

February 2007  
Volume 12, Number 2

The Quarterly Newsletter of  
the Cherrywood Neighborhood  
Association  
cherrywood.org

## Cherrywood Neighborhood Quarterly Meeting

**Wednesday  
February 21  
6:30–8:00pm**  
Maplewood Elementary  
School Library

Open to all residents  
of Cherrywood.


### Agenda

- » Welcome & Introductions
- » Announcements
- » Goal-setting for 2007
- » Security and APD report

### Committee reports

- » Planning and Zoning
- » Finance
- » Transportation
- » Safety
- » Parks
- » Community Building
- » Communications



Thanks to former Cherrywooder  
Mark Lind for his modern flea, used  
to close each article. 



## Cherrywood Film Nights

by Jim Reed

Cherrywood neighborhood is such a unique community. When I first moved to the hood in 2001, from my first impression I could sense something extraordinary. There is a level of respect and consideration in our community that I have not experienced before, and I am thankful for it every day.

Cherrywood residents benefit from being informed, either by talking on the streets, communication through NeighborNet, or neighborhood meetings and events. Another opportunity of community interaction and information exchange will be Cherrywood Film Nights, a monthly recurring film night at Asbury United Methodist Church. Films will be selected on the basis of political and social awareness, something we don't always receive from major media networks.


Cherrywood Film Nights will also serve as an environment for dynamic exchange and communication about topics presented in the films. Films will range in length and leave enough time for a moderated group discussion. Often people are

presented with an issue, but action to address the issue is not abundantly clear. Cherrywood Film Nights will emphasize community action and solutions based from the moderated discussion. A major shortcoming of corporate media is it often presents problems that can only be addressed at a national level, such as foreign policy. Foreign policy is important, but so are clean water, city transportation, neighborhood safety, quality of schools and education, property taxes and cost of living, organic and healthy foods, decentralized and renewable power, preventative and long term healthcare, and political representation in the democratic process. All these issues can and should be addressed right here at home.

Currently Cherrywood Film Nights is slated for the first Friday of each month at 7:00pm with the premiere evening February 2nd, and future Friday evenings March 2nd and April 6th. There will be a projector and large screen, 100 watts of sound, folding chairs for those who do not bring something more comfortable, and doubling as a community potluck, try to bring snacks or drinks to share.

After watching the film, a moderated discussion with an informed speaker or representative on the issue at hand will participate in the discussion. By the end of the evening we will have discussed local action alternatives so you can be more informed, more connected to your community, and more empowered to make positive changes.

### We need you

The films chosen will be based on community input. The Cherrywood Film Nights Committee appreciates your candidate suggestions on films and documentaries. You can make suggestions on NeighborNet, and this will give other members the opportunity to comment on the suggestion. Also, researching and obtaining quality films take time and resources. If you can assist in these tasks, or are interested in being a part of the committee, please email me at [jim0reed@yahoo.com](mailto:jim0reed@yahoo.com). Did I mention you should come? Yes, please come. This will not work without you attending and participating in the discussions. 

## Cherrywood Calendar

### February

2/11 12:00 Second Sunday at Asbury UMC (Food Bank Collection)  
2/12 6:30 CNA Steering Committee at Hornitos  
2/21 6:30 CNA Quarterly Meeting at Maplewood Elementary

### March

3/3 11:00 Explore UT  
3/4 6:00 Block Party at 3823 Airport Blvd (KOOP & City Theatre)  
**3/9-13 South-by-Southwest**  
3/11 12:00 Second Sunday at Asbury UMC (Food Bank Collection)  
3/14 6:30 CNA Steering Committee (meeting place TBD)

### April

4/11 6:30 CNA Steering Committee (meeting place TBD)

If you would like your event to be included in the Cherrywood Calendar, contact Jennifer Elsner at [textimage@mac.com](mailto:textimage@mac.com).

### Steering Committee

Chair	David Greene	828-7450
Vice Chair	Summer McKee	426-3934
Secretary	Amy Brotman	589-8545
Treasurer	Rebecca Kohout	477-9560

Members: Gordon Bennett, Rick Cofer, Harold Cook, Girard Kinney, Wade McElroy, Jack Newman, Mark Schiff

### Communications

NeighborNet/Web	Gordon Bennett	477-7195
<b>The Flea</b>		
» Editor	Jennifer Elsner	692-7604
» Associate Editor	Dolly Ensey	494-9905
» Design	David Shields	
» Advertising	Rebecca Kohout	477-9560
	Dave Westenbarger	494-9905
» Distribution	David Greene	828-7450

More details at [cherrywood.org](http://cherrywood.org) click on **committees**

## Cherrywood.org

Open Cherrywood.Org to find a menu of popular topics, a community calendar or select NeighborNet to subscribe to our listserv (currently, 676 members), about one-third of the neighborhood. 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 1 consolidated message posted after midnight).
3. Read messages at the Web site (no e-mail).

Stay informed. Share your opinion (of local concerns). Become involved. Questions? Contact [gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu).

## What's in Store for Mueller

by Dolly Ensey

Chair King and Shoe Pavilion join the ranks of Best Buy, Marshalls, and Bed Bath & Beyond to anchor the southeast corner of Mueller's regional retail center. Approximately 400,000 square feet of retail space, situated on 22 acres south of Barbara Jordan Boulevard, will feature a mix of both local and national brands and showcase small shop tenants surrounding the large retailers.

