



Friends of Patterson Park

by Brennan Hensley

I am very pleased to announce that we had a great turn out on *It's My Park Day*. People actually came out to volunteer despite the unforgivable wind we had to endure all day!

There were various projects being worked on throughout the day including weeding on the trail, painting picnic tables, re-sanding the volleyball court and a presentation of an incredible mosaic. If you stayed to the end you could enjoy some famous Elgin sausage.

Isabelle Headrick, Mark Smolen and Priscilla Boston were honored with a mosaic of the park as a "Thank You" for all their hard work and time they have devoted to FoPP. The mosaic, designed by Anna Borne, will be displayed near the playscape. Next time you are enjoying the park stop by to see it.



The three picnic tables at the southwest end of the park were painted by volunteers and artists. There are three fabulous designs by Joolie Bracken, Girard Kinney and Anna Borne who won the CHULA contest. You will have to pack a picnic and go enjoy the art!

The final piece of the trail by the church has been completed. The new trees have been planted and now it is our turn to keep it looking good. Volunteers worked on weeding and raking the trail but there is still a lot to be done. Weeding the trail should be done as often as possible and if everyone picked one weed it would always look great. If you would like to volunteer to work on the trail contact Mark Smolen at 499-0621 or smolen@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks to all those who came out and helped on *It's My Park Day*. Our park looks great and it is rewarding to see so many people enjoying all it has to offer.

Friends of Patterson Park meets the second Monday of the month at Genesis Presbyterian Church at 7:30, if you have an idea or would like to help with a project please join us. ☺



TOP TO BOTTOM: Isabelle Headrick, Priscilla Boston and Mark Smolen receiving kudos for their dedication; Beverly Schiff, Girard Kinney and Mark Schiff at the "Armadillo" Table; "Faces" Tables painted by Kelly Miles; "Guadalupe" Table by Anna Borne

May 2007
Volume 12, Number 3
The Quarterly Newsletter of
the Cherrywood Neighborhood
Association
cherrywood.org

Cherrywood Neighborhood Quarterly Meeting

"Vertical Mixed Use" vote on agenda — article inside

Wednesday
May 16
6:30—8:00pm

Maplewood Elementary
School Library
Open to all residents
of Cherrywood.

Cherrywood Calendar

May

5/9 6:30 CNA Steering Committee at Asbury UMC
 5/13 10:00 Second Sunday at Asbury UMC (Food Bank Collection)
5/16 6:30 CNA Quarterly Meeting at Maplewood Elementary

June

6/10 10:00 Second Sunday at Asbury UMC (Food Bank Collection)
 6/13 6:30 CNA Steering Committee (meeting place TBD)
 6/14 1:00 Flag Day, Presentation to Fire Station #14
 6/15 7:00 Family Movie Night, Patterson Park
 6/23 2:00 Dell Children's Medical Center open house

July

7/8 10:00 Second Sunday at Asbury UMC (Food Bank Collection)
 7/11 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

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
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More details at cherrywood.org click on **committees**

From the Chair

When Kurt Vonnegut passed away in April, I recalled that his first work I read was not *Slaughterhouse-Five* or *Cat's Cradle*, but was a provocative essay wondering if the doctrine "Love thy Neighbor" might have been better translated using the word 'Respect'. "Love is simply too strong a word to be of much use in ordinary day-to-day relationships," he wrote. Love, he argued, engages a whole spectrum of emotions: an inability to love defaults to just liking, failing that becomes ignoring, failing that becomes hating, and failing that becomes bloodthirst. Conversely, he concluded, "respect is like a light switch. It is either on or off." Failure to "respect" carries no baggage of heated action other than (my words here) fervent worship of St. Aretha (who played Bass Concert Hall last month as well... coincidence?).

Which brings us to Cherrywood. (Bloodthirst, indeed! Ha!). How's our neighborly respect these days? If respect is both a precursor and result of collaborative work to improve Cherrywood—you'll grant me that much, right?—then I'd say we're doing alright.

A scan of the NeighborNet or this Flea details new initiatives among the usual suspects: monthly film nights, creek clean-ups, park work days, and—admittedly my pet project—a neighborhood climate action project. I'll have more in the Flea and the NeighborNet in coming weeks on this effort to craft a neighborhood response to the Mayor's Climate Plan. The question, as always—what's your pet project? And who else might want to work on it? The neighborhood association is here to help you make those connections. If we're doing our job—or not—let us know. Finally, a welcome to a new neighbor and interim Steering Committee member Tom Wald. You may have seen his NeighborNet posts on transportation matters—look for more from him. Better yet, come meet him and your other neighbors at this month's General Meeting, where those in attendance will be asked to formally vote him (meeting place TBD) onto the Steering Committee. And make Kurt proud.

