround an orchard parking lot, with far more trees than required by the City's code.

The October RMMA Plan Implementation Advisory Commission meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum. There are currently two vacant positions on the Commission, one "Neighborhood Representative" and one "Real Estate Developer or Professional Representative". If you are interested in serving on the Mueller Commission (or any City commission), contact the Office of the City Clerk at 974-2210 or visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/>.

51ST STREET WATER TOWER UPDATE

The 51st Street Reclaimed Water Tower has been the subject of an article and a few recent letters in the Austin American-Statesman. Misinformation abounds about how the tower is funded and how the designs were created and selected. Supportive letters to the paper or the City Council regarding the tower would be greatly appreciated. A few facts about the tower are below:

» In mid-2005, The Austin Water Utility proposed a standard design (like Cabela's), 200-foot tall, 2-million gallon tower.

» The 51st Street Tower Project Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from the Austin Studios, Catellus and six area neighborhoods, was assembled by the Utility to provide input on the tower after the standard design wasn't well received. The height was also lowered to 170 feet.

» The Committee created criteria for a new design, and feedback from the neighborhoods was provided to the Utility and to local architects Cotera + Reed, who created the two tower designs.

» No tax dollars will be used for the tower. The Austin Water Utility is an enterprise department, so water, wastewater and reclaimed water rates pay for the infrastructure, including this tower.

» Raising proposed reclaimed water rates at Mueller from one-third to about two-thirds of clean water rates still provides an economic break for the institutional and governmental users. Reclaimed water won't be offered to single-family users. This could easily pay the cost difference for the steel design in less than twenty years. Raising rates system-

wide, as recommended by the 51st PAC, would cut that time considerably.

» The architects' presentation, including animated day to night-lighting and drive-by views of the towers, convinced the Committee to support the steel design. Windsor Park Neighborhood Association followed up with its endorsement of the same design. As the closest existing neighborhood to the site, much of WPNA will likely be identified with this seventeen-story tower for the next century. ☺

UPCOMING MUELLER MEETINGS/EVENTS

November 9th, 6:30pm

Mueller "301", Region 13 Education Service Center, 5701 Springdale Road.

A general update for those new to or with questions about Mueller issues.

November 14th, 6:00pm

Mueller Commission, 625 W. 10th Street



CHULA Invites Neighbors to its First Membership Meeting

by Pricilla Boston

When: Monday November 13th, 7:00pm

Where: Jane Walton's house, 1606 Wilshire

If you love living in this beautiful area of town as much as we do, consider joining CHULA (Cherrywood Urban Landscape and Arts league). CHULA's mission is to promote the arts and artful landscape in our fair neighborhoods. \$5.00 will get you in the door. ☺

Manor Road Streetcar

by Gordon Bennett

Capital Metro is moving at a (faster than usual) glacial pace. They have a splendid project that enjoys local support – a trolley line from Mueller along Manor Road through UT to downtown. Mueller’s developer likes it. UT likes it. The City likes it – the contemplated Transit-Oriented Development around MLK and the RR tracks would be served. Manor Road restaurants and theaters would benefit. It would be a nice amenity for Cherrywood residents. Mueller in a few years will have thousands of residents, shops, a UT academic health center, a children’s hospital, parklands, and recreational amenities. Catellus (the Mueller master developer) would like as much integration as possible with regional rail. UT would like its medical campus to be linked by streetcar to the “40 acres” main campus. CapMetro would like its commuter rail line (running through Cherrywood) to be linked by streetcar to UT, the Capital complex, Congress Avenue, and the Seaholm transit center.

Will voters from all over Austin approve? It will be expensive. Most precincts won’t benefit directly. Most direct benefits will fall to 78723, 78722, and 78701. CapMetro faces a challenging sales job. It’s Board hasn’t decided yet how to approach it. They won’t proceed with a referendum until they have decided, which may take another year. What they have to sell to the public is an idea, not a route. The idea is that Austin and the whole area covered by Envision Central Texas (Williamson, Travis, Hays, Caldwell, and Bastrop Counties) would be best served by regional rail supplemented with buses. Major cities everywhere use rail and buses. Very few do it with buses alone. Those who do (such as Curitiba, Brazil) are curiosities. Multimodal systems take years to build a segment at a time. Austin’s first streetcar segment would serve one route. But others could follow, and even become likely if the first one succeeds. Creating a regional transit system with rail components takes planning. CapMetro’s Board has merely dipped its toe in the water. Its Board plans cautiously to improve existing freight track to carry passengers. Board members calculate voters are more likely to approve makeshift rail projects that cost less than they are to approve really good projects that are pricey. The Board’s stance creates a dilemma. Is its strategy dangerous for supporters of a genuine regional system? Should they resist? Might the public tolerate the cheaper alternative as a workable substitute, and lose interest in the real thing? Or should supporters go along, assuming something is better than nothing? Might the modest start catch hold? No one knows. Either way we may still end up with less than the best achievable regional transit system, more resembling Fort Worth than Dallas. The way between the horns of this dilemma is.... 🐘

Walkin’, Talkin’ and Loppin’

by Girard Kinney

As many Cherrywoodians know, a few of us convene to walk early in the morning hours. Once again I extend an invitation to anyone who wants to join us to do so; we meet at the Asbury corner (sw corner of 38½ & Cherrywood) at 5:30am Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Whoever is there at 5:35 heads out for a new loop. Our territory includes everywhere within the boundaries of Cherrywood and Wilshire Wood/Delwood 1. We occasionally venture south of Manor Road into Blackland, Rogers Washington/Holy Cross and Austin Heights. Over a period of several months, we manage to cover just about every street and alley in the ‘hood.