Officials estimate the second phase of retail, set for the north side of Barbara Jordan, Boulevard, will materialize approximately 9-12 months after this initial retail phase.

As Catellus works to bring national retailers to Mueller, the team is also working with small, local and Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises to match them with Mueller opportunities. Catellus is working directly with neighbors to help strengthen this retail outreach effort. Got input? Contact David Ross at 473-0400 [www.muelleraustin.com/regional\\_retail.html](http://www.muelleraustin.com/regional_retail.html)

## From the (Outgoing) Chair

by Jack Newman

We moved to our East 37th home in 1979. The neighbors were a very eclectic, wonderful mix of last-stand hippies, older folks who had been here since the neighborhood was new, working people, artists and musicians of all kinds, and of course, families with kids. There were many more African Americans here then, renters abounded, a motorcycle gang lived on Lafayette (no problems other than their fighting each other), good neighbors all. There were few big houses and virtually no traffic. Twenty minutes of driving would get you to the city limits in any direction, any time of day.

The air was clean for a 'big' city, except when the wind blew from the Mueller Airport, bringing the smell of jet fuel and the sound of big planes taking off. There was an agreement with the airlines, often violated, that supposedly prevented operations after midnight to give the surrounding areas a little quiet. Helicopters for VIPs flew over our neighborhood at all times of night between Mueller and downtown, even though they were instructed to fly only over roadways such as MLK.

Delwood Shopping Center was just a large strip center. The intersection of IH-35 and East 38 1/2 Street was merely where two roads crossed, no beggars, no transients, no special crime issues. Party Stop was an Exxon station with on-duty mechanics. Dura-Tune was a fresh produce stand. Manor Road had no restaurants of note, but Roy's Grocery operated out of the now-Hoover's building. The parking facility near the railroad tracks on Manor was still an empty field.

It didn't take long for me to get involved with the nascent CNA of the day, and in one way or another I have been involved with every local issue of note since. Serving this past year as the Chair of the Steering Committee has been a privilege, but it is time to begin to make way for the next generation of leaders. New ideas, fresh energy, younger faces: I am eager to see what new successes our association produces.

## SxSW—Lights! Camera! Action

by Dolly Ensey

In its 21st year, South by Southwest kicks off it's festivities with Austin Film Society's 7th Texas Film Hall of Fame (TFHoF). Operating under the auspices of the 2,200-member AFS, TFHoF was co-founded in 2001 by two local editors: Louis Black of the Austin Chronicle and Evan Smith of Texas Monthly.

On Friday, 9 March, it's Lights! Camera! Action! at Austin Studios' Stage 2 located at the Mueller Redevelopment site. Actors, directors, screenwriters, filmmakers and films from, influenced or inspired by the Lone Star State will be recognized for their contributions. All proceeds support film and film-making, including filmmaker grants and educational programs in Texas, including the valuable internship program at AFS. Deadline for summer internship applications is Tuesday, 1 May 2007. [www.austinfilm.org/files/internship\\_application.pdf](http://www.austinfilm.org/files/internship_application.pdf)

For four years, TFHoF was emceed by former governor Ann Richards, who died last September before she could host the 2006 show. Hosting this year's March gala, "A Tribute to Ann Richards", will be longtime friend, journalist Liz Smith, leading a celebration of Richards' life and passion for film.

The red carpet rollout will welcome local and other movie industry stars and award recipients:

producer Elizabeth Avellan of Troublemaker Studios, will receive the Ann Richards award. Actress Shirley MacLaine will be accepting the Frontier Award for the 1983 movie, *Terms of Endearment*, shot in Houston.

The starring role however, goes to AFS co-founder, director Rick Linklater, who not only released two feature films (*A Scanner Darkly* and *Fast Food Nation*) in 2006, but also led the "I'm for 4" municipal bond proposition campaign to net \$5 million for Austin Studios improvements. Proposition 4 passed easily last November with a comfortable 58% vote. Proceeds will be used to upgrade Stage 2 with soundproofing, and outfit two stages, created from former airplane hangars, with air conditioning. Money will also be used to improve security, safety and build state-of-the-art infrastructure. Linklater will be inducted into TFHoF along with Bill Paxton (*Apollo 13*, *Spy Kids 2* and *Spy Kids 3D*) and Betty Buckley (*Cats*, *Tender Mercies*, *Eight is Enough*).

The studios at Mueller are not open to the public but AFS has an annual open house during SxSW and the public is welcome to attend the TFHoF. Ready your pumpkin for transformation into a carriage, or are you still scrubbing floors? To sneak a peek at 2006 festivities, visit [www.austinfilm.org/tfhof/2006](http://www.austinfilm.org/tfhof/2006).

## Clementine Schedule

ART

**"Art for Manly Men"**  
by Jason Chalker, painter

Feb 28th-April 2nd  
Opening Party: March 2, 7-12

Jason's style is reminiscent of the pulp and pin-up art of the 40's and 50's. His work has a great sense of humor and is incredibly fun to look at. Jason runs his own design and illustration studio in Austin, has done work for Austin Books and Comics, and was an animator on *A Scanner Darkly*. His website is [www.manlyart.com](http://www.manlyart.com).