Respectfully — David

Attention Cherrywooders

by Rick Cofer

With new development springing up all over town and thousands of people moving in around us over the next few years, now is the perfect time to get involved with our neighborhood association. Serving the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association by way of committee work is great way to help preserve the character of our community and make sure that Cherrywood is as great tomorrow as it is today.

There are several ways you can help. If you want to immerse yourself in our neighborhood issues, serving on the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee can be a wonderful opportunity. The Steering Committee meets monthly and is our neighborhood's official voice at City Hall and around Austin.

Another way to help is by chairing or serving on one of our neighborhood's many committees. In particular, our neighborhood needs folks to chair and serve on the following committees: Transportation, Public Safety, Finance, Welcoming/Community, and Parks.

Transportation Committee Serving on this committee is especially important in 2007. We'll be voting on a proposed trolley line down Manor Road, and making important long-term decisions about our transit future.

Public Safety Helping keep in contact with the Austin Police Department, helping with our neighborhood watch, and working with surrounding businesses and property owners on public safety issues.

Finance Chairing or serving on this committee means you'll be helping direct spending priorities for our neighborhood, and developing new ways to generate revenue.

Welcoming/Community Ensuring every new resident a hearty hello. Chairing or serving on this committee also means working with the Steering Committee on programming great events for our neighborhood.

Parks Organizing clean ups, recommending landscaping and maintenance, and ensuring that each of us can enjoy every park to its fullest potential.

If you're interested in serving on the Steering Committee or on any of these committees, please contact an officer of the Steering Committee or Gordon Bennett at gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu.



Blue Ribbon Yard

by Leslie Vieau

We had a very close contest this quarter, with five wonderful yards. The winner by one vote was the home of Erin Allen at 3506 Robinson.

The yard is filled with a series of xeriscaped beds separated by gravel pathways. The plantings and trees of varying heights create a lovely palette of textures, and the pathways lead you gently toward the comfortable porch.

Thanks, Erin, for the inspiration you provide! She will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Mike and Veronica Sewell of Shoal Creek Nursery. Congratulations!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT AT PATTERSON PARK PAVILLION

sponsored by CHULA (Cherrywood Urban Landscape and Arts) League

June 15th (June 22nd rain date)

7 PM for food, live music, and fun

Movie at dusk

Save this date on your calendar!

Cherrywood.org

Cherrywood maintains an informative Web site: cherrywood.org (nothing else needed — this is recognized). At the top, you'll find a Calendar of local events. On the left, you'll find *Film Nights*, a *Library* of useful downloads, the popular *Recommendations* list (babysitters, plumbers, etc.), and many other links. This is our neighborhood information vault.

Also you'll find NeighborNet, our C'wood listserv with 705 subscribers. You can post messages, 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 after midnight); (3) read messages at the Web site (no e-mail).

If you were subscribed this quarter, you learned of: Blue-Ribbon yard voting, city policies that affect us, exercise classes in the 'hood, local burglaries, local development projects, local park news, lost pets, reminders of meeting times, summer camps for kids, things for sale, or needed. And much more. Share your opinion (of local concerns). Stay informed. Become involved. We're a village.

Questions? Contact gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

UBC Clean Up

Neighbors Mike, Mindy, Allison and Katie Roeder cleaned up a portion of the Upper Boggy Creek together with the Birdsongs, Hensleys, Aaron Choate, Lee Clippard, Gael Sherman and Dave Westenbarger during Keep Austin Beautiful's Clean Sweep in April.



The Roeder family

Delwood Duplexes to be added to the National Register of Historic Places

by Hannah Vaughan

The Delwood Duplexes, that enclave of distinctive two-story stucco buildings along Maplewood, Kirkwood, Wrightwood, and Ashwood, will soon be listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as the Delwood Duplex National Register Historic District. To be eligible for listing in the NRHP, properties must possess significance—a connection to a broader pattern of history or an architectural movement—and integrity—the ability to convey their historic period.

Constructed in 1948 by the Delwood Development Corporation, the duplexes are significant for their association with the post-World War II housing boom. Built during a time when new homes and entire neighborhoods were springing up all over Austin, the duplexes represent a unique example of multifamily housing built primarily for rental to serve the needs of moderate-income families.