Lately, it has been just Priscilla and Mowgli Boston and me; but from time to time we are joined by Jules Vieau, Leyla Cohlmiia and others. The walking is great exercise, the conversation is invariably neighborhood focused and the lopping is, we trust, doing its part towards Cherrywood’s number one goal: Safe, Walkable Streets.

“Safe, Walkable Streets” is the number one objective that came from the Neighborhood Visioning process a few years ago. One cannot walk safely in the street or on sidewalks when they are blocked by overgrown vegetation. Vegetation that intrudes into the street and sidewalk space causes people to have to walk in the street even where there are

sidewalks, and causes cars to be parked away from the curb and pedestrians to have to move out into traffic lanes rather than hugging the curb where it is safer.

While admittedly a bit on the “Keep Austin Weird” side, the lopping component was my unsolicited contribution to what began as a fitness effort, but over time Priscilla and Leyla have both evolved from tolerant to co-conspirators. Priscilla even fesses up to staking out some of our routes just so we can address new vegetative hindrances sprouting forth in the ‘hood.

Come join us on our walks/talks/lops. It is fun, educational and great exercise! 🐘

Austin Neighborhoods Council

by Lisa Tipps

In September, Randall Terrell became Cherrywood’s new representative for the Austin Neighborhood Council. The ANC is a coalition of representatives from neighborhoods all over town who meet on the last Wednesday of each month to discuss issues and topics ranging from zoning to parks to bond elections. The September meeting, for example, was the first presentation by the City of the new Commercial Design Standards and its Vertical Mixed Use (VMU) provisions, which the Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team will have to study and make decisions about by mid to late January.

Randall Terrell will be serving as a vital link in our connectedness to the rest of the Austin community, and we wish him well. 🐘

Trees within Reach at Willowbrook

by Paul Hagey Photos by Jack Darby

I grew up along the stretch of Boggy Creek that is now called the Willowbrook Reach and have enjoyed the dynamism of its ecosystem. After identifying some of the trees on the Reach, I recognized that part of its dynamism is its biodiversity. I was surprised to discover more than 40 species of native and exotic trees on this quarter-mile greenbelt.



Red Shouldered Hawk seen enjoying Willowbrook Reach's biodiversity

Here are 13 that stand out.

Walking counter-clockwise from the Cherrywood Road bridge at Sycamore Road.

1. **Arborvitae.** The small pine-looking tree on the right is a very young version of the cone-shaped giants across the creek. They are in the Cypress family.

2. **Shumard Oak.** The next tree to the right of the path is a Shumard Oak. It is used in lumber and songbirds feed on its fruit. It has reddish-orange to orange fall coloring.

3. **American Elm.** The next really large tree on the right near the first big pool is an American Elm, a popular shade tree.

4. **Black Willow.** A little farther on the left of the trail, growing up from the bank, is a Black Willow. It has long slender leaves and is common along creeks. This section of the creek sports several willows, which are likely the source of the steert name as well.

5. **Cedar Elm.** About 50 feet farther just before the sewer pipe, is a Cedar Elm. It has rough small leaves and is fast-growing.

6. **Huisache.** Another 50 feet ahead, as the creek begins to bend to the left, the trail pivots on a Huisache, or Sweet Acacia tree over 20 feet tall. It has multiple trunks with tiny leaves and small yellow flowers. Notice a Hackberry sprouting out of the trunk of a Mesquite up the hill on the right.

7. **Bald Cypress.** A ways down the path, past the second sewer pipe, is a fairly mature Bald Cypress. It has a pine-like presence and is found on many Hill Country riverbanks.

8. **Mesquite.** About 30 feet farther to the right in front of a wooden fence is a rejuvenating Mesquite. This new growth from a stump is typical of Mesquites.



American Elm in Willowbrook Reach

On the other side of the creek heading towards Cherrywood.

9. **Redbud.** Almost directly across the creek from the Bald Cypress stands a Redbud, about 12 feet tall with heart-shaped leaves. Flowers are rose-purple color.

10. **Plateau Live Oak.** Just ahead is a small version of this native. In the yard across the street at 3805 Willowbrook you can see some full-grown examples.

11. **Chinese Tallow.** About 150 feet down the trail, across the creek from the Huisache, stands a cluster of Chinese Tallows to the right of the trail. They have round, pointed leaves.