MUSIC

2/6	Elisa Ferrari
	Audrey Hepburn Heroine
2/9	Dodeskaden
2/13	Austin New Music Coop
2/16	Benko
2/17	Chris Vestre
2/20	Idiothack
	Annabella
2/23	Amy Cook
	The Helpers
2/24	The Evil Doers
	The Ideals
2/27	Andrew lafrate

## Where am I?

submitted anonymously

A father and daughter emailed to say they found last issue's curio "Ha Ha Ho Ho and Hee Hee" on a stroll through the neighborhood, but Kimberly Mancini was the first to identify it. "It's located in front of my old house at 3312 Cherrywood!"

This hydrant 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](mailto:textimage@mac.com). We will publish the location and name of the first correct response in the next issue of the Flea.



## 5th Annual Cherrywood Art Fair Is Most Successful Yet

By Jane Walton

If you were one of the 2,500 people who enjoyed the Cherrywood Art Fair in December, good for you! The folks I visited with as they left the Fair were unanimous—great artists, great music, great food, and a great family time was had by all. The 2006 Fair was the largest by far, in number of artists (56) and attendance. Maplewood Elementary was transformed for two days into a community art center, where children created a holiday mural, musicians captivated the crowds, artists showcased their talents, and happy shoppers garnered some distinctive holiday gifts. The Fair was produced by CHULA, the newly formed neighborhood non-profit that promotes arts and artful landscape in east Austin. CHULA board members were delighted to present a check for \$1000 to the Maplewood Elementary Arts program.

Jennifer Ober, art teacher at Maplewood said the check will be put to



Pictured in photo are Principal Luis Lazaro, Art teacher Jennifer Ober and CHULA board members Priscilla Boston, Kathy McTee, and Jane Walton.

good use, enabling her to purchase new equipment for her classes. Principal Lazaro expressed his thanks and said that the school is already looking forward to next year's event. In large part the donation to Maplewood

was made possible by a very successful silent auction, expertly organized by neighborhood volunteers Erika Allbright and Julie Stormberg. Of course, the auction would not have been possible without generous donations from the artists themselves, and from numerous neighborhood and Austin businesses, including Alamo Drafthouse, the Casserole Queens, C/C Imports, Eastside Café, El Chile, Fauna Petsitting Service, Spike Gillespie, Hoover's Cooking, Jake's Natural Foods, Vivo's, Home Steam, Paula Mixson, LMSW-ACP, Music Mania, Quack's Bakery, Sammie's Shoe Repair, and Mike Stefanik. Super special thanks to Accugraphics for donating our banners. When you patronize these businesses, let them know how much we appreciate their generosity to the Art Fair! Generous financial support from these sponsors made the Fair a reality: Catellus, Grande Communications, Steve Vinklarek of State Farm Insurance, Clarity Decisions LLC, Gene Johnson Automotive, Drake Automotive & Transmission, Clementine Coffee Bar, and (last but not least) Cherrywood Neighborhood Association. Their support not only made the donation to Maplewood possible, but will allow CHULA to make other creative grants in the coming months. Dedicated volunteers convert the Art Fair dream into reality each year. This year we want to offer special thanks to Richard Behal who coordinated logistics at Maplewood, including roping his friend Curtis Wilmsen into help with booth boundary markoff year after year after year; Mark and Beverly Schiff who worked setup miracles and provided unforgettable brownies; Mike Hurewitz and Michael Miller who lugged many a car load of artists' wares and Fair supplies into and out of Maplewood; Erika Allbright and Julie Stormberg who made the silent auction an overwhelming success;

Girard Kinney, Nance Bell and Deb Ziegler who managed to get all our artists signed in, organized, and installed in their booths despite the odds; Maddie Kadas and Kelly Miles, who made sure artists were well fed and happy, and decorated for the Fair; Karen LaShelle, Rebecca Kohout, Judean and Lona Nixon, Julie Meacham, Meg Brooks, Scheleen Walker, Madison Chesnut and Winona Youngblood who proudly wore CHULA aprons, gave artists a break, and generally kept the fair running smoothly; Jack Darby who took pictures; Melissa Gable and Christine Terrell who produced Art Fair and CHULA publicity materials at a ridiculously low rate, with incredible skill and unbelievable turnaround time; Wendy Morgan who kept us focused on our message, suggested publicity strategies and distributed our press releases. Music (coordinated by Cherrywood residents Luke Torn of Pop Culture Press and Craig High of the Boxcar Preachers ) was one of the highlights of the Fair. Thanks to Kathy Murray and Bill Jones, Joe McDermott (who kept a crowd of kids dancing, spellbound), porterdavis, Dave Madden, Troy Campbell (with brother Mike Campbell), Brian Byrne and Borrowed Time, Jimmy Lohman, Tricia Mitchell, Craig Marshall, The Coffee Sergeants, Rhett Lee, and Reid Watson. In five years, the Cherrywood Art Fair has grown from 12 artists to an honest-to-goodness Austin event, thanks to the dozens of volunteers that work tirelessly, hundreds of artists and businesses that donate, and thousands of people who attend. CHULA wants to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts to all of you, and GET READY to help us make the 2007 art fair better than ever. ☺

## Explore UT

by Lee Clippard

I'd like to invite you all over to our big neighbor on the other side of the highway, the University of Texas, to participate in the 8th annual Explore UT. This is the "Biggest Open House in Texas," and it's great fun for the entire family. There are over 300 programs and activities, including a robotic lighting extravaganza, training virtual teams of intelligent robot soldiers, serving as jurors during a mock trial of Gold E. Locks, delivering the TV news in a real broadcast studio, extracting DNA from plants using household products, and marching with the Longhorn Band. Best of all, it's free and it's an easy walk away!