There are 77 duplexes and 62 garages in the district. Remarkably, none of the duplexes have ever been torn down. Some use the identifier “Duplex Nation,” however, because this name appeared within the past twenty years, the historic district will be called “Delwood Duplex” to better reflect its historic name.

The nomination process involves extensive research and documentation to build a case for significance, as well as a thorough survey of the neighborhood to determine the level of integrity by documenting changes over time. After the nomination is complete, it must pass the Texas State Board of Review. The Board met in January and recommended the district for listing. The nomination will soon be forwarded to the National Park Service, which is responsible for listing in the National Register. Property owners within the district may order a plaque to place on their properties through the Texas Historical Commission.

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places is primarily an honorific designation. It does not carry any restrictions or review process for changes to a property. It does, however, provide a level of protection from federally funded projects that might negatively impact the district, such as highway expansion. Should the neighborhood choose to pursue a City of Austin “Local Historic District” designation, which provides a higher level of protection along with some restrictions on the owner’s rights to make changes the property, the NRHP listing would be an advantage.

A UT graduate student initiated the nomination of the neighborhood for a class in Historic Preservation. A student in the same class nominated the Wilshire Historic District, so we can expect our neighbors to the north to receive their listing at the same time. The Delwood Duplex historic district will join other Austin residential neighborhoods listed in the NRHP including Clarksville, Hyde Park, Old West Austin, Rainey Street, and West Line. 🐸



The Reverend George Holcombe, of Asbury United Methodist Church, poses with their brand new sign at the dedication ceremony in March.

BEAUTIFYING MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INSIDE AND OUT

by Wendy L. Morgan

The teachers and parents at Maplewood have taken serious action this school year to make Maplewood Elementary School look GREAT! Thanks to hard-working students, parents, and teachers, we have:

- » planted a butterfly garden under the library windows
- » planted and mulched several other gardens for classrooms all around the campus
- » painted the portable buildings that house many of our students
- » created a vibrant mural on the main wall of the cafeteria
- » built a dedicated science lab and teachers’ workroom

Two teachers, Jen Ober and Kelli Kirk, led the gargantuan effort to paint our portable buildings. Dedicated workers power washed, prepped, and painted the institutional-looking buildings, converting them from drab brown into vibrant shades of blue, purple, and orange.

The same teachers headed an after-school class of 3rd – 6th graders who transformed the school’s cafeteria into Patterson Park by creating a vibrant mural across the main wall. Their next project is a series of murals for the newly painted portable buildings!

In addition, we built a dedicated science lab and a bistro-like workroom for the teachers. People who made sure these two projects moved from idea to reality include Dr. Pauline Walker, Kinder teacher and science guru; parent volunteers; and Holly Holubec, Assistant Principal.

Unfortunately, the renovations funded by the AISD Bond Program have been messy and slow-moving, which has been painful for students and staff alike. In February, parents met with AISD to discuss a list of 40 serious concerns regarding student safety, disruptions during school, and the destruction of the campus. While some issues have been addressed, most have not; work will continue long into the summer.

Our heartfelt thanks to the following people and businesses that supported our beautification projects: Tom Horn of the Paint Recycling Center; Arrow Paint and Supply; Lowes on Stassney Lane; Rosemary Salazar through the 21st Century Grant; PTA Wellness Team, using money raised from school directory ad sales; many generous and passionate parents and staff; and David Mills and the thirty University of Texas Wranglers. 🐸

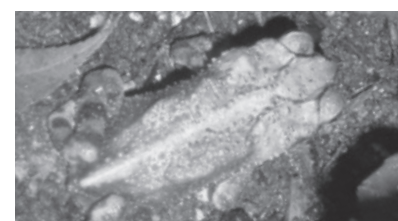
Backyard Paradise for Rocky the Frog

by Dana Franks

While some enjoy nicely groomed front yards, others prefer to enjoy the privacy of their backyards that no passersby are able to see. We built this small but serene rock garden in our backyard, and the frogs have moved into it.

We have one we call “Rocky.” He has lived in our garden for a year. Although he takes his vacations down by the creek, he (or she) enjoys luxuries other family frogs may not enjoy. During the hot summer months, Rocky would come out for his daily bath when I watered the garden each day; frogs absorb moisture through their tough skins. When he had his fill, back in his little froggie hole he’d go.

I was fortunate enough to get pictures of Rocky enjoying his dinner in our Zen garden. I feed him a worm daily, or whenever I see him. He lets me get close to him but hates being picked up. With the right environment, frogs can live up to 25 years.