12. **Sycamore.** Along East 40th stand four Sycamores. They are relatively large trees, in the maple family, with grayish, peeling bark.

13. **Mulberry/Hackberry.** Past a rejuvenating Black Willow just before the bridge is a Mulberry/Hackberry mixture. The Mulberry has large smooth leaves and produces edible fruit in late spring. The dominant Hackberry has smaller leaves and the trunk has a characteristic wart-like texture. 🐾



Rene Kinsella & Hershey



Nico Castellanos photographed with Kim McCarson, KOOP's new Executive Director.

Big Easy Folks Find Their Home in Cherrywood

Our new neighbor, KOOP-91.7 FM radio, welcomes Cherrywood neighbor Nico Castellanos as it's new Development Director. Nico, who moved to our neighborhood after Hurricane Katrina last year, brings seven years of radio experience from the Big Easy. Catch his "Brass Band Brother" broadcast every Wednesday at 3pm.

Another New Orleans transplant, Rene Kinsella and his chocolate Lab, Hershey, both really like Austin and are searching for another Cherrywood abode. After several months separation, SPCA of Texas specially delivered this faithful companion to her guardian. The joyful reunion happened near Concordia Triangle and was captured on News8-Austin (www.news8austin.com). 🐾

Teatro Vivo

by Rupert Reyes

"Hola vecino. How have you been? Dejame decirte lo que me paso ayer...when the dog got out of my neighbor's yard yesterday. Ese perro se sale todo el tiempo. They need to keep that dog in their yard!"

Welcome to the bilingual world of Teatro Vivo. Although not from an actual play, the above lines give you an idea of the language you would hear during a Teatro Vivo performance. Of course, you would also have the set, costumes, lights, sounds and gestures of the performers to help communicate to the audience. Many say this mixture of languages recreates what it is like at home, while also indicating the loss of Spanish spoken in Latino homes; however, driving around Austin, one feels the language is anything but disappearing.

One has to smile at how much the Latino culture has prospered in Austin. The University of Texas now posts signs in Spanish and English warning of the dangers of entering construction sites. The local restaurant row on Manor Road also has added to our use of Spanish on a regular basis as we enjoy Vivo, El Chile, El Chilito and now El Gringo.

This all leads to one of the reasons we have gone "bilingual". Teatro Vivo tries to "open a window to the Latino reality for all". By using this form of dialogue in our productions, we can attract Latino audiences that are rarely represented on stage, screen or TV as well as attracting non-Latino audiences. This can be a surprising experience for someone who claims not to speak Spanish. We have many audience members who have made this claim, only to be educated as to how much Spanish they understand. Sure they can't speak it, but just as we know the difference between *enchilada* and *tamale*, we also now that *hola* means hello and *adios* means goodbye. Once you understand what the conversation is about and see the actions of the performers, you can almost understand the Spanish that is being spoken even though you do not consider yourself bilingual.

Founded almost 7 years ago, Teatro Vivo is still housed right here in the French Place section of Cherrywood. My wife, JoAnn and I operated the production company until recently. A big change reflected a need to begin producing more regularly, offer classes and acting workshops for beginning adults, begin work on a youth theater group and collaborate with other groups. Results can already be seen. There is an ensemble group of 12 members. Steps are being taken to become a non-profit that can accept tax-deductible donations.



November 27–December 17 2006

La Pastorela

an Austin Latino Theater
Alliance (ALTA) collaboration
The Off Center, 2211 Hidalgo Street

January 2007

The Boiler Room

Venue to be announced

March 2007

La Victima

The Off Center, 2211 Hidalgo Street

September 2007

Petra's Sueño

Dougherty Arts Center

Most recently, Teatro Vivo worked with Austin Script Work's Primer Paso, a Latino Playwright Initiative, staged at The Vortex on Manor Road. Teatro Vivo is a theater company striving to bring together different communities in our city. We build bridges that allow groups to see that their day-to-day struggles, joys, triumphs and defeats are really the same, just pronounced differently. 🐾

Tree Team

by Dolly Ensey



Cherrywood Art Fair

by Kathleen McTee

From its start in 2002, the Cherrywood Art Fair has been a homegrown affair. Even though the show has grown into one of Austin's best-known and most well-regarded fall arts events, the Fair organizers strive to keep it true to the 'hood.

This year is no exception. Artists from as far away as San Antonio will be on hand to show their original work, but the pride and joy of the CAF are artists who live in our neighborhood. Cherrywood artists featured in this year's show include (in alphabetical order):

Adaptive Reuse (Christine Terrell): Belts, Wallets and Bracelets made from Paint Sample Cards

Buff Daddy (Randall Terrell): Natural Handmade Soaps

IBGraphics (Inés Batlló): Original Drawings and Paintings

Deborah McLouth: Printmaker, representing the Women Printmakers of Austin

Kathleen McTee: Art Cloth, Clothing and Handmade Accessories

Kelly Miles: Original Paintings

Jessica Monroe: Ceramic Sculpture, Watercolors and Oils

Natural Baby Candle Company (Erica Hudgeons): Essential-oil Soy & Beeswax Candles

Viewers Like You (Jennifer Elsner): T-shirts

Even if you're not an artist, you can still be a part of the big show. We're always looking for a few good volunteers to help with load in and load out, give artists short breaks throughout the day, decorate the school, assist musicians, stand around and eat donuts... (That last position is filling fast – get your requests in now!) Eager volunteers (whether you've got a weekend or an hour to spare) can contact our fearless leader, Priscilla Boston, at peboston@juno.com or 478-1867.

