

**CHERRYWOOD
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY MEETING
OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS OF CHERRYWOOD**

✧ Presentation by Karen Stewart, Water
Conservation Specialist (see article this page)
✧ Confirm new Steering Committee Members
✧ Signage, Block Party, Open Floor & More!

**Wednesday, May 21
6:30 – 8:00pm
MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY LIBRARY**

THE Flea



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
MAY 2008 | **Volume 14, Number 3** | cherrywood.org

Water, Energy, and the Cherry- wood Climate Action Project

by David Greene

WATER

The May 21 CNA Quarterly meeting will feature Karen Stewart, a horticulturalist with Austin Water's Conservation program (waterwiseaustin.com). Karen promotes outdoor water conservation through public education, promotion of efficient irrigation and use of drought tolerant plants in the landscape.

As you may be aware, we're living under new water conservation restrictions aimed at reducing peak day use and postponing water rate increases (and saving energy and protecting ecosystems). Karen will explain how these restrictions impact us, and offer suggestions on how to adjust our indoor and outdoor water use accordingly.

If you're not able to attend the May meeting, note these points:

- ✧ Hand-held watering has no restrictions under the new ordinance
- ✧ In-ground system watering is not allowed 10am – 7pm, year-round

And for the peak summer period (May 1 – September 30):

- ✧ Hose-end sprinkler watering is not allowed 10am – 7pm
- ✧ Odd-number residences may water Wednesday and/or Saturday
- ✧ Even-number residences may water Thursday and/or Sunday
- ✧ Commercial & multi-family (5+ units) may water Tuesday and/or Friday
- ✧ No watering (except handheld) on Monday

ENERGY

The Kill-A-Watt challenge last summer challenged residents and neighborhoods to reduce their electric bills relative to summer 2006. Cherrywood started signups late but finished with 61 participants and won 3rd place for total savings for a neighborhood.

CLIMATE

The Cherrywood Climate Action Project hosts 'green' workshops and promotes resource sharing and collective action among neighbors. We're removing the mystery and possibly reducing the cost of going green, be it eating local, native plant gardening, promoting low/no-carbon transportation, renovating a zero net energy home.... Whatever the method, come share your passion, knowledge, and skills. At our May meeting (tba), we'll be looking at home and neighborhood carbon footprint calculators — and low-carbon diet strategies — as well as handing out Kill-A-Watt goodies. ☺

Call me 828-7450 or join the listserv at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cherrywoodcap/>

STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair	Summer McKee	426-3934
Vice Chair	Julie Winckler	826-0477
Secretary	Jeremy Mazur	789-9862
Treasurer	Rebecca Kohout	477-9560

MEMBERS Michael Bray, David Greene, Girard Kinney, Glenn Reed, Mark Schiff, Tom Wald

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More details at cherrywood.org click on committees

Cherrywood Calendar

May

5/2	7:00pm	CNA Film Night "Promises" at Asbury UMC
5/5	6:00pm	APD Central East Commander's Forum, 800 Springdale Road
5/11	10:00am	Second Sunday at Asbury UMC (Food Bank Collection)
5/19		City of Austin Large Brush Collection
5/21	6:30pm	CNA Quarterly Meeting at Maplewood Elementary
5/26		City of Austin Bulk Collection

June

6/6	7:00pm	CNA Film Night at Asbury UMC
6/8	10:00am	Second Sunday at Asbury UMC (Food Bank Collection)

July

7/4	10:00am	Annual July 4th Parade, French Place and 28th Street
7/7	6:00pm	APD Central East Commander's Forum, 800 Springdale Road
7/11	7:00pm	CNA Film Night at Asbury UMC
7/13	10:00am	Second Sunday at Asbury UMC (Food Bank Collection)

Monthly Committee Meetings

CNA P&Z COMMITTEE

first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, Locations Vary

CNA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, Taqueria Los Altos

CNA STEERING COMMITTEE

second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, Locations Vary

CNA TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, Star Seeds Cafe

UBC PLANNING COMMITTEE

third Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm, Kleberg Hall

For a list of upcoming Austin City Council and City of Austin Board & Commissions meetings, visit www.ci.austin.tx.us. Agenda items are posted on the web and meetings are open to the public.



From the Chair

"They say that time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself." Think what you will about Andy Warhol, but truer words have rarely been spoken. There are those who sit passively by and wait for change to happen, and there are those who take "fate" by the horns and drive change forward. We are extremely fortunate to have many individuals in our community who

believe in making things happen, who don't just talk about projects which would better our neighborhood, but who take the time and find a way to make things happen. They are our often unsung heroes—they are the gentleman you see picking up trash at the park, they are the people who go out of their way to help reunite pets with their humans, they are the people who write the articles which go in to the Flea and they are

the folks who create and deliver the final product. Yes, we are blessed with many Cherrywood Angels, but there is always room for one more...**you!!**

With such a diverse community, there is no shortage of projects or ways for you to get involved. The greatest gifts you can give are your time and energy. If you'd like to know more about how you can get involved, just email me, or any member of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee (CNASC). We'll be happy to point you in the right direction!

Speaking of "time," I hope you can find some to join us for the next general meeting on May 21st! Looking forward to seeing you there~

Summer McKee, CNASC CHAIR



SCatterings by David Greene



LEFT TO RIGHT Tom Wald, Julie Winckler, Mark Schiff, Rebecca Kohout, Jeremy Mazur, David Greene, Girard Kinney, Summer McKee, Martin Barrera

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee (CNASC) gives a good deal of time to issues like zoning, homelessness, crime prevention, neighborhood beautification and general items that effect the community. They meet with several committees both within and outside the neighborhood keeping abreast of the many issues that effect Cherrywood. The sc has done an excellent job of spotting problems before they get out of hand and representing your best interest in matters before City government...so here's Kudos these hard working committee members.