Unfortunately, our frog population is dwindling due to the many insecticides used to kill bugs and other pests. So please watch what you sprinkle or spray in your yards, because you may also be killing frogs which, by the way, eat mosquitoes and other bugs. 🐸

Zen and the Art of Litter Pickup

by Mike Damal

On March 31st, despite heavy rains the previous few days, nine hardy Cherrywood volunteers cleaned up Willowbrook Reach while four others spent close to two hours weeding and mulching the flowerbeds at Cherrywood Green. Thanks to Nine Francois, Barb Cull, and Tina Brown for their help with the flowerbeds!

Just a few years ago, such an outpouring of volunteers would have been unlikely. In the late 90s, Manor Road was such an eyesore that I often told people coming to my house to take 32nd Street instead. Back then, I coordinated monthly cleanups along Manor Road with Bennett Donovan. At times only Bennett and I would show up, or two or three other people would join us. We routinely picked up 10 or more large garbage bags of trash, sometimes finding needles and condoms among the litter. Manor Road has come a long way since then; while by no means pristine, it is relatively clean, with a vibrant business area. Now neighborhood focus has deservedly been placed on East 38 ½ Street.

Over the 15 years I have lived in Cherrywood, I have witnessed a dramatic

change for the better. I believe the draw for many people coming to this neighborhood has been the opportunity to make something better. A simple act like picking up litter on the street is an uncomplicated yet powerful work of community and empowerment. The effort is not that great, but the change made is powerful. Cleaning up one of our common spaces—Concordia Triangle, Willowbrook Reach, Patterson Park, and Cherrywood Green—builds community. Neighbors have joined me spontaneously when I’m picking up litter on Cherrywood or maintaining our common areas.

Consider doing a small litter pick up yourself. You can do it while walking the dog, or even choose an area to clean up once a month. I guarantee that you’ll feel the better for it—there are few things that have such a positive impact for so such little effort!

If you’d like to “officially” volunteer to help water, mow, or clean up Concordia Triangle or Cherrywood Green, please contact me at 478-9622 or mdamal@peoplepc.com. Unofficial volunteers are always welcome too! Nina? 🐸

IS THAT A VEGETABLE GARDEN IN YOUR FRONT YARD???

by j muzacz

Walking down Dancy on a sunny spring day sometimes feels like a jungle. Birds sing and scream overhead, the trees glassy glistening, the smell so sweet of herbs and wildly groomed overgrown flower beds. People in this hood KNOW how to garden. And like most recreational yard workers, aesthetic attractiveness and functionality are mine and Austin Green Art’s primary goals for their new edible estate front yard art vegetable gardens, too. (You may know me or any of my 7 musical housemates through our front yard winter vegetable garden abundance, OR from Nosy, a 17foot long green Brontosaurus made of trash, aptly right across from the Growing Tree’s playground.) The front yard vegetable garden design is nothing new (just Google Fritz Haeg’s Edible Estates, already completed in suburban Kansas, California) so take back your outdoor space by getting a little dirty in the name of homegrown organic produce, and grant your soul some necessary grounding and solitude in the process. Yup, the front yard vegetable garden trend is contagious. And healthy. And FUN!

Basically, the outdated English manor method of portraying one’s wealth via the amount of lawn a single household can WASTE by having nothing but pesticide sippin’ over-mown grass around the house will not cut it anymore. Especially when the dinner table COULD be filled up by a heaping salad made with lettuce and tomatoes picked fresh from your own lawn, or sautéed rosemary carrots and onions freshly unearthed from the previously weed-wrought sunny spot you neglected up until now.

Already in central Austin, five art gardens have been planted and are being documented for their productivity, efficiency, and overall drive-by appeal. So let Austin Green Art know if you already grow veggies, fruits and herbs in your yard, or contact the Sustainable Food Center if you need to borrow tools or want some seeds, tips or extra help starting, even a modest and manageable 3ft x 3ft farm in your front yard. Grow Cherrywood Weird! And donate all your scrap wood, chicken wire and cardboard to me, neighbor/artist, J Muzacz if you’d like to see a dino soar from your scraps! Let’s re-appropriate the phrase greenpeace while we’re at it too, huh everybody? 🐸

www.sustainablefoodcenter.org

www.austingreenart.org

www.jmuzacz.com

CNA Planning And Zoning Committee

by Girard Kinney

There have been a variety of zoning and conditional overlay issues in Cherrywood during the last three months, several of which are ongoing.