And since the Art Fair is now officially (according to the IRS) a non-profit production of CHULA, the Cherrywood Urban Landscape and Arts league, it's a great opportunity for businesses to give back to the community. We're signing up sponsors from all around Austin, at all levels. This year, our silent auction is back – we'd be grateful for donations from neighbors in business, whether you'd like to give goods, services or gift certificates. It's a great way to let neighbors know that you're here, and that you care about the arts. Booth fees and proceeds from this year's event will once again support the art program at Maplewood, as well as funding arts and landscape grants in 2007.

With two days of free art, live music, kids' art activities, great food (Go-Go Gourmet style) and general merriment in store, the fifth annual Cherrywood Art Fair deserves a big red circle on your calendar: Saturday and Sunday, December 9 & 10. We look forward to seeing you there! ☺



“High Pole” Project

Austin Energy's 90 day taller pole installation project on East 38½ Street's north side begins soon. Expect single lane closures and flagmen. Additionally, sidewalk reconstruction and a much needed curb ramp on the Half Penny intersection's northeast side are welcomed improvements. ☺



On October 7th, Mike Damal and his crew planted trees throughout the neighborhood. In year's past their efforts have contributed 245 trees to our neighborhood, including the two saplings pictured here at Willowbrook Reach. And its a good thing.

Seen here, many trees at Willowbrook Reach are falling into the creek at the roots due to erosion from rushing water while other trees' branches are snapping off as a result of the drought. There is one pine tree whose needles turned from green to all rust orange—not a UT fan but stressed by lack of water.

If you are interested in helping out, contact Mike at mdamal@peoplepc.com. ☺

Tree planting crew in photo: Michael Sullivan, Alisa & Kevin Sciolino, Jim MacKay (kneeling), Mike Damal, Parke Gregg and Kristy Gregg. Not pictured: Lee Clippard

Most of you know Orlando Sanchez — he's the fellow who warmly welcomes you while you come to dine; but do you know Carlos Rivero? He is the other neighbor/restaurateur responsible for Manor Road's El Chile, El Chililito and most recently El Gringo. I had the opportunity to speak with Carlos recently about where he's coming from, and where he's going.

JE: Many Cherrywood residents may not know that you not only own 3 local businesses, but you also live here on Dancy. Do you find living so close to your work a plus or minus?

CR: Oh yeah, a plus for sure, that's the best reason I think to be living here. I also love that I am so close to ALL that is going on here on Manor.

I had read in an earlier interview that you and Orlando were "destined" to be in the restaurant business.

We've been friends since we were 8 years old. We went to school together, grew up together; he knows me very well. And he has certainly shared my life long dream. Since we established El Chile I think he is the one who holds to the vision best.

...We all worked at Jeffrey's (Carlos, Orlando and Executive Chef Christine Kittrell). I was managing and they were sous chefs. And I went with Jeffrey's when they opened up a location at the Watergate Hotel in DC, but that was short lived because after 9/11 I wanted to get back home. That didn't make them very happy, but I really needed to be home. And when I came back, I basically didn't have work. But I'm a real estate investor and after I moved back, I dedicated myself to this neighborhood. At the time I saw the advantages of this area, being so close to downtown... I realized it was under served. But after a couple of years I started to miss the restaurant business. I've been working in restaurants pretty much for as long as I have been able to work, and I grew up in the food business. It's definitely a passion. I realized when I left, how very important it was to me.

You mentioned that you grew up in the restaurant business. Your family owned restaurants?

Yes we did, but the majority of my family's work was in wholesale Mexican food. My grandfather started the business as a tortilla factory. When chips and salsa and queso became all the rage, it became another wave of business for us. Eventually as the family was getting older, we sold to a company we were doing a lot of private labeling for. But I wasn't too happy about that. I was in high school and I was like "that was supposed to be my future". I think just growing up in restaurants, we had huge productions at home too... we were all about the food, I guess I got used to it.

So here you have had great success with El Chile and El Chililito. How did the departure from Mexican food and El Gringo come about?

You know, we were going to do Italian for a long time but we decided for this location, we weren't feeling it. So we started on this idea of "maybe we should just do burgers" do something fun and real casual. But then, we couldn't help ourselves. We started working the menu and thought this is too boring, you know, we gotta give it our slant. We gotta dress it up a little bit, and then take things that are fancy and bring it down some... and that is what the menu at El Gringo is like.