Cherrywood.org Future-Status

by Wade Holloway

The Cherrywood Web Committee has been hard at work on a plan to revamp the cherrywood.org website.

Among the items we are planning to address are:

- ✿ New Site Architecture & Design
- ✿ New Local Hosting Company
- ✿ Implementing a Content Management System
- ✿ Information Organization
- ✿ Multiple Mailing Lists
- ✿ New Recommendations Section

So far we have signed on with web hosting company, Apollo Hosting in Austin and we've decided on Joomla Content Management System. This is a tested and well-liked CMS which will help our small team update information on the site more easily. Finally, we've purchased a design layout template which can be customized easily. Everyone on the Web Committee has been working very hard to make this happen. So if you see any of them around the 'hood be sure to say thanks: Deb Freeman, Skipper Warson, and Jim Reed. Also: Marilyn Fenn, Girard Kinney, Mike Stricklin, Summer McKee, Tom Wald, David Greene, and everyone that sat through a meeting, brainstormed, and/or coordinated something. A big thanks to Jules Vieau for keeping everything going after Gordon Bennett's untimely passing. 🐾

Steering Committee minutes are posted at cherrywood.org, but here are some highlights of what's been happening with the Steering Committee (SC) apart from its committees (which have updates reported elsewhere in the *Flea*).

As always, you don't need to be a member of the SC to join us: the SC meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30, and we seem to have settled on Star Seeds at 31st and IH-35 as a location where we can eat, meet, and be merry. Send your agenda items to the current SC chair Summer McKee, summermckee@gmail.com

PLANNING FOR GORDON BENNETT MEMORIAL Gordon Bennett passed away a year ago May 11. Summer is convening a group to plan how best to allocate the \$1000+ raised in Gordon's memory.

PATTERSON POOL SURVEY We conducted an online survey to give Parks & Recreation feedback on a proposed pool schedule. The pool is now set to be open June 9 – August 24, 12:30–7:00pm.

BLOCK PARTY The party is currently being planned for August 23rd (see page 12), we have approved up to \$300 to cover associated permit costs.

SC BUDGET Estimated income for 2008 is \$5,170. Estimated expenditures for 2008 is \$4,430. There is approximately \$700 surplus for use, not including the amount in the Association's savings. Additional appropriations will be made for quarterly neighborhood meeting signs (\$250) and the welcome brochure (\$150).

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP Eve Richter, who has been organizing the Citizens on Patrol training, has joined the SC, filling an open seat in the 07–09 cohort. Two vacancies remain; if you'd like to serve, contact me at dmgreene@igc.org, or 828-7450. 🐾

Communications Committee Report

by David Greene

Your newly-revived CNA Communications committee is working to coordinate the neighborhood's all-volunteer communications outlets:

WEBSITE A website task force is building the framework for a new and improved website (see cherrywood.org article). Look for a launch before the end of the year. Get involved or send us your ideas!

NEIGHBORNET 1500 Cherrywood households with almost 700 NNet subscribers, but 1/3 of those elect to not receive any emails. Are people missing email announcements amidst the chatter? Should we build an email alert network? Or revive block captains to cover those without email? Contact us with your ideas on disseminating short-notice news.

THE FLEA Jennifer Elsner & David Shields stepped up one last time to produce this issue (thanks!). New editor Deb Freeman will start with the August issue.

CNA LOGO see the design competition announcement on page 14.

WELCOME BOOKLET (see page 15) We've updated a newcomer's guidebook to the neighborhood and will have print and electronic copies available soon.

YARD SIGNS We're investing in reusable signs to announce CNA quarterly meetings and other similar events. If you have a high-visibility yard and would like to host a sign, please contact David Greene dmgreene@igc.org (828-7450). This might be one event per month. 🐾

Mustang Playhouse *by Jeri Spence*

Maplewood Elementary will get a new outdoor amphitheatre on April 26th! So far the project has been a blast. We've seen a wonderful coming together of the community. Eighty-five percent of our budget has been donated in materials from local businesses and the community. Parents with and without kids in the school have stepped up to lead efforts in their fields of expertise. Folks from all over Austin as well as from Houston and Dallas are coming to participate in the build. And we have been blessed to have a terrific artist, Donna Griffith, who contributed a 16×4' mosaic for our marquee that says "Mustang Playhouse."

The stage will allow kids to take advantage of programs offered by Theatre Action Project (TAP), a non profit organization dedicated to helping kids improve literacy, life skills, and knowledge through creative expression. By using socially relevant, interactive theatre and educational programming to ignite community dialogue, self-discovery and social change, TAP inspires Central Texas youth and the adults who care for them to solve the real world problems they face every day. theatreactionproject.org

Here's why this project is so important...

Children who participate in arts education are 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to participate in a math and science fair, to win an award for writing an essay or a poem and 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance. (Source: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices)

Children who participate specifically in drama education score 40% higher in written and verbal standardized tests than those who have no drama education. (Source: *Champions for Change: The Impact of Art on Learning*)

Adolescents who participate in theatre education have dramatically reduced incidences of name-calling and other racially intolerant behavior. (Source: *Theatre Communications Group*)

This project is about everyday abundance and the power of imagination. Thank you, thank you to everybody who has participated, donated or wished us well! 🙏

Art in Open Spaces – Mueller Live Wire

Created by Texas artist Dixie Friend Gay, the first of Mueller's several public art projects — a whimsical (and tall) metal sculpture in the shape of a spider — was just completed. Planned in partnership with landscape architect RVI, this 25-foot-tall spider straddles the soon-to-be-open hike and bike trail that will wind throughout the Southwest Greenway scheduled for completion this summer.