Redeemer Presbyterian Church In concert with representatives of other neighborhoods around the site, Cherrywood has an agreement that the north and south ends of the site are available for mixed use development. We should expect that this section of Manor Road to result in an eventual "village center" with many new residents, ground floor retail and pedestrian friendly streetscape.

Concordia Site Cherrywood supported the concept of the redevelopment of this site as a dense, mixed use, node including the proposed towers on the site, CONDITIONAL upon several important things, including the provision of a robust affordable housing component and the solving of the obvious implied traffic problems with street improvements, bus connections and future streetcar and commuter rail connections. The City Council approved the project, and while

through noble efforts by all parties many of the concerns of the immediately adjacent neighborhoods will be met, it is not apparent that major concerns of Cherrywood are adequately addressed in the final agreement.

St. David's Cell Tower At this writing, site preparation has begun for the construction of a 100 foot cell tower at the northeast corner of IH35 and E30th St. Because the applicant had exhausted options to relocate the equipment from a St David's church building to sites west of IH35, CNA negotiated with the applicants for a Conditional Use Permit to allow this tower CONDITIONAL on the preservation/re-use of the delightful bungalow at the corner, provision of adequate off-street parking for any future use on this site, successful relocation of the low-income resident of the garage apartment that had to be razed and assurance that the cellular equipment on the tower will provide much better cellular service and eventual wireless internet capability for our neighborhood.

Tornado Bus Co. IH35 Site Through a perplexing series of missteps, a bus service exists without proper permit on the Longhorn

Glass Company site, north of Edgewood. Incidents of vandalism and break-ins that arose last year along Robinson Street and along East 38.5th Street all combined to cause suspicion that the existence of the bus station was at least partly to blame for some of these problems, and the fact that it was operating without the proper permit was anonymously reported to the City.

Although the bus company feels strongly that its passengers are not responsible for the crime in the area, it is working with the P&Z to address problems such as noise and light buffering at the perimeter of the site, bollards to prevent the use of the site for parking of semi truck drivers who frequent the adult business abutting to the north, and other issues over which it has control. Currently the recent application for the permit expired, and the applicant will have to file a new application.

There are a variety of other zoning matters being addressed by the Committee.

Contact girard@kinneyarchitects.com, or at 478-5042 for information on any pending matters or to join the P&Z Committee. ↻

Mueller Update

by Ryan Orendorf

Visit Mueller Central

The Mueller Central information center is now open. Learn more about all things Mueller at 4550 Mueller Blvd. and Aldrich St. Visit MuellerAustin.com for operating hours.

Seton Plans Headquarters at Mueller

The Seton Family of Hospitals announced earlier this spring its plans to make Mueller the home of its consolidated administrative headquarters. This will make Seton the primary tenant in an office building near the future town center. Catellus will develop the 150,000-square-foot building to be constructed on 3.25 acres south of the Dell Children's Medical Center. The building is part of a planned mixed-use project for the area that will include residences adjacent to the Northwest Greenway. Seton anticipates relocating between 650 to 750 employees in departments such as administrative leadership, human resources, facilities, advocacy and planning to the new offices.

Come See the New Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas Before it Opens!

Mueller neighbors are invited to tour the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas on Sunday, June 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. in advance of the facility's opening June 30th. When the doors officially open on June 30, the approximately 475,000-square-foot, 170-bed facility will also be the first hospital in the world seeking designation of Platinum Status under the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council.

When completed, Dell Children's will be three times larger than the current Children's Hospital. The total cost of the project is \$200 million. For more information and an update on the construction visit future.childrenshospital.com.

The Ronald McDonald House at Mueller

Construction is underway on the future home away from home for families of children being cared for at Austin-area medical centers including patients at the Dell Children's Hospital of Central Texas. The Ronald McDonald House at Mueller will soon finish erecting the steel infrastructure for the more than 31,000 square-foot house. Once the infrastructure is complete, floors and walls will begin going up to create 30 private rooms, administrative offices and community gathering spaces. Stay tuned as this new home takes shape and gets ready to start serving its first families later this year.

Mueller's Parks are Springing to Life

Everyone who visited Mueller Central earlier this spring saw the large hole being prepared just outside. That hole is now filled with water to create a 6.5-acre lake, the premier amenity for the future Lake Park. This lake will also serve as a detention and water quality pond that will collect and filter storm water before returning it to Town Lake. We've also planted several trees and added landscaping to much of the area surrounding the lake and Mueller Central to help welcome visitors.