I hear that you also own the lot at the corner of Chicon and Manor? Do you have immediate plans for its development?

Yeah, we'd like to do Italian next, whether it happens there is to be determined. Christine and I have traveled in Asia and would love to do a fun version of Thai food, spicier frozen drinks... but it all takes time.

Okay well I'm not moving then! I'll stay put!

We've had a lot of thankful neighbors... And they are all wondering what's next too. I lived in Clarksville before here and I love that neighborhood, but I'm really glad I moved here. When we opened up El Chile, neighbors kind of came out of the woodwork. The local clientele made me realize how cool this neighborhood is.

Okay, the hard hitting question: President Bill

Clinton paid El Chile a visit during his visit to Austin last month for Ann Richard's memorial service, what did he order?

He had Enchiladas de Mole Rojo. I'm sure they ordered a sampling of appetizers, but that's what he ordered... and a Michelada!

You had an opportunity to meet with him?

Oh yeah absolutely. He invited us to sit with them and we took pictures afterwards. It all



happened in a matter of hours. You know, the Secret Service comes in to check out the place. And they kind of give you a range of time that he is going to show up. They kept on narrowing it down as it got closer.

I bet all the customers that were waiting were wondering “why are those tables empty?” Right, we don't EVER hold tables. But of course this time we did. For us there really is no greater honor. I can't think of anyone else I would rather have dine with us.

Finally, if we see the lights on at your home at 3am, what are you thinking about? What keeps you up at night?

Oh you don't want to know that! I guess I am kept up at night with thoughts about the prospect of continuing to serve the neighborhood I adore so much. I can't put my mind to rest about all the concepts and work I want to do. Its exciting. ☺



Our Neighbor

Carlos Rivero

Interview by Jennifer Elsner

Photography by Alina Praxs
www.ladolcevitaphoto.com

The Scoop

by Dolly Ensey

Contrary to popular belief, pet waste is NOT fertilizer! Can you say “e-coli”? City of Austin’s Watershed Development Protection Review explains pet waste is more than smelly and unsightly: it’s a health risk for creeks, pets, and people, especially our little ones.

If one of our estimated 1,600 resident canines goes walking with one of the 3,800 inhabitants from the Cherrywood and Wilshire Wood/Delwood 1 neighborhoods, the once daily five ounce deposit produces 3 billion fecal coliform bacteria. This routine results annually in 114 pounds of pet waste/3.3 trillion fecal coliform bacteria per dog, or over 90 tons of waste/510.8 trillion fecal coliform bacteria from all dogs in these neighborhoods. Note these statistics do not include those stray or feral pets that live among us. A daily walk with your dog is very important; it’s the negligence of waste abandonment that is the problem. Dogs and cats cannot flush – they lack opposable thumbs; they depend upon us humans to help by being responsible pet guardians.

When it rains, any size pet waste left on sidewalks, in the street, on Maplewood’s playground or in our green areas, such as Cherrywood Green or Willowbrook Reach, immediately heads into Boggy Creek eventually draining into the Colorado River below Town Lake. And pet waste can spread to your home, should you be *lucky* enough to tread upon it unknowingly.

As with human waste, animal excrement can contain harmful bacteria and viruses: e-coli, Brucella, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Hookworms, Leptospira, Roundworms and Salmonellosis. In some cases, pet waste contains nutrients that speed up the growth of nuisance algae and can reduce oxygen levels in the water, affecting fish and fowl denizens.

Several years ago, Maplewood Elementary and other neighbors took initiative to begin addressing the problem of dog waste in our green spaces by providing a Mutt Mitt dispenser for those romping round the grounds after hours. Handcrafted wooden dispensers were installed at Cherrywood Green and Willowbrook Reach, complete with generic plastic bags for waste pickup.

An unspoken and often unseen support system materialized. Plastic bags are replenished, a large black trashbag is carefully tied up and placed beside the trashcan before trash day, then magically disappears afterwards. Trash can fairies or thoughtful neighbors? Why is pet waste still being left behind? Lack of awareness or education or neighborliness? Now you have the scoop on the poop, so scoopa ya pet’s poop, Poopsie! 🐾

It’s the Law, Dawg

Defecation by Dogs or Cats
Austin City Ordinance 3-3-7

“It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by a dog or cat on property, public or private, other than the premises of the owner or handler of such dog or cat.”

It’s Your Duty - Options

Flush it down your toilet

Put in a plastic grocery bag and
toss it in the trash

Bury it at least 6 inches deep, away
from gardens and water sources

It’s a Plan

Scoop the Poop contact:

Sara Heilman, 974-3540

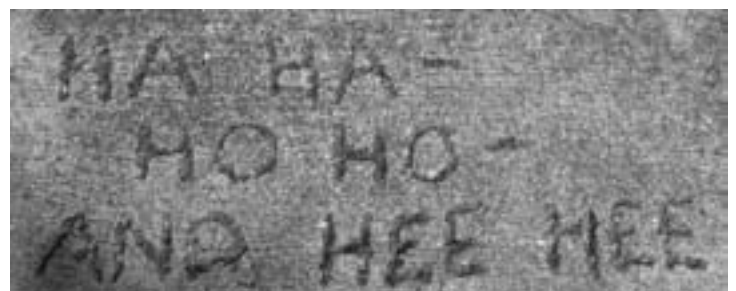
www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/petwaste.htm

Ha Ha Ho Ho and Hee Hee

submitted anonymously

This patch of concrete is found someplace in our neighborhood. Do you know where? Try to find it on your next walk and send your answer to textimage@mac.com, we will publish the location and name of the first correct response in the next issue of the Flea.