The spider will soon be accompanied by works from local sculptor Chris Levack, who has created a conceptual wigwam and giant pollen grain inspired by the microscopic view of a cactus. Barbara Austin from RVI landscape architects explains, "All of these artistic pieces were chosen to highlight environmental awareness and the restoration and rehabilitation of the area's endangered Blackland Prairie." In conjunction with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the 32-acre Southwest Greenway will feature this native ecosystem and include demonstration gardens and environmental education.

muelleraustin.com

Maplewood Students Growing!

Maplewood's Good Foods Salad Bowl Project Resounding Success *by Wendy Morgan*

Students celebrated a bountiful spring harvest April 25 as Maplewood's 07–08 Good Foods Salad Bowl Project gardens were harvested and tossed into delicious salads for the entire school to enjoy. Through the efforts of students, teachers, parents, staff and Cherrywood neighbors, 12 raised garden beds were constructed this school year over two community work days and planted by students and teachers from pre-K to 6th grade.

Maplewood first grade teacher Lynn Cansler served fresh salad snacks to her class each Wednesday for more than six weeks from her class garden bed. Students learned how veggies grow, what keeps them growing and especially how great they taste.

This project stimulated lots of cross campus creativity as 4th Grade teacher Ava Prater tasked her Digital



More than 50 volunteers helped build raised garden beds for Maplewood classrooms; above is part of the team lingering at the end of a Maplewood Garden & Wellness Club Community Work Day.

Like to help? Contact Lisa Schemanske at behalske4@grandecom.net or Wendy Morgan at Wendy@dot-connector.com

Photography Class with shots throughout the project and at community work days. Maplewood's Art Teacher Jen Ober was inspired and launched a school wide art project where each and every student and teacher at Maplewood created their own clay salad bowls for the Salad Bowl Project Celebration. Kids were served a healthy bunch of fresh greens in their pottery masterpieces!

This effort was made possible with the help of the Sustainable Food Center, GeoGrowers, Austin Lumber, Maplewood Elementary School, CHULA, Maplewood PTA, teachers, CATCH, Maplewood Garden & Wellness Club, staff, neighbors and parents alike. Maplewood looks forward to expanding Good Foods initiatives to provide project based learning that helps develop healthy bodies and healthy minds. 🙏



Our Neighbor: Barbara Irwin by Thomas Blom

I spent the morning talking with neighborhood artist Barbara Irwin. The idea was to learn something about her and her art for a short article in the *Flea* which would focus on Barbara The Artist and get the word out about the small duplex on Grayson that houses more interesting and intelligent art than most galleries in town I've visited. I planned to spend an hour interviewing her, come home and write a short article, and get on with the new chicken coop expansion I started. Instead I spent three hours with Barbara, running out of recording media about halfway through, and left with a head full of reflections on life, images of a 41-day trans-Pacific voyage in a home-built boat, renewed inspiration to get back to my own creative pursuits, and a small hand-stitched mouse stuffed with catnip for Luca. Oh, and a mess of jumbled imagery and thoughts on the rather large collection of found-object art I'd just taken in, which I'll try to sort out in the coming paragraphs and weeks. If your interest is piqued, read on; if not, ask yourself if that "Keep Austin Weird" bumper sticker really belongs on your car. Just kidding, sort of...

Barbara landed in Cherrywood about 4 years ago. Born in Houston, she grew up in Texas, leaving the state to study design, and coming back to work various grown-up jobs as interior designer and buyer. Ultimately destined for new adventure, she went back to school and headed for Austin to teach at Austin Montessori School. She met her former husband, sailed to Hawaii via Rockport, Belize, Panama, Costa Rica, and spent 18 years on the Big Island. It was in Hawaii that Barbara did her first "found-object" art at the request of a friend who wanted her to enter a "Recycled Art Show" (previously and since an early age her preferred medium had been collage, which she still enjoys). By the looks of her densely packed but immaculately organized studio, she hasn't stopped finding objects (or organizing them) since.

Barbara's home is not the typical scene one imagines when an artist you've met invites you to their house to look at their art — when perhaps you're a little uncomfortable because you don't really know this person and aren't sure you want to go examine their living quarters in detail just yet. Most people will have furniture. But not Barbara; her main display room features a long wall of solid brick, a clean tiled floor, and nothing but piece after piece of wonderfully provocative art. Today this room held many pieces from the "Confinement" series — all featuring uniquely interesting smallish cages (many of them antique and valuable in their own right) with interior objects depicting comic, spiritual, or metaphysical scenes. In one corner of the room the floor is covered with a neat layer of gravel from which grows a bed of welded metal flowers, each adorned with uncommon objects organically melded with their host making for some kind of Mad Max Japanese Zen Garden. The room is a bit more crowded than usual: Barbara tells me some of the pieces are headed for the Scarborough Building downtown where they'll live in the lobby windows for the spring. Some of her work is also on display at Austin City Hall this year.

Back in the work room are the "Head Trip" pieces — doll heads of various origin whose heads sprout with all manner of craziness...but which are safely contained for your viewing pleasure under glass domes and bell jars of the variety seen in scientific labs. Also here are some of the "Roadside Attraction" pieces, each consisting entirely of objects found on the sides of roads, many presumably from the bus rides to and from South Congress where Barbara has a couple of part-time jobs at (surprise!) stores dealing in unique and antique objects. At a small table where we sit talking are two of my favorite pieces. One is some sort of vintage electrical metering device that sits upright on three machined legs and on top of which is attached a glass capsule containing a miniature wedding couple. Another is from the "Magic Lamp" series, pieces so-themed by an elevated glass globe filled with some dream or machination.

And this is to barely scratch the surface...Jennifer said 350 words I think; I'm at twice that and counting. How can I summarize? This is good art; it feels sacred and somehow familiar to me — filled with iconic shapes and motifs — and so weathered, as if the pieces have always been somewhere, waiting to be discovered. And unlike much "found object" art I've looked at, Barbara's is immediately accessible, on one level or another, and completely refined, signaling the work of a mature artist that knows what she likes. None of it is creepy or trying hard to be obscure or edgy or otherwise provoke emotional response via base shortcut. This is conscious art fabricated with positive intention.