In other parks news, the Northwest Greenway, the first phase of Mueller's "green necklace" is nearly complete. We've completed the decomposed granite hike & bike trail that extends from the regional retail center, past Dell Children's Medical Center, along the Delwood II neighborhood and stops just across Aldrich Street near Mueller Central. We've also added trees (including recycled pecan trees), park benches and a playscape. ↻



Catellus recently announced a partnership with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for the creation of Mueller's Southwest Greenway, which will restore a portion of the old airport to its original state – a Texas blackland prairie. The first neighborhood "pocket" park will be complete in 2008. The 2.5-acre park will include a children's playscape area, an acre of open lawn space, a basketball/sport court, shaded picnic areas and a junior Olympic-sized, five-lane lap pool with an attached wading pool.



Volunteer & Programmer Training

Signup for programmer training. No previous radio skills needed; attendance required for training enrollment.

DATE & TIME: Monday, May 14th, 7pm

LOCATION: Austin Bahá'i Center, 2215 EM Franklin Avenue

Discover more about your community radio station: koop.org

Vertical Mixed Use Decision Looming

by Girard Kinney

The Cherrywood Planning and Zoning Committee Vertical Mixed Use Task Force (VMU TF) is meeting and grappling with the question of whether, and if so to what extent, we want a Vertical Mixed Use overlay (as described in the Mixed Use Chapter of the new Commercial Design Guideline ordinance) on properties along our major roadways. The VMUTF will bring recommendations to the May Steering Committee meeting, and to the May General Membership meeting, to obtain approval for our representatives to the Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team, to make the final recommendations to City Council in June.

It is a complex subject, but VMU appears to be the only tool available by which we may have some control over the incredible growth that we are already experiencing and which will only accelerate in coming years as the commuter rail and possible streetcar line are realized. Any resident of Cherrywood is welcome to be a member of the VMUTF. To learn more, click the VMU icon on Cherrywood.org. ↻

Where do we want VMU?

Vote May 16 at the Quarterly Meeting

You might recognize Alina Prax from her many walks around the neighborhood, usually accompanied by her husband Wade Holloway, daughter Luciene and pooch Lily. This photographer finds beauty in the expected and not so expected, throughout her day. So don't be alarmed if you see her hanging out in front of your house a bit too long.

JE: Tell me where the name of your business, La Dolce Vita, comes from?

AP: So, it's inspired by Fellini's movie "La Dolce Vita". It's this decadent, fashionable, extravagant lifestyle that these gorgeous people are living. Going to party after party, wearing all these fabulous clothes, drinking lots of champagne! I want to say it's verging on frivolous, but more artistic and like performance art because it's just so extreme. And that's why I chose it. But it also means "the good life", which is very important in why I settled on the name. So it's a double entendre.

What an appropriate inspiration for a wedding photography business!

I think so. When you get married you are hoping for all the good things life has to offer, you are hoping for a sweet life, all the wonderful and beautiful things that come out of uniting two lives.

It's also the one day in your life where you have an excuse, as a woman, to indulge in the sheer beauty of things, you know? You get to enjoy the flowers and you are wearing a fabulous white gown and there's cake and decor... all these luxurious things that usually we don't allow ourselves to really indulge in them. It's the one day where as a woman you have carte blanche and you get to bask in all that glory.

What was your wedding like?

We got married right after we arrived to Austin, in spring '06, at the Austin Zen Center. We had a very intimate Zen Buddhist wedding in an old Quaker meeting house, it was maybe 10-12 people total. It really was one of the happiest days of my life, even though that sounds so cliché. The ceremony itself was very touching, very down-to-earth and minimalist. It couldn't have been more perfect, except for maybe having my father there. No regrets otherwise.

Sorry to change the subject, but what's that magazine in your bag?

Actually you aren't changing the subject! It's a catalogue that I am looking at which has this carpet that is almost this perfect grey that doesn't negatively effect my color correction. *Laughter.* Oh! You think I'm kidding? I'm not! I even considered painting the walls of my office 18% grey. If you are doing any kind of color correcting you don't want colorful walls, it will throw your eyes off. Also wearing all black is helpful to not mess up your correction. *More laughter.* I'm serious! You think I'm kidding, but it's true. You know people who are professional computer color consultants? They'll come and calibrate your whole system? They wear all black 'cause they don't want to throw off the color.

How did you even get into photography?

Throughout my life, something has always attracted me to photography. I looked at a lot of glossy fashion magazines when I was growing up, not because I was really into fashion so much, but I was attracted to the images and the fantasies that were created within. And later in school I studied Installation and Theatre. Creating that whole imaginary world for others to experience is different from the norm and that is often beautiful.