Do you know of a neighborhood curiosity? We welcome photographic submissions for future editions of the Flea. Send 300 dpi jpegs to textimage@gmail.com. 🐾



Movie, Politics, and a Reforming Church

by Gordon Bennett

On October 6th, Asbury United Methodist Church obtained a DVD from an interfaith group and presented Al Gore and Davis Guggenheim's documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Over one hundred neighbors, congregants, and others showed up and were visibly moved. The message was: the warming issue is critical, and should be perched atop the American political agenda but isn't.

People are aware of it. "Global warming" is a near-cliché, approaching boring. But... few take it into the voting booth. This fall's campaigns pitch education reform, tax cuts, immigration, terrorism, and a constitutional amendment to define marriage. Many Republican strategists figure environmentalists will go Democrat if they vote the issue, and so they leave it alone.

The fuller picture is mixed. Reagan's team did lead the way to the Montreal Protocol

('87), and Bush Sr.'s team promoted improvements to the Clean Air Act ('90). Gore for his part scarcely mentioned the environment in 2000. Politicians of any persuasion apparently see unfertile soil here in election years.

One *inconvenient truth* explains why. A study of articles on climate change in science journals during 1993–2003 found 0 (zero) that questioned the effect of human activity on warming. By contrast, a parallel study revealed 53% articles on climate change in the *NY Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and other major newspapers questioned whether human activity and warming were connected! The press misinforms the public. No wonder the public is confused. No wonder voters don't vote the issue.

Asbury pastor, the Rev. George Holcombe, would love to see a new generation of church members who see political relevance if

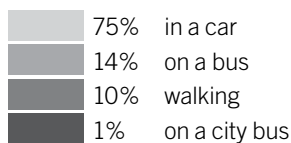
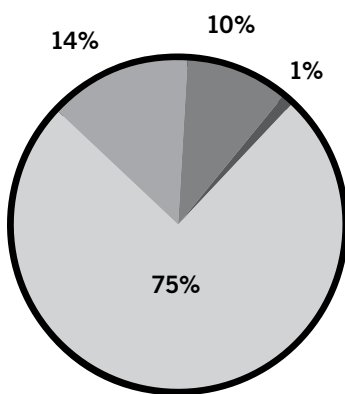
not spiritual fulfillment in informed public dialogue. Whether one is a Methodist, a Buddhist, or a non-believer is less important than the dialogue. Al Gore now senses elevated public consciousness must lift the political agenda. His political strategy? Paul Revere-like, warn of impending global warming crisis by book, lecture, and movie. Urge the popular press to recognize the scientific consensus.

The film's final *truth* is that we must regard warming as a morale issue. Then our political leaders will have more incentive to lead instead of brandishing the environment and other public interests as mere tactical weapons for jousting for partisan advantage. Getting elected is part of politics. The other part is leading after winning. Go Al. Go Asbury. Go next generation. ☞

Maplewood News

by Maplewood 6th Grade Students

How we get to school



After noticing that arrival and dismissal traffic around their school can get quite congested, the Sixth Graders at Maplewood started wondering just how many students traveled by car, bus, foot, and bicycle to school. The students then created and administered a survey that asked K–6th grade Maplewood families about their transportation to and from school each day, along with corresponding questions about how far away they live, and how long it takes to travel the distance. Then, they worked in teams to present the written and visual data that follows.

As part of a school wide 6th grade walking project, they gathered the information to analyze and make graphs to see how many students walk, ride the bus, bike, or ride in a car to school.

The sixth graders conducted a school wide survey asking families about how students get to and from school daily, about internet access, and how many siblings they have. Twenty-one out of forty-one students in the sixth grade turned in their surveys. Thirteen students ride in cars, five students ride the bus, two students walk to and from school, and one sometimes rides a bike and sometimes gets a car ride. One student takes one minute to get to and from school, walks with her sister, and lives three houses from the school. One person, a bus rider, wakes up at 6:30am and he arrives to school at 7:00am. The sixth grader that rides a bike to school takes five minutes to travel. One person crosses the railroad tracks to school. One person walks to

school everyday of the week, and they live on Maplewood Avenue. Because Maplewood is a loving school and community, nobody surveyed had ever been talked to by a stranger.