Says Barbara, "I'm an old hippy...love is the answer."

You can see Barbara's work at the aforementioned downtown locations, as well as upcoming shows at Texas State University (May-June) and the Austin Museum of Art (a Fall collective show of miniature chairs featuring artists selected by sculptor Damian Priour). Better still, check out her website, get the phone number, and give her call for a viewing in her home/gallery. You won't be disappointed. ☺

foundobjectart.com

Planning and Zoning Committee Update by Glenn Reed

The Planning and Zoning committee is tracking a variety of issues that affect our neighborhood.

City Residential Code Enforcement and Permitting

There has been a flurry of discussion on the NeighborNet since the beginning of April concerning apparent changes to the City's method of enforcing residential building codes, as well as additional permit requirements for seemingly minor home repairs. Initial inquiries have revealed that the City has indeed revamped its code enforcement approach.

Code enforcement is now being handled by two city departments: Solid Waste Services and Watershed Protection. Steering Committee member Amy Brotman is currently working to arrange a presentation and Q&A session on this topic by the appropriate city staff. Look for updates on the NeighborNet in the near future.

MLK Transit-Oriented Development Station Planning Area

The March 2008 version of the Transit-Oriented Development Station Area Planning Map was recently posted online for public review in advance of a Planning Commission hearing on March 11. This is the culmination of a process that began in 2005 with the passage of the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) ordinance. The City intends to assign new, TOD-specific zoning to properties within a certain radius of the transit station in order to promote development that reduces reliance on automobiles. The new zoning is generally focused on non-residential tracts. There has been a public process underway since 2005 wherein the City's consultant has sought input from property owners, developers, and the neighborhoods surrounding the station areas. Our neighborhood is affected by both the MLK commuter rail stop located near the future intersection of East 17th Street and Alexander Avenue and the proposed streetcar stop on Manor Road east of Alexander Avenue. The most recent previous version of the Planning Map was posted in October 2007. Michael Bray noted that the property on the east side of Randolph Road (the former Value Sky Park site), which had previously

been shown as a combination of Medium Density Residential and TOD Mixed Use, had been redesignated to be entirely TOD Mixed Use. We invited Sonya Lopez of the COA Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department to the meeting to discuss how and why this change of designation had taken place.

Ms. Lopez explained that concerns from the owner of the Value Sky Park property, combined with a desire not to mix zoning designations within a single property, led city staff to assign the TOD Mixed Use category to the entire site. Several in attendance were concerned about the increase in allowable height (up to 60 feet) that comes with the TOD MU zoning, given its close proximity to existing single-family residences. The existing CS-MU zoning, with the Conditional Use Overlay, limits height to 40 feet. Ms. Lopez explained the provisions of the Compatibility Standards, which are intended to provide a buffer between new commercial development and existing residential properties, and how they would be limited to a 100 foot edge around the entire TOD area, beyond which, under the proposed new zoning, the 60 foot height would be available if the owner/developer were to meet certain other criteria concerning affordable housing. The committee's concern was that such a negotiation would occur directly between the property owner and the City with no neighborhood involvement, yet the provision of affordable housing would not mitigate the impact of the additional building height.

The committee identified three specific issues of neighborhood concern, proposed solutions to each, and requested that Ms. Lopez follow up on each and report back to the neighborhood. In order of priority these were:

BUILDING HEIGHT The committee proposed that the 100 foot edge that is subject to the Compatibility Standards be extended to 200 feet along Randolph Road, so that the possibility of 60 feet of height would not occur within that 200 foot edge. Ms. Lopez was amenable to this idea and said she would discuss it with the consultants and with the property owner.

BUILDING USE The committee suggested that the portion of the site along Randolph Road be returned to the Medium Density Residential zoning, or failing that, that it be designated as Live/

Work Flex (another TOD zoning category). Ms. Lopez indicated that they usually try not to mix zoning designations within a single property (even though previous iterations of the plan had done exactly this), and anticipated that the property owners would consider this a "down zoning" and would be unlikely to agree to this zoning change, but said she would discuss it.

TRAFFIC FLOW The committee asked that no internal driveway entrances be allowed on the east side of Randolph Road to prevent the houses on the west side from being struck by car headlights, and that Clarkson Avenue be extended into the site to connect with Alexander at Manor Road, in order to discourage through traffic on Randolph Road; and that the City consider funding the connection to Clarkson Avenue due to the costs to the developer due to grade change there. Ms. Lopez indicated that such restrictions on the configuration of the interior of the site would not likely be acceptable to the property owner, but suggested that this might be discussed between the neighborhood and the owner at a future time.

Ms. Lopez discussed our three requests with the property owners, who indicated that they would oppose them, but that Staff would recommend the 200 foot Compatibility buffer. The issue was discussed at the February 29 Planning Commission meeting but no action was taken. The issue was again discussed at the March 11 Planning Commission meeting and was passed, but with only the 200 foot buffer included. Our three issues were taken to the April 10 City Council meeting, and were presented during the Comments period by Girard Kinney and Michael Bray on behalf of the Upper Boggy Creek Planning team. Councilmember Lee Leffingwell offered an amendment to include them in the first reading of the ordinance, which passed unanimously. We hope that these three recommendations will remain at final passage of the zoning change.

East Avenue Development (former Concordia site)

We have received several notices recently concerning site plan approvals for the East Avenue Development. We heard a presentation about this project in June 2006 and at that time agreed to support the project provided the developer provide additional affordable housing, traffic mitigation, public transportation, and improved

pedestrian access

Cherrywood Plant & Book Swap



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT Haley Fisher and Dana Blaus carefully selects their greenery. Gale Greenleaf and Billie Crawford find a Phyllis Schlafly book. Amelia Schwartz smiles after reading a Calvin & Hobbes cartoon. Janie Mahew, Earl Saathoff and Kevin West listen to Erika Albright provide plant knowledge. Ruthie Ford, Michael Sullivan, Erika Albright and PlantSwap coordinator Jack Darby.