How lucky for you as an artist that you can also make a living.

Yes, and find joy too. 'Cause although it's easy to see and capture the superficial beauty at weddings, it's just as, if not more, fulfilling to capture the ephemeral beauty of those fleeting moments of joy and emotion beneath the surface. Make sense? There's more profound beauty at a wedding than just that which meets the eye.

I just see a lot of beauty in random places. Are you familiar with wabi-sabi? I like things that aren't perfect or things that have a slight patina or whatever. I love that at a wedding there is so much obvious and not so obvious beauty. I like capturing both, there are lot of beautiful sub-narratives that support the main story of bride and groom at a wedding.

It almost seems your chosen career path was a no-brainer.

I went from creating fantasies to documenting them, so yes it is a natural extension.

And just like in my art, I really get into the more profound aspects found at weddings.

There is beauty in action and in emotion, both of which are not necessarily visually discernible. There is beauty in exchanging vows, in the hope that is embodied in those vows to carry them into the future. There is beauty in the joy of marriage, in the bittersweet feelings that

arise when leaving your life

as a single person

to embark

on this journey or adventure with another. In tying your life into your partner's life. There is beauty in it as a rite of passage. There's a lot more beauty at a wedding than just a gorgeous gown, exquisite flowers or a decadent cake.

How do you choose the decisive moment?

I was just talking about this with my husband, how all art has this undercurrent of rhythm and it's not just limited to music or Jackson Pollock. Photographic composition is a form visual rhythm as well, right?

What happens when you are documenting a live event is that you're capturing the accents, the beats of life, in a sense. The decisive moment, whatever you want to call it. That is an undercurrent in all art and the creation of art.

Whatever contains beauty embodies this inner harmony.

So 'beauty and the uncommon, not what you see in the day-to-day', nice.

And I see it here in Cherrywood too. I spend a lot of time in the neighborhood and you know what I like to do? I like to go around and look at houses just because I like older houses. Specifically the ones that aren't pristine...

There is something so romantic about them, I love that. It's not paint peeling, it's distressed! It's lived in, it shows it's history that way. This neighborhood has many houses with their layers exposed. Those attract me the most.



OUR NEIGHBOR

Alina Prax

Interview And Photography by Jennifer Elsner



3823 Airport Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78722
 www.citytheatreAustin.org
 524-2870 info@citytheatreAustin.org

May

Songs for a New World, a musical by composer Jason Robert Brown

The Women of Lockerbie, a play by Deborah Brevoort

The Indian Wants the Bronx, a play by Israel Horowitz

June

A Piece of My Heart, a play by Shirley Lauro

Dance Aerobics class — burn calories to Broadway hit tunes. Mon & Wed, 5:30–6:30; occasional Sats

Training in Theatre Competition, a workshop

July

Monologue & Poetry Competition:
The Final Spotlight (Open to all)

Young Dramatists Theatre Camp: 5th–9th grade
 July 16-23, morning & afternoon sessions
 Application deadline: June 25, 2007

Playing 'round Cherrywood

by Dolly Ensey

You may have heard Cherrywood neighbors asking, "Have you been to City Theatre? It's the best theater experience we've had in a long time." I have, so I checked in with our new neighbor on Airport Boulevard, the City Theater Company, which debuted its first production in November 2006.

The seeds for CTC were planted last June by artistic director Andy Berkovsky and production manager Travis Tinnin. Their goals include developing local theater artists, reaching out to educational and community organizations, and creating a center for arts and ideas. By October, CTC found a permanent home next to KOOP radio. Since November, close to 1,000 patrons have enjoyed four productions.

CTC, sponsored by the Austin Circle of Theaters, has taken the community stage by employing equity actors and providing a venue for some of the shows in Hyde Park Theater's annual Frontera Fest of new plays. The theater hosts activities Monday through Wednesday, nights the theater is dark (theater lingo for no performance), including classes in beginning writing for theater or screen, workshops for experienced playwrights, and a kids' summer camp (see box). Under consideration for the future: a prix-fixe dinner and theater package with neighborhood restaurants.

Be a Good Neighbor to CTC

Volunteer energy, creativity, and desire to learn are the only qualifications.

Donate money, computer, copy machine, office furniture, paint, shelves, art for display, costume clothing. Generous premiums and recognition for donors varies with the level of contribution. ☺

Meaningful Mots at Maplewood

by Dolly Ensey

On your trips past Maplewood Elementary, you always notice the messages on the sign at East 38 ½ Street and Maplewood Road; but do you ever wonder who makes it talk?