**Explore UT!**

**Saturday, March 3  
11 am to 5 pm**



You can find a full list of events at [www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut](http://www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut) or at 471-7753. No need to register...just walk on over, rain or shine. ☺

## CHULA Holds 1st Annual Membership Meeting

By Priscilla Boston

The Cherrywood Urban Landscape and Arts (CHULA) League held its first annual membership meeting on November 13, 2006 at the home of Jane Walton. Seven residents of CHULA's target neighborhoods came, submitted applications for membership, and brainstormed possible new projects. Two members of CHULA's board of directors were in attendance and Kathleen McTee was re-elected as a board member for a 2 year term.

CHULA Chair Priscilla Boston provided background information on the history and purpose of CHULA. The following are some of the projects that were identified as possible next projects for CHULA.

» Directory of artists and landscapers in CHULA triangle

» History and heritage of the neighborhoods in artful maps or signs

» Art gallery/Art classes

» Planting in Patterson Park for beauty and erosion control

» Community garden/Gardening classes

» Umlauf-like area in Patterson Park

» Work on various islands in neighborhoods

» "Guerrilla" art projects (e.g. the signs to everywhere project in Wisconsin)

» Theater as art, relationships with Vanguard and Vortex

Currently, the Cherrywood Art Fair serves as CHULA's primary fund-raising mechanism. Neighbors are encouraged to join CHULA, for the low, low price of \$5/individual or family, \$20/business or \$100/patron. Send cash or check, along with your name, address, phone and email to CHULA P.O. Box 4283, Austin, Texas, 78765. Members will be notified by email (preferred) or via phone or mail re: meeting date and time. Be a part of CHULA's development! ☺

## Streetcar Dilemma

by Gordon Bennett

Will CapMetro's Board take a chance on a really good public transit system? It would cost more, and risk rejection by voters, so probably not. The Board is risk averse, and plans very conventionally. They think small in terms of better buses and wider streets. They might consider a rail project or two that looked to be not too expensive. But gaze 50 years into the future, imagine a regional network as good as Munich, Germany's, and plan accordingly? They seem to regard this as fantasy.

Austin faces a dilemma. Would a YES vote on one single streetcar line help or hurt? Would success with a limited experiment, however timid, embolden CapMetro to continue? Or would it be enough to satisfy them? How about a NO vote? Would it convince CapMetro of the need to propose more than a piecemeal solution? Or would it scare them away from rail altogether? Suppose you were a voter elsewhere in Austin. Would you approve an expensive streetcar for 78723, 78722, UT, and downtown?

Streetcars are bigger, quieter, carry more people, run on electricity, and (as in Portland) stimulate local businesses. CapMetro should look farther into the future. They should picture a system covering many parts of town and the region. They should ask voters in 2007 to approve the Manor Road part of the whole.

I see evidence the Board will put a streetcar referendum before the public this year. CapMetro thinks it's a good idea ([allsystemsgoconnections.org](http://allsystemsgoconnections.org)). Neighbors, Mueller, UT, Downtown and advocates of a mature regional rail network favor it. The begged question is how to secure voter approval. I think the way between the horns of the dilemma is to think ahead, regionally, and big. ☺

## CNA and Asbury

by Gordon Bennett and Rev. George Holcombe

By now you have seen the sign on the corner at 38½ & Cherrywood in front of Asbury United Methodist. The new medium joins [cherrywood.org](http://cherrywood.org), the Flea, and NeighborNet as a fourth way to keep us aware of local events. Walk or drive by regularly. At night it is lit.

Some messages will be from CNA—membership meeting, candidate forum, etc. Other messages will be from Asbury—a sermon here, a religious observance there. Still others will be from both—a potluck supper, a film night. In less busy weeks, look for pearls of wisdom contributed by neighbors or parishioners. Submit your own favorite saying to [asburyumc@grandecom.net](mailto:asburyumc@grandecom.net). You might be "published." Church and Cherrywood created the sign together. Some labor and craftsmanship were donated. The dollar cost was shared. It was a "coolaboration!" (apologies).

This project is very significant. Even at a surface level, it serves the partners' respective aims. Both groups' members can be reminded of goings-on that may have been announced but had slipped out of mind. Passers-by can know both entities are active in ways of possible interest. And at a deeper level, it strengthens a blossoming partnership. CNA is looking for ways to enrich residents' lives. Asbury is looking for ways to build a contemporary membership that prizes dialogue on moral, social, and political questions. It is far from your old time religion. It is a dynamic initiative directed not at proselytizing but at making the Church relevant. ☺



## Redeemed! CNA Planning And Zoning Committee

by Girard Kinney

On December 14th, at the eleventh hour, a compromise was finally reached between the community and Redeemer Presbyterian Church over the fate of the 11 acre site between Alexander and the railroad tracks and between MLK and Manor Road. Major features of the compromise include:

» The church will be able to build their church complex with its 60 foot sanctuary, somewhat south and east of its original location which was closer to Manor Road and Alexander Avenue.

» The balance of the 11 acre site retains the 40 foot height that was imposed several years ago as a conditional overlay by the Rosewood Planning Area Neighborhood Plan.

» Approximately 3 acres of the south portion of the site, and a 60 foot deep strip of property along Manor Road, will remain available for development and will not contain church-related uses.