Photos by Dolly Ensey



Cherrywood Convenes

Travis County Democratic Convention



ABOVE Obama leader, Cyrus Tashakkori & Clinton leader, Bree Buchanan.
TOP RIGHT Clinton supporter Scheleen Walker raises her credentials to vote.
BOTTOM RIGHT IN Obama's Corner: Marilyn Fenn, Marty McEvoy & Bob Loewen.

Photos by David Hill davidhillphotography.com

P&Z (continued)

and improved pedestrian access to the site. Several West Austin neighborhoods, including Hancock Neighborhood where the project is physically located, negotiated a detailed compromise agreement directly with the developer, and CNA supported this agreement. The process that is currently underway is administrative in nature, based on prior COA approvals.

We are concerned that the issues of traffic mitigation, transit and affordable housing in particular, have not been adequately addressed by the developer, and we will continue to monitor the process and make known our concerns when there are opportunities to do so. In the meantime, the website for development is located at www.eastave.net. If there is sufficient interest in the neighborhood, we can invite the developer to make a presentation at an upcoming meeting in order to provide the most current information on the project.

Mobile Food Establishments ordinance

We received notice of a 30-day application window ending on March 11 during which a neighborhood may adopt additional regulations regulating the location and hours of operation of mobile food establishments. The P&Z committee reviewed the proposed additional regulations at its March 5 meeting and voted unanimously in favor of adopting them. However, we later learned that Upper Boggy Creek, rather than just Cherrywood, must act to adopt the additional regulations. The City acknowledged that the notifications had been posted later than intended, thus providing inadequate time for neighborhoods to discuss the issue and vote. Therefore the process will be opened again in November or December and we will work with UBC to adopt the additional regulations at that time.

Vivo Parking Lot

We received notice of a site plan application for parking improvements at the Vivo parking lot immediately west of the restaurant. According to the City's case manager, the current parking area was built illegally and without permits. The current proposed work would bring the parking lot into compliance with COA requirements.

1715 Giles resubdivision

Having successfully resubdivided their lot, the owners of 1715 Giles have recently indicated that due to lack of buyer interest in the unimproved lots, they now plan to build on the lots. We look forward to assisting them in creating a project that is compatible with the surrounding homes and embraces the Cherrywood Design Guidelines.

Core Transit Corridor Designation for Manor Road and Airport Boulevard

At issue is whether to request that these two roads be upgraded from "Urban Roadway" designation to "Core Transit Corridor" designation. The new designation would bring legal requirements for future development affecting building position, sidewalk width, street amenities (trees, benches, shading), parking, etc. (all intended to make the street more pedestrian oriented). This topic has been discussed at numerous CNA meetings, and is supported by Cherrywood, but because of its broad reach it must be supported by the other Upper Boggy Creek neighborhoods as well. This issue was discussed at the February 19 UBC meeting, but it was evident that the other neighborhoods had not discussed it in sufficient detail to join us in recommending it. We will work with UBC to move this to a vote in the near future. UBC is currently trying to set another meeting with city staff so that other UBC can get answers to specific questions about the impact of this change.

38½ Street Issues (3717 Robinson zoning change request, long term vision)

A request for neighborhood support of a zoning change for the residential property at 3717 Robinson was the catalyst for a broader discussion about the future of 38½ Street between the railroad tracks and IH-35. At the November 12, 2007 meeting, the P&Z committee voted unanimously to begin developing a comprehensive plan for this section of 38½ Street. The purpose of this effort will be to establish a consistent framework within which to consider future zoning change requests concerning the properties along this portion of 38½ Street.

The owner of 3717 Robinson requested the neighborhood's support for a zoning change from MF to GO in order to open a business at that location. Primarily because of the committee's new initiative to develop a long-range vision for this section of 38½ Street, the committee voted not to support the requested zoning change at the present time, the rationale being that the vision/plan for the street must be established first so that this and future similar requests may be considered within the context of that vision.

The CNA membership at large supported this position at the November 2007 quarterly meeting.

The zoning change request was opposed by the Planning Commission on January 29 and denied by the City Council on March 20.

The 38½ Street vision process continues and anyone interested in participating should attend the Planning and Zoning Committee meetings. For more information: g.reed@twarchitects.com 🐿



blue ribbon yard by Leslie Vieau

Thanks to all of you who voted with such short notice! The count was very close, and our winner is the home of Marc Dickey at 1725 East 38 1/2 Street. This yard has loose but tidy beds of native plants and trees. Our eyes are drawn all around the yard, as we are drawn up the sidewalk to the happily welcoming red chairs at the doorway. Indeed, "Happy" is a good word to describe this yard. Marc will receive a \$25 gift certificate from the wonderful Shoal Creek Nursery. Congratulations! 🐿

Eco-logic: A Bright Idea by Jim MacKay



Author and “Economan,” Jim MacKay

Here another bright idea: Practice Reuse!

Treasure City Thrift (1720 East 12th Street, between Leona and Salina) takes donation of clothes, furniture, and house wares. You can drop your donation off between 11–6, Monday thru Saturday. Also, if you are a member of Ecology Action you get 20% off any purchases you make there.

Ecology Action, a great Austin institution, is perfect for people who want to recycle more than they can at curbside. Their downtown center on the IH-35 southbound access road at 9th Street is happy to take all the normal curbside recyclables (aluminum cans, glass bottles, jars, metal containers, plastics #1 and #2, newspaper, catalogues, junk mail).