Overwhelmingly, students are getting to school by car. About 50 students out of the 350 total student population ride the bus. Even when students live within walking distance, most families choose to give their child a ride. This may be due to safety reasons, time constraints, or just convenience. Maybe we will try to institute a "Turn Off Your Car Week", just like we do "Turn Off Your TV" week in the spring. This could help families slow down and recognize the mental and physical benefits of walking to school. Thank you to all who participated in the survey. ☞

Planning & Zoning Monitors Major Growth Issues

by Girard Kinney

Cherrywood is experiencing unprecedented growth pressures, a trend expected to continue and accelerate. Our proximity to IH35 and Mueller, and with both the commuter rail line through our neighborhood and the anticipated streetcar line along Manor Road, Cherrywood stands both to benefit and to suffer from the our strategic location. The more important issues include:

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (on Alexander)

In 2004, this branch of the Presbyterian Church purchased the 11 acre site from Manor to MLK to construct a major church complex (www.redeemerpres.org). It would be the center of a system of satellite churches throughout our region; early layouts even included an orphanage.

For many years there have been established community goals for this site:

» The adjacent railroad has been targeted as the site for urban passenger rail, including a hike & bike path within the railroad right-of-way.

The purchase of the site happened the same month as the successful vote that established the commuter line and the MLK Station, following months of vigorous publicity.

» Rosewood's Plan proposed mixed use (retail, office and residential) development for the site and established a 40 foot maximum height across the entire site.

» The City Transit Oriented Development ordinance calls for a passenger station near MLK & Alexander, and shows the property now owned by Redeemer to fall completely within a Neighborhood Center TOD District.

» A 2003 Envision Central Texas workshop, attended by members of all the surrounding neighborhoods, developed a Concept Plan that depicts a rich variety of uses across the entire site which would provide a needed range of housing, retail and office uses that would take full advantage of the adjacent railroad and potential park space across the railroad to the east.

The Church met with the Upper Boggy Creek and Rosewood Planning teams early in 2005, to request our support for a zoning change that would remove the 40 foot height restriction, allowing a steeple and a sanctuary building 60 feet high. Spokespersons welcomed the idea of a neighborhood-oriented church, but expressed opposition to the regional nature of the proposed use, requested that the height be lowered, and asked for a master plan showing a development of the site consistent with the community plans. The steeple was removed, but since then there have been no changes. A large surface parking lot on Manor Road remains. UBC and Rosewood have consistently requested a plan showing how their church could be incorporated into a development that addresses the neighborhood goals for the site. To date none has been presented except by the neighborhoods.

City of Austin's Planning Commission attempted to achieve the objectives proposed by the neighborhood task force. Unfortunately it attempted to prevent religious uses on portions of the site, a legal flaw. Misleading testimony by the applicant led the Council to believe that the community does not want a church on the property and has no objection to the height. The City Council, citing the legal problems, approved the application at first reading only and set a 16 November date

for 2nd and 3rd reading; the public hearing remains open and a Board of Adjustment hearing is set for early December.

TORNADO BUS TERMINAL

This company has been operating a bus terminal at 3311 East IH35 without a Conditional Use Permit for over four years. Recently, it was cited for this illegal use of the property and charges have been filed by the City in Municipal Court against the company for its failure to respond to various violations of the City Code. P&Z opposes a terminal at this site, and especially the inadequate facility for passengers.

Similar cases now proliferate in Austin, often illegally. Needed is consolidation of regional passenger bus services to fewer, larger sites, located at the nexus of transportation routes, with adequate facilities for passengers and easy access to bus and future rail and streetcar stations.

CONCORDIA DEVELOPMENT

Concordia College is closing. A developer has an option to purchase the site contingent on gaining the entitlements they will need to develop the site in a way that would result in a very dense mixed-use center containing five residential towers, a hotel, office buildings, parking structures, street level retail throughout, Great Street treatment of all internal roadways and several public parks.

The developer presented its concept to the UBC Team, which has not yet taken a position, and to the CNA P&Z Committee, which has recommended approval of the concept of the development, including the residential towers **CONDITIONAL** on the inclusion of a robust affordable housing component and adequate transportation improvements including not only roadway improvements but also transit facilities including bus, streetcar and connection to commuter rail. CNA has endorsed the P&Z recommendation.

A site plan is being reviewed by the City. A zoning change application is pending. Advocates feel that this is an ideal site to create both dense nodal development consistent with Envision Central Texas goals, and also destinations that will make a fixed rail transportation system economically feasible. Opponents of the project are concerned about the visual intrusion of the towers, traffic in the surrounding neighborhoods, that there will be student housing, and more.

SCHIEFFER/AIRPORT BOULEVARD PROPERTY

Stephen Kreger has agreed to chair a task force of the P&Z Committee to hold a community forum on the development of a Community Vision for the site along Airport south of Schieffer. Property owners in the original Schieffer neighborhood, prior to its incorporation into CNA, were able to obtain an agreement with a developer to severely limit the uses that can occur. The forum would see if a shared consensual vision for the site is possible. Ideal would be a partnership with a buyer who is willing to develop a project consistent with the vision (in exchange for relaxing the covenants).