» Parking and water detention facilities for the 60 feet along Manor Road will occur on the remaining church property so that the strip is completely available for development.

» The entire 11 acre site will be developed to conform to the recently adopted City of Austin Commercial Design Standards provide for more pedestrian and neighborhood friendly development.

A dedicated team of representatives from the Upper Boggy Creek, Rosewood and Chestnut Neighborhood Planning Areas worked for almost two years to achieve as many of the neighborhood and larger community goals for the site. The final push was led by Jane Rivera of the Rosewood Neighborhood, with support from Ora Houston, Bo McCarver, Scott Way, Rick Cofer and Girard Kinney, as well as many other supporters from each of the constituent neighborhoods.

The north end of the Redeemer site is at the epicenter of what many believe will be a major development area in the near future because it is the only place in Austin where (assuming current CapMetro plans) the commuter train will cross a possible streetcar line. The Redeemer team supports a proposal from Girard Kinney to partner with developers to produce a land-use plan for the Manor Road corridor near the railroad crossing that would preserve the character of the neighborhoods while allowing intensive development that can satisfy community and neighborhood goals and accommodate a considerable amount of transit-oriented development at this critical area. ↻

## Mueller Update

by Ryan Orendorf

### Revamping a Historic Piece of Mueller

The remediation of the Browning Hangar, the oldest surviving structure from Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, will begin this February. While the structural integrity of the 1930s-era bow-trussed hangar has far deteriorated, Catellus is making their best efforts to remediate the building for safe reuse. Depending on the results of this effort, the hangar's shell will be redeveloped after an adaptive reuse project for the space is chosen.

Have a big idea for a future use of this Mueller treasure? Send it to [info@muelleraustin.com](mailto:info@muelleraustin.com).

### A Closer Look at Mueller's First Greenway

Lace up your shoes and get the leash for the dog. Mueller's first park is a few steps closer to welcoming visitors and their pets

to the neighborhood's greenspace. Along the Northwest Greenway, the trail is under construction, pecan trees are being planted and a number of 30+ foot tall red oak trees are being relocated to the greenway from other areas of the former airport. A play-scape has also been installed featuring a swing set, shade canopies and a pavilion. Progress at Lake Park is also rolling right along with the lake excavated, the bridge installed and various rockwork underway.

### Construction update

Keep your hardhat on if you're strolling near Mueller anytime soon. Construction in all parts of the community continues to buzz in early 2007. Mueller Central should be complete by the end of January, the Northwest Greenway is scheduled to open in February

and the Lake Park Pond should be finished and filled in April. Homes in the first phase of residential development, about 360 single-family units, will be on the ground this summer.

Mueller developments to look forward to later in 2007 include the full Lake Park, the SW Greenway, the SW Neighborhood Park and Amenity Center and the second phase of residential development. ↻

### MuellerAustin.com

**Matt Whelan**, SVP, Mueller, 473-0400  
[mwhelan@prologis.com](mailto:mwhelan@prologis.com)

**Pam Hefner**, Principal Planner, City of Austin  
974-3511, [pam.hefner@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:pam.hefner@ci.austin.tx.us)

## KOOP COMMUNITY RADIO



Photo Credit: Nico Castellanos

KOOP community radio station 91.7 FM aired it's first broadcast from it's new studios located at 3823-B Airport Blvd. on December 9, 2006. Cherrywooders Jack Newman, Jim Walker and Dave Westenbarger celebrated with our new neighbors. Jars of cherries were presented as welcoming gifts to Executive Director Kim McCarson, Development Director Nico Castellanos, DJ Thomas Durnin and "Your Morning Man" Jay Robillard (shown above) DJ of KOOP's popular Lounge Show broadcast every Saturday morning at 10am. ↻

## People's Community Clinic

by Abby Williamson, MSW, Resource Development Associate

People's Community Clinic is a nonprofit healthcare clinic located on Cherrywood's western perimeter. The clinic's mission is to improve the health of uninsured and medically underserved Central Texas adults and children by providing high quality, affordable healthcare with respect and dignity. From prenatal care to elder-care, we offer our patients comprehensive health and wellness services. In addition to medical services, we focus on healthy lifestyles through education, counseling and nutrition programs. This preventive approach to wellness offers each patient the tools to make responsible decisions about his or her own care.

The clinic's history is a reflection of Austin's—from hippies to households. It was founded as People's Free Clinic in 1970 in the basement of the Congregational Church on Guadalupe across from the UT campus, by a handful of visionary volunteer doctors and nurses. Initially, the clinic served mostly college students and part-time workers, but today the demand for affordable primary care is much greater and PCC now serves as the medical home for over 11,000 Central Texans with little or no insurance.

Immediate neighbors will affirm that the clinic is well-used, if based only on the number of cars parked on the streets all around East 30th Street! We make every effort toward accessibility to our low-income patients; this includes an on-site lab and pharmacy and remaining open late into the night. We are currently open 56 hours a week, including four evenings.

The clinic is staffed by over eighty medical and administrative personnel, along with dozens of volunteers. In fact, several of our staff are also Cherrywood residents, including Executive Director Regina Rogoff. Others on staff include Lab Director Gilbert Carrasco-Miller,



Clinical Office Manager Sharon Lynch, Practice Manager Carole Perrine, Director of Social Services Robin Rosell, Nurse Maggie Taylor and Lab Technician James Seehafer.