But here are extra things Ecology Action recycles above and beyond typical curbside pickup:

- ✧ Plastics #3 thru #7
- ✧ Aluminum foil and pie plates
- ✧ All scrap metal
- ✧ Corrugated cardboard (any size)
- ✧ Paperboard, books, phone books, cereal boxes
- ✧ Ink jet cartridges, toner cartridges and cell phones that include the battery (during open hours)

But leave these at home please:

- ✧ Motor oil containers
- ✧ Plastic bags (take clean plastic bags to the supermarket or the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, please)
- ✧ Styrofoam: egg cartons, logs, peanuts...**none!**
- ✧ Plate glass
- ✧ Pyrex anything
- ✧ Light bulbs
- ✧ Glass serving bowls, trays, etc.
- ✧ Waxed containers, e.g. milk, soy milk, juice

Ecology Action is open Monday–Friday 10–6, Saturday & Sunday 9–5. For more information: ecology-action.org. Thank you for recycling. ♻️

Tree Planting at Willowbrook Reach

LEFT Dylan & Nora Kadas, offspring of Chris & Maddie, take it easy on the pile of planting soil. BELOW Willowbrook Reach neighbors John Kolts, Anna Battenhouse & Marian Nicholas pose with Julia Vieau and the newly planted Mexican plums.

Photos by Dolly Ensey



Rooting for Volunteers to Water Willowbrook Reach

by Lee Clippard

Cherrywood and Wilshire Wood neighbors joined together in March to celebrate spring by planting 33 new trees. The day was perfect: sunny, not too hot and no bugs! We planted trees that will someday get really large and provide shade: live oaks, bur oaks and pecans. Smaller trees that we planted to create a mid-level habitat for birds, and showy flowers and berries for us humans include: red bud, yaupon, Mexican plum, Eve’s necklace and mountain laurel. Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach (FLWR) received these green gifts from Austin Energy as part of FLWR’s Keep Austin Beautiful Neighborhood Beautification grant.

Would you like to help by adopting a tree?

To survive their first harsh summer, these young trees will need supplemental water; even 5 gallons of water per week for a year will give them a leg (or root) up. That’s only 5 milk jugs of water! Some neighbors have already volunteered to care for trees, but there are many that still need caretakers. If you would like to adopt a tree or two, please contact me at lclippard@gmail.com.

If you’ve yet to explore Willowbrook Reach, I encourage you to take a walk to Cherrywood Road and East 40th and hike around this greenbelt so near your homes. It’s chock full of nature: baby and adult snapping turtles, butterflies, dragonflies, fossils in the creek bed, diverse plants, herons, hawks, owls and more.

FLWR is a group of residents in the Cherrywood neighborhood on the eastside of Austin, Texas, dedicated to fostering Willowbrook Reach, one of the few publicly-accessible wild spaces remaining on Boggy Creek. Willowbrook Reach is a natural gem nestled within Austin’s growing urban core. For more information: flwr.blogspot.com. ♻️





Young Families on the Grow in Cherrywood and Wilshire Wood

Story by Amy Brotman

Photos by Alina Prax ladolcevitaphoto.com

When we moved back to the neighborhood in 2005, we were just starting to think out starting our family. Turns out, we weren't alone.

Occasionally, we would see other pregnant women, but never really met anyone.

Then, there were a few posts on NeighborNet asking about new mothers and playgroups, and facilitated by our wonderful NeighborNet, we began to make contact and meet each other.

From there, Meredith Hunt in Wilshire Wood organized a small gathering of new moms and babies. It was a great introduction to some new people, and gave us all a chance to share our experiences and network about childcare.

We wanted to get together on a regular basis and luckily both Meredith and I had been collecting names and emails of the new parents we met. We combined the lists, and I sent out the first invitation to the Sunday morning playgroup at Maplewood. Now, just a few months later, we're 25 families strong and counting. "Who knew there were so many kids in our very

own 'hood all around the same age?" said Amy Atchley.

"I really like the sense of community it provides," said Meredith. "I get to connect with other parents in cherrywood who understand what it's like to have a small child and not be offended when I cannot finish a conversation and have to step away to chase my toddler." Many of the parents echo this sentiment.

It gives credence to the old saying that it takes a village to raise a child. Cherrywood and Wilshire Wood parents are forming that village and are willing to help, share experiences, trade babysitters, help find childcare, or just listen. Cindy Spess commented that "It's been a great way to get info on nannies and kids' activities."

It's amazing how much all the kids have changed in just a few months. Little ones that were just sitting are crawling. The crawlers are now walking. And the

walkers are now steady on their feet and starting to gain lots of confidence. Tanya Freach has really enjoyed "watching the children grow" as have we all.

Speaking of the kids, as these pictures show, they're having a ball! Michael and Kate Stricklin's daughter loves coming every week. "It's so nice to watch her get to know the other kiddos in the neighborhood," said Kate. Julie and Joe Comfort say, "We love coming to the Sunday playgroup and watching our daughter chase all the kids and dogs around the playground—it's a great opportunity for her to stretch her social skills."

"It's great to get to know the kids and parents that we'll be going through school with," says Hillary Beall. Maplewood Elementary watch out! With so many kids, the starting classes of 2011-13 will be packed with children from the neighborhood.