Meet Jeanne Arbuckle, Craig High and Eric Metcalf, a few of the sign's authors. As Craig explains, "It gave me the chance to get my sons, Cole and Alex, involved in their first community oriented volunteer experience. I hope the experience has planted a seed of volunteerism in them, one that they will both reflect fondly on in years to come."

"I was one of the original sign changers. I loved doing that job. Actually, the whole family would go over and change the sign," reminisces Jeanne Arbuckle.

Current sign author is 6 foot, 2 inch Eric Metcalf whose height is a plus when reaching the top line. After the kids are put to bed, lunches made, dishes washed, Eric changes the sign, usually after 11 pm. "I am usually tired when I do it. Twice now, a person has come by walking a dog, stopped, then said, "I think you misspelled..." and he was right!"

"I want to create a sense of expectation for everyone in the neighborhood," muses Eric. "By changing the sign regularly, I believe it makes people look at it. I try to incorporate things happening at the school or in the community into the quotes. I'll admit, I also try to incorporate things important to me—like smiling, reading, talking with your kids, giving thanks, being politically involved. It's a simple reminder every day we have an opportunity to teach our kids and learn from them, too. The thing that most inspires me is the opportunity to touch many people on a daily basis - not just the Maplewood community, but the broader Cherrywood neighborhood and beyond."

Despite general consensus amongst letter changers that the board's spacing limits the ability to convey volumes of information, many agreed it stimulated creativity. When asked if he would do it again, Craig responded "You bet!"

A tip of the letter to Paul Andrews, Marshall Bruni, Ray Jordan, Yvette Lee, David Menhard, Jack Newman, John & Rosemary Salazar, Jules Vieau and many PTA members, who brought the sign to life so we all can keep up with events while pondering thought provoking witticisms. ☺



TOP TO BOTTOM: Craig High holds up his responsibilities; Eric Metcalf gets out attention!

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Pope Clementine the VIII, in the early 1600's, initially banned coffee due to the decrease in wine sales and had also had claimed coffee as the "devil's drink"—partially due to its popularity within the Muslim world. He ordered the beans to burned land this is where some historians embellish a bit and was immediately attracted to their aroma. He ordered to try the beans, liked it, and thought he could out-wit "the devil" by baptizing it as a Christian beverage. And that's how Muslims, Italian merchants and a Pope, helped spread coffee's popularity to the Western World...in a nutshell.

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Rebecca's

HOME OWNER'S UPDATE

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

Spring 2007

Pesky Peeves

With summer just around the corner, thoughts turn to the out of doors! Here are a few tips to make the time we spend out there more enjoyable!

* It is said that mosquitoes dislike the scent of oranges and onions.

So you might try rubbing one of these over your exposed areas.

Hint: I suggest trying the oranges first!

* When you see mosquitoes on your walls and windows at night, simply suck them up with a vacuum hose.

* Try planting the herb tansy, or basil, in sunny spots near your doors. Mosquitoes are repelled by the smell.

* To keep mosquitoes from breeding in your rain barrel, pour a little cooking oil on the surface of the water.

To keep squirrels out of your bird feeders try adding a couple of tablespoons of cayenne pepper to the seed. Mix the pepper and bird food, then pour into the feeder. The squirrels hate it, but the birds don't taste a thing!

Bit of Feng Shui

Family Portraits

Make an effort to photograph or paint a family portrait with every member present. Make sure everyone looks happy. Hang this in the family room to symbolize a happy family staying together forever. Put it on the southwest wall if possible. If not, it should face the south, southwest or northwest.



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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
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MARKET ANALYSIS

FOR THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

Active listings in Cherrywood:

3514 Lafayette Ave – 2/1 , 776 sq. ft.

3306 Werner Ave – 2/1, 810 sq. ft.

1211 East 31st. St. – 2/1, 1,168 sq. ft.

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

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR CHERRYWOOD

Current Homes for Sale – 3

Average size in Sq Ft. – 918

Average list price - \$276,133

Average price per sq ft - \$307.79

Average days on the market – 9

Homes with Contracts Pending – 7

Average size in sq. ft – 1,490

Average list price - \$294,800

Average price per sq ft - \$199.23

Average days on the market – 52

Homes Sold since Feb. 1 2007

Average size in sq ft – 9

Average sold price - \$251,455

Average price per sq ft \$208.80

Average days on the market – 47



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.