If you're considering ways you might support the work of PCC, we have a few suggestions. You might give your time or talent as a volunteer. PCC uses volunteers to increase the capacity of nearly every department within the agency, from entering lab test results into the computer to analyzing financial statements.

One healthy and fun way for Cherrywood neighbors to support the Clinic's mission is to participate in the upcoming Statesman Capitol 10K, whether as a runner or volunteer. The race is Sunday, March 25. As one of two nonprofit beneficiaries, the clinic is charged with finding nearly one hundred volunteers to help with race logistics. To learn more about participating in the Capitol 10K race or about the Clinic's volunteer program, visit [www.austinpcc.org](http://www.austinpcc.org). Contact me at [abbyw@austinpcc.org](mailto:abbyw@austinpcc.org) with any questions.

We appreciate our location in the neighborhood and cherish the support of our Cherrywood neighbors. We offer tours of the clinic Tuesday mornings by appointment; we'd love to show you what we do! ↻

## On the Street Where You Live

For newcomers and those in the know, we ask you to pen a short piece about the latest news on your street. We welcome news about neighbors who make our community and others' lives better.

Gordon Bennett's account of the 4th Annual Kick Ass Awards presented to five Cherrywood denizens kicks off this feature. He captures the spirit of community when he writes: "I enjoyed attending the annual Kick Ass Awards at Book People. The mistress of ceremonies was journalist, author, educator and neighbor, Spike Gillespie. In fact, the award itself was her creation and her signature playfulness is a masterful understatement. Sculpted on the trophy is a swift boot to an equine tush."

Spike explains "The awards started out years ago as a way for me to honor my friends on my birthday and it just grew from there. Nominations are informal and can be sent at anytime to me at [spike@spikeg.com](mailto:spike@spikeg.com). Each winner is chosen for one of two reasons: because they make a big difference in the lives of others or are friends of mine who help make my life better."

Among the honorees were Rev. George Holcombe & his wife, Wanda of Asbury United Methodist Church, Rupert Reyes of Teatro Vivo, Connie Ryan of Central Family Practice and artist Pascal Simon. As Gordon notes, "None of these folks' neighbors will have any trouble understanding why. Congrats all around!" ↻



Spike Gillespie & trophies



Artist Pascal Simon

Photo(s) Credit: Julie Wylie

During a 2 years stint in the North Carolina Public School System, representing the Teach for America program, Brent Lyles met Amy Averitt. When his then girlfriend, moved to Austin, this musician and young man followed both of his loves west. Brent has lived on Dancy Street with his wife, and later his son, for 7 years.

Our neighbor, also known by his air guitar alter-ego "Dirt", is gearing up for 2 major events during the Annual SxSW Festival in March. Ladies and Gentlemen, put your hands together for Brent Lyles!

**JE: Most of us have memories of doing air guitar as a kid, but you are a professional air guitarist.**

BL: I competed last year for the first time and I went through 2 qualifying events.

First round I competed in I didn't make it to the qualifying round, but the second time I did. So last year I got to compete in the Austin Guitar Competition....and got spanked, completely, it was kind of sad. BUT it gave me the resolve to go back again this year.

**What initially inspired you to compete and how is that different, from competing, getting the bug and returning after a "spanking"?**

Have you ever seen an air guitar competition? It's fun. That's the core of it, it's fun. It's also sitting there in the audience and saying "That guy sucked, I could do this better than him. I mean c'mon, he's not even choosing a very good song", you know? Anyone who has sat through an air guitar competition has said, "I can do that". So immediately the wheels started turning, and the next thing I knew I was on stage.

**What era of air guitar do you do? And is dry ice involved?**

I have not yet tapped into the potential of dry ice. People love the 70's stuff, I'm intrigued by it. Björn Töuroque, my air guitar idol, had this failed contraption made for his sleeve, so he could create this circle effect when doing the windmill.

People also love the 80's, I mean. Eddie VanHalen?! I've seen all kinds of stuff, I've seen Stevie Ray Vaughn, I've seen people do Flamenco. The song I really like to use is "Soul City" by Southern Culture on the Skids (SCOTS). They are this North Carolina-based swamp-rock, trashabilly rock & roll trio. So that's not the 70's heavy metal dry ice thing.

**Pete Townsend is the keynote speaker at SxSW, do you think there will be a lot of "PT" at the competition?**

Well wouldn't it be a coup if we could get Pete to the finals, come on stage and do the "windmill"?!

**In your opinion, who is the greatest (non-air) guitarist?**

For someone I would want to play along to, Rick Miller from SCOTS. But just to listen to...I was listening to Frank Zappa the other day and he is just amazing. I mean some of the music he did was unlistenable, but he was always pushing the boundaries of art.

**You are also involved in SxSW with your Tribute Band?**

Just like any half-assed musician in Austin, my dream is to perform at SxSW. So, here I am part of this band called The Lowelies (a tribute to the fairly obscure Nick Lowe) and found out about all these other tribute bands in town. One thing led to another and

I create a page on MySpace called "The Greater Austin Area Association of Tribute Bands," totally made up, and all of a sudden I'm getting all these friend requests: "Dude, we cover Iron Maiden man, can we be one of your friends?" And sure enough it snowballs and now we have a marathon set up at SxSW this year.

We currently have 9 bands signed up and its going to be a benefit for the Austin Music Foundation on the Saturday during SxSW at Ego's.