Want to be notified of toddler and wee one activities in the 'hood? Email me at amy.brotman@yahoo.com to be added to the list. Be sure to include your name, email, child's name & birth date. ☺



New (Open) Doors by George Holcombe

The Open Door Preschool, located on the Asbury United Methodist Church campus, is happy to report that a number of physical improvements have been made at the school through a joint effort of United Way's "Success by 6" and the Northwest Hills United Methodist Church. The school now has a security door, a deluxe handicap ramp, new classroom doors, energy-efficient windows, a new toddler bathroom, and other much-needed modifications to classrooms and the playgrounds. Larry Elsner, Open Door's executive director, is in negotiations with Asbury UMC for a long-term lease that will enable further funding for capital improvements. ↻



The mission of Open Door is to provide a quality, inclusive preschool program to children of diverse abilities and backgrounds in a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment that promotes respect and acceptance. The program is formulated to meet the unique needs of each child to develop a healthy self-esteem and to improve needed skills. opendoorpreschool.org

1st Annual Gordon Bennett Block Party by Jen Spencer

Summertime brings not only great outdoor weather but with it the opportunity to head out in to the front yard and get to know your neighbors a little better. The strong sense of community within our neighborhood is part of what makes Cherrywood unique and, in an effort to encourage and nurture neighborly relations, plans are in the works for the 1st Annual Gordon Bennett Block Party!! Anyone who knew Gordon Bennett knows how much this neighborhood meant to him and how much of his time and energy went in to making Cherrywood a fabulous place to live. He would have not only supported this opportunity to bring the community together, but would have been one of the first ones volunteering to make the event hap-

pen. Gordon's passing definitely left a large void, but we're very fortunate that others have stepped up to take the reins and make this event a reality. Over lunch at El Chile a few weeks ago, several of your friends and neighbors began brainstorming ideas for the event; and now, with a framework in place, it's time for action!

The Gordon Bennett Block Party is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, August 23rd, and will be held on Breeze Terrace, between Manor Road and 32nd Street.

Naturally there will be a few costs associated with this event's success. The CNASC is helping to cover the cost of permits, but we're also looking for sponsorships from local businesses to help support the party, includ-

ing food donations and sponsoring events for kids.

Suggested events thus far include: live music, kids, events, fired up BBQ's and food, and an outdoor family-friendly movie later in the evening. If you have other suggestions, ideas, questions, or comments feel free to contact me at jenspencercoaches@mac.com or 382-7022. There are plenty of ways you can get involved between now and then, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to contribute in any way, donate time or money, or volunteer to help set up or clean up...we would welcome your time and energy.

Remember: your neighbors are like family—you may not always get to pick them, but you do have to live with them. We look forward to creating an opportunity to make some warm memories with our neighbors, and hopefully walk away with some new friends. ↻

Seen these signs?



This sign was found posted on the old gas station at the Lafayette and Manor Road junction. Wonder what's in store for the corner of Cherrywood? Brownfields revitalization is a way to return a property to the community as a greenspace or as a commercial, residential or mixed use development. Stay tuned!



Crossing the rail road tracks you may have spied these signs. Capital MetroRail's Urban Commuter Rail will begin ferrying passengers between Leander and downtown this fall. Questions? allsystems.go.capmetro.org



After the Fire

by Dolly Ensey

A 24-year-old KOOP volunteer was charged with second-degree felony arson for the January 5 blaze that caused \$300,000 in damage to the non-profit radio studios.

The “Mellow Down Easy” jazz program DJ, according to investigators, was “very unhappy” because his application for a full-time, paid position had been turned down. He told the Austin Fire Department (AFD) he had a key duplicated about a week before the fire.

A 4 year old black Lab and AFD arson dog, Pearl, helped solve the case. She sniffed out gasoline that he confessed to pouring on two different studio control panels. KOOP studios moved close to Cherrywood across Airport Boulevard in December 2006.

KOOP neighbors City Theatre and Neighborhood Acupuncture Project are now open for business. City Theatre is offering a great opportunity to get your show on stage by hosting it's theatre festival, Summer Acts, July 7–20 (citytheatreaustin.org). Neighborhood Acupuncture Project has resumed it's classes and sliding scale community acupuncture (myspace.com/napaustin).

KOOP continues to rebuild and we look forward to their return soon. ☺

KAB Clean Sweep – Spring 2008



TOP LEFT Dave Westenbarger, Keith Sharp and Girard Kinney give their shovels a rest from planting the remainder of the KAB grant trees.

BOTTOM left Mike Roeder shows Eve Richter and Keith Sharp relics that he's found in previous creek clean-ups.

RIGHT Father Erik Gibbons teaches one of KAB Clean Sweep's youngest participants, Ayumi Gibbons, the importance of environmental clean up.

Photos by Dolly Ensey

Balance, Coordination and Flexibility by George Holcombe

On Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm, you may notice a group practicing Tai Chi on the front lawn of Asbury UMC. If the weather is inclement, you'll find them inside in the Fellowship Hall. Jim Williams of Fourseasons Tai Chi is the instructor. You can get more information about Jim at his website: fourseasonstaichi.com. The first session is free and \$10 per session thereafter. Tai Chi is an excellent exercise for general health and balance. The neighborhood is welcome. Because of the circular method of teaching, you can join at any point. ☺



Tai Chi is as easy to learn and many people begin to experience health benefits almost immediately: improved balance, lowering high blood pressure, better posture, fewer lower back problems, improved concentration and focus to name a few. Join us!

CNA Logo Contest by Julie Winckler

Undoubtedly, we live in an amazing neighborhood with many active and involved residents. With such a strong community, the neighborhood association would like to create a logo that can represent us now and for many years to come. This logo will be a defining and memorable mark that allows us to consistently communicate our identity to our members and the city at large.

We're calling all creative minds to submit logo recommendations. Here are the details:

What it needs to include

Must incorporate the words "Cherrywood Neighborhood Association" and /or the addition of "CNA". Iterations of the logo including web address will be needed once design is chosen.

Where it will be used

On all communication pieces including CNA letterhead, quarterly newsletter (the *Flea*), welcome booklet, Web site, and signage.

Who's eligible to submit a design

All amateur and professional design artists alike. You do not need to be a member of the neighborhood to submit a design. Design can be in sketch or idea form, as we can work with the selected artist to develop final design.