Membership in P&Z consists of individuals who have attended past meetings. Anyone who lives in the boundaries of our neighborhood is welcome and encouraged to join. Kindly contact Girard Kinney at girard@kinneyarchitects.com. 🐦



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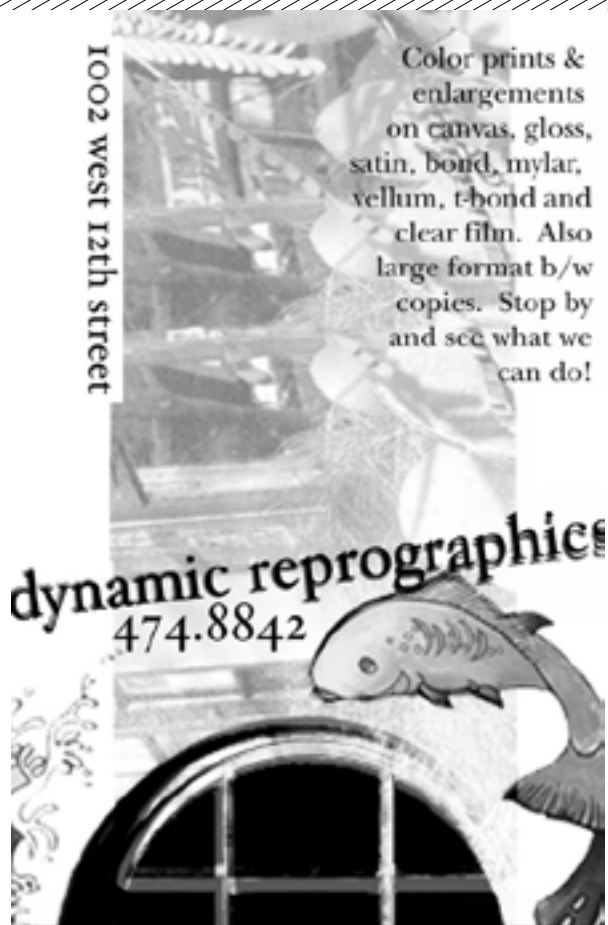
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Cherrywood Art Fair

December 9 – 10, 2006

Saturday 11am – 6pm

Sunday 11am – 5pm

Maplewood Elementary
38 1/2 Street & Maplewood Avenue

Rebecca's

HOME OWNER'S UPDATE

What's Hot And What's Not In The Cherrywood Neighborhood

Volume 9, No. 4

Fall 2006

Paint! It might be time for the Fall Coats!



If it was as hot this past Summer at your home as it was at mine, you may be ready for a fresh coat of paint for your exterior. The summer sun is brutal on our lovely Cherrywood colors, causing homes to need a new paint job every 3 to 5 years. Here are some helpful hints that will facilitate a messy job!

1. Paint the north and west sides in the morning and the south and east sides in the afternoon. This avoids painting indirect sunlight, which can cause uneven drying.
2. Choose your season when painting your house. You may want to consider spring or fall. Both months have fairly mild temperatures.
3. When painting around windows, use strips of writing paper soaked in warm water and placed snugly around the edges of the glass. They will stay in place long enough for you to paint the window frame. If you don't have writing paper, newspaper will work just as well. However, it may take a little window cleanup to remove any residual ink print marks.
4. Save hours touching up new putty around your windows by mixing in paint with the putty—the same color as your window frames — before installing.
When painting steps, you can prevent serious accidents from slipping on painted steps by adding a little sand to the paint. This will give a better foothold.



It's in the Bag!

Fall is here and the trees will soon be dropping their leaves. If bagging leaves is not your idea of fun, here are some tips for those work days ahead.

To make a handy leaf-bagging receptacle, recycle the leg part of that old TV tray (the ones in your garage). Simply place a garbage bag over the legs and throw the leaves in! To cut down on the amount of bags you use, try this clever tip. First, place some of the leaves into a large sturdy garbage can to about the halfway mark. Next, take your grass/weed trimmer and reduce the leaves to less than half the size they were, which will take up considerably less bag space. Continue this way until all your leaves have been bagged. Care and caution should be exercised and protective clothes and eyewear should be worn when using this method.



A Cherrywood Resident Since 1972

If you're planning a move to a larger home, need to relocate, or know someone on the move - contact me, **Rebecca Kohout** at Coldwell Banker United Realtors. 415-9876, or rebecca@austinexpertrealtor.com.

www.austinexpertrealtor.com

**FOR THE BEST MOVE
OF YOUR LIFE!**

COLDWELL BANKER
UNITED REALTORS
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Fax: 512.477.9548
Email: rebecca@austinexpertrealtor.com

Rebecca Kohout

Neighbors, if you've been waiting for the right time to buy a house in this neighborhood... this is it! Interest rates are at a 45 year low and home prices are at a level that they were 3 or 4 years ago!

You can't go wrong with these factors.

So if you're considering investing in the neighborhood, give me a call and let me tell you about the opportunities available.