**What would you say to kids who aspire to become Air Guitarists?**

Stay in school, don't do drugs, and follow your dreams.

**And on that note...**

*Dirt has left the building.*



**Brent Lyles  
(a.k.a. Dirt)**

*Interview by Jennifer Elsner*

*Photography by Alina Prax  
www.ladolcevitaphoto.com*

# *Our Neighbor*

**How fierce is the competition?**

Well, last year, there was a high level of excellence and that's why I got spanked. I had no idea what I was getting into.

**There are people who take this very seriously, but what about the curious or drunk people who just get up one night?**

Oh, there are some who take it very seriously. They plan their routines, they have costumes, have roadies and have a whole story arc built into their performances... BUT they're drunk too. There is this equation in the air guitar community that goes: A to the 3rd power equals "Max Air". Three drinks gets you maximum "airness". If you have too many beers, you are just drunk, and if you have too little, you haven't found your path. It is rare to compete in air guitar sober.

**What about the groups? Are they invisible?**

I have a lot of AG groups for Dirt, some of them are invisible and some follow me around in my day-to-day life. They cheer me on. I'm still waiting for my non-air, Brent Lyles' groups...it's okay, I'm married.

## CNA Steering Committee

by David Greene

Three new faces, and two familiar ones, joined the Steering Committee (SC) at the November quarterly meeting of the CNA: Wade McElroy, Summer McKee, Mark Schiff, Gordon Bennett and Harold Cook. They join six current SC members, but two vacancies remain. People considering getting involved with the neighborhood should contact Jennifer Elsner at [textimage@mac.com](mailto:textimage@mac.com) or simply attend our upcoming February meetings to check things out and share your thoughts and ideas.

At the January meeting of the Steering Committee, members thanked outgoing Chair Jack Newman and secretary Jennifer Elsner. Jack's leadership over the past year has seen a revitalizing of the SC with many new faces (and improved attendance) and constructive attention to many issues of traffic, safety, and beautification along the 38½ Street corridor. He stays on as an active SC member. Jennifer continues in service to Cherrywood as Flea editor and Nominations chair. Thanks again to Jack and Jennifer, as well as to Rebecca Kohout who continues on as Treasurer.

Brian Keenan, who joined the SC late last year and quickly stepped up to help with Flea deliveries and safety matters, is moving out of the area, forcing him to resign long before he burned out. We wish him well!

The new SC officers are David Greene, chair; Summer McKee, vice-chair; Amy Brotman, secretary, and Rebecca Kohout, treasurer. We inherit a robust organization, let's see what we can add to it. First up: reactivating committees. Again, join us to share your ideas and thoughts. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month, 6:30–8:00, at a local eatery. Check out the calendar at [cherrywood.org](http://cherrywood.org) to confirm location. Hope to see you soon. ☺

## CHIP

by Rev. George Holcombe

In 2005, Texas religious communities sent more than 20,000 postcards to Governor Perry and other lawmakers asking them to restore funding and benefits that were cut from the Children's Health Insurance Program. Lawmakers responded with partial fixes... but they also made other changes that have resulted in huge enrollment cuts in CHIP and Children's Medicaid. Texas leads the nation in uninsured kids. More than one in every five Texas kids lacks health insurance, and we could cut that number in half if all eligible kids were enrolled in CHIP and Medicaid.

Investment in CHIP and Medicaid positively impact our states economy. Cutting CHIP and Medicaid has shifted the cost of the uninsured to businesses, local governments, and communities. In Texas, employer health insurance premiums are \$1,551 higher due to the unpaid cost of health care for the uninsured.

Please read the CHIP flyer and send in the post card. The children, the poor, our businesses and finally all of us lose when our kids lack health care. We can all get behind demanding our legislature act to fully restore Children's Health Insurance Program by sending this post card through Texas Impact. If you need more post cards you can come by our office or contact Texas Impact at [texasimpact.org/drupal/backontrack](http://texasimpact.org/drupal/backontrack). We can get Texas back on track with children's healthcare. ☺

## Regime Change Begins At Home

by Isabelle Headrick

When I first moved into this neighborhood seven years ago, Patterson Park was a very different place than it is now. The playground was a shambles and a nightmare for the parents of toddlers. There were no baby swings, and the surface was hard, dirty sand with the occasional unsavory plastic wrapping buried therein. The baby pool was unshaded and brutally hot. There was no trail, but a narrow cow-path that swung precariously around and, in the case of at least one unfortunate jogger, straight into a sewer drain hole.

Yet even then Patterson Park had a certain magical quality of a truly inner-city park, a place that brought people from all sorts of backgrounds into the same space to enjoy different uses. Patterson has always, since I have known it, belonged to the people of the East side, even as it was underused by the people of the surrounding neighborhoods.

In January 02 I organized the first meeting of Friends of Patterson Park. It was, on my part, a powerful testament to the force that drives batty stay-at-home moms to get

out and sit in a room with just grownups (grownups!) all while feeling like we are making the world a better place for our children and—let's face it—an easier place for parents.

Within a few short years, a team of dedicated neighbors had a shade built over the baby pool, staved off a proposed regional tennis center that would have devoured a third of the park, got PARD to put in a new playground designed with community input, secured funding for a new jogging trail, and mobilized a group of volunteers to maintain the trail. As a result, Patterson has become a weird and wonderful combination of a park deeply connected to both the neighborhoods that border it and people in those beyond.

Now my boys have moved from the playground to the loftier pursuits of tennis, skateboarding, and playing in dirt. I am moving on too to other interests, and am ready to turn the leadership of FoPP over to someone else. More needs to be done, and I feel that the good and necessary things we've talked about over the years (pool,

tree preservation, movie nights, etc) can be brought to fruition. I have always loved Patterson's vitality and friendliness to a diversity of people and uses, and I dearly hope a new leadership of FoPP will help ensure that those things continue.

If you love the park—if you take your new baby or toddler to the playground—if you jog on the trail—if you would like to see the park become even better—then please consider joining the steering committee or becoming a leader of FoPP. Show up at our next meetings on February 5 and March 5. If you have any questions, call me at 499-0621 or write [isanews@texas.net](mailto:isanews@texas.net).

In other news: this past fall the Austin Public Skatepark Association proposed the installation of a "skate spot" (i.e. a low-slung halfpipe for young skaters to practice on) in Patterson. Due to overwhelmingly positive response from the local listserves, FoPP gave the project its support. Depending on funding we anticipate that the spot will be constructed sometime this spring between the tennis and basketball courts. For more information, please visit [cherrywood.org](http://cherrywood.org). ☺



## BLUE RIBBON YARD

by Leslie Vieau

The winner of the Winter Cherrywood Blue Ribbon Yard contest is the home of Tiffany Rasco and Ron Fredericks at 1705 East 38th Street. The yard is graceful, understated, shady, and green in winter. There are lots of plantings. The unusual yard looks different from different angles as it spreads around a big corner curve. The backyard is on Giles, but not easily visible from the street through a vine-covered fence. If you get up close, there is even more of interest, including three statues by T. Paul Hernandez. This is a very impressive, well maintained yard. Tiffany and Ron will receive a Gift Certificate from the wonderful Shoal Creek Nursery. Congratulations! ☺

Photo Credit: Dolly Ensey

## Tree Planting & Keeping Green

by Mike Damal

Last October, eight volunteers planted 28 trees in our tenth annual Cherrywood Tree Planting, our grand total number of trees planted is now 273!!

While the majority of trees planted are the responsibility of individual homeowners/tenants to maintain, we have many trees planted on Cherrywood Green, the Concordia Triangle, and Willowbrook Reach that also need some care. We are looking for volunteers to help maintain our greenspaces—these spaces are not maintained by the city, if we don't do it, no one will, so it is imperative that volunteers help maintain these spaces.

I am organizing a list of volunteers to help us throughout the year to mow/maintain/water these spaces. If you have access to a mower and/or weedeater, that would be ideal for mowing. If not, you still can volunteer to help water the newly planted trees, or do a periodic litter pick up. None of this is hard work, and it is very rewarding to do an act of "community service" in maintaining our green areas. I have done clean up in these areas, and the positive comments and help I have received from neighbors has been most gratifying!!

The idea is to have a virtual list via the NeighborNet, if you are interested please contact me at [mdamal@peoplepc.com](mailto:mdamal@peoplepc.com) or 478-9622 and I'll put you on the list. Make it a New Year's resolution to volunteer one month this year in one of our green spaces! ☺



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## HOME OWNER'S UPDATE

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

Winter 2007

### Taking Care of the Plumbing

**Frozen Pipes:** If your pipes aren't frozen too badly, try turning the faucets upside down with a wrench, then pouring a gallon of boiling, salted water down the faucet.  
**Leaking Pipes:** Know where the main valve that brings water to your house is and know how to shut it off. In the event of a broken water pipe, this will be your first action. Finding and correcting the leak can then proceed. If the leak is in the hot-water system, turn off the electricity to the hot-water heater.

### Bit of Feng Shui

#### Staircase Construction

*Staircases should curve gently from one floor to the next and be brightly lit to encourage chi to flow upstairs in a slow and meandering fashion. The steps should not have empty spaces between them since this causes good luck to seep away. Close up the spaces with solid wood to preserve the family's future.*



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### MARKET ANALYSIS

#### FOR THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

Active listings in Cherrywood:

3712 Robinson Ave - 3/1; 1,302 sf.  
2313 Lafayette - 2/1; 1,652 sf.  
3208 Merrie Lynn Ave - 3/2; 1,500 sf.  
4006 Cherrywood Rd. - 2/2; 1,356 sf.  
3505 Hollywood Ave - 3/2; 1,917 sf.  
1602 Edgewood Ave - 3/2; 1,979 sf.

Sq. ft. numbers are generally from the Travis County Tax records. These numbers are not guaranteed. If you would like to view any of the above homes, contact Rebecca for a private viewing at 415-9876.

### HOUSING STATISTICS FOR CHERRYWOOD

**Current Homes for Sale - 6**

Average size in sq ft - 1,618

Average price - \$299,983

Average price per sq ft - \$188.21

Average days on the market - 35

**Homes with Contracts Pending - 5**

Average size in sq ft - 1,118

Average price - \$257,760

Average price per sq ft - \$231.11

Average days on the market - 70

**Homes Sold since Oct. 1, 2006 - 11**

Average size in sq ft - 1,200

Average price - \$261,699

Average price per sq ft - \$220.53

Average days on the market - 43



Average prices and values vary widely within our neighborhood boundaries. For a professional analysis of how your home fits into this market contact Rebecca, your neighborhood specialist, for an appointment.

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.