What is in it for the winning designer

\$100 cash and the prestige of designing a logo for one of the most visible and active neighborhoods in Austin. We'll feature the winning designer in the *Flea* (distributed to all neighborhood households) and include a write up on our e-mail Listserv (NeighborNet), which is subscribed to by more than 700 neighbors.

What is the submission process

Once design concepts are submitted, the design submission will be reviewed by the CNA Communications Committee, and then recommended to the CNA Steering Committee. The top three choices will be put to a vote by all members of the CNA. A final selection will be made in summer 2008.

Deadline for entries

MIDNIGHT ON SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2008

Please include your name, phone number, and e-mail address with your submission. Please submit all design concepts as well as any questions to me at jswinckler@hotmail.com. We look forward to collecting submissions! 🐾

East-West Family Health Joins the Cherrywood Neighborhood by Melissa B. Light, TxLAc, MSOM



TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT
Melissa Light, TxLAc, MSOM and
Stephanie Scott, RMT

MIDDLE, LEFT TO RIGHT
April Bullock, CPM, LM with Henry in lap,
and Hannah Ford, RMT

BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT
Natalie Lake, CPM, LM and Kim Cavins

Cherrywood's newest business, East-West Family Health, celebrated its grand opening Sunday, April 27 sharing food, drinks, music, art, face painting, friends and fun at their beautiful new location at 2500 and 2502 Manor Road. East-West is Austin's 1st Interdisciplinary Birth and Family Center.

The East-West Way is rooted in a philosophy of healing—only recently lost—that dates back thousands of years. East-West carries on the traditions of the family doctor and village healer: the midwife who guides the mother in birth, the massage therapist who heals by the laying on of hands, the acupuncturist and herbalist whose healing modalities are informed by 2500 years of practice, the doula who is the birth partner, and the parent educator whose practice is informed by years of experience.

For more than a year co-founders April Bullock of Birthwise and Melissa B. Light of Light Family Acupuncture searched for the right

location to establish a space where they could fulfill East-West's mission to provide central Austin with affordable holistic health choices that treat families through all the stages of life.

For East-West the location is as important as the mission. April and Melissa knew they would locate East-West in a diverse neighborhood made up of pedestrians, cyclists, young and established families, students and professionals. The office feels like a home in a well loved neighborhood.

The extensive search led April and Melissa to 2500 and 2502 Manor Road. East-West Family Health had found its home in the Cherrywood Neighborhood with the flowers, beautifully remodeled houses, and ample parking. When you step inside East-West, you step into a warm nurturing space that is quiet and stress-free. You will find local artists' work on the walls, herbal tea in the pot, and locally handcrafted herbs. East-West is a true family practice where practitioners treat you from

your community. On April 15th East-West birthed its first baby. She was born happy and healthy weighing 6 pounds 15 ounces. And many clients have already taken an hour out of their busy day to relax, unwind and heal at our new location.

For more information, visit the East-West website where you will find the calendar of events, including the free series of talks in May and inquire about neighborhood discounts: east-westaustin.com or email at: mail@east-westaustin.com.

East-West provides: acupuncture, midwifery care, Chinese herbs, pediatrics, parent education, movement classes, massage and doula services—all in one location. East-West is privileged to join the vibrant and diverse Cherrywood Neighborhood. 🐾

Greetings, New Neighbors!



The Cherrywood neighborhood is bounded by IH-35 (formerly East Avenue, shown above), Airport Boulevard, and Manor Road. In the days before IH-35, East Avenue was a broad finely landscaped boulevard with gardens, flowers and fountains. The boulevard had well maintained lawns, huge flowerbeds with sculpted trees and shrubs. East Avenue was a beautiful entrance into downtown Austin.



by **Rebecca Kohout**

Big wave to all the new neighbors that have moved into our little slice of heaven known as Cherrywood during the past several months! Our new and improved *Welcome to Cherrywood Neighborhood* brochure is available online and in hard copy. The Hospitality Committee would love to come by and deliver one to you. Please call me at 415-9876 for your copy or you can download it from our web site at cherrywood.org. It's full of neighborhood history, committee opportunities and events to watch for during the year! Don't miss it. Just call and we'll have one at your door!

FUN CHERRYWOOD FACT

French Place is often mentioned in conjunction with the neighborhood Cherrywood. It is in actuality a subdivision of the neighborhood.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Austin Police Department Central East Office: 974-5919

Austin Fire Department, Station 14: 911

Texas House of Representatives, District 46: 463-0506

Texas Senate, District 14: 463-0114

Check out the following url for more useful numbers:
austin360.com/lifestyles/content/lifestyles/tia/2005/



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As your local Real Estate Team, we like to keep you informed on the most up to date information regarding the state of the market in Cherrywood over the last month:

HOMES SOLD DEC 2007-JAN 2008:	FOR DEC 2007-JAN 2008:
Number of Sales: 5	Number of Homes for Sale: 13
Average Asking Price: . . . \$289,540	Number of Homes Pending: 5
Average Selling Price: . . . \$283,400	Price Range: . \$147,000 to \$394,965
Percent of Asking Price: 98%	Average Price \$273,697
Average Days on Market: 91	Average Days on Market: 47

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Rebecca's

HOME OWNER'S UPDATE

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

Volume 11, no. 1

Spring 2008

Rid Your Garden of Disease and Insects

Everyone knows that a beautiful yard and garden add value and curb appeal to their home. Whether you're ready to sell or just want to enjoy a garden year-round, you'll want to fight the bugs and not hurt the kids and pets.

Here's a great plant spray to keep on hand to ward off diseases and insects. Spray weekly and it's good-bye pests!

DELUXE BAKING SODA SPRAY

- > 1 ½ T. baking soda
- > 1 T. insecticidal soap
- > 1 T canola oil
- > 1 cup plus 1 gallon water
- > 1 T. vinegar
- > Backpack or pump sprayer

DIRECTIONS

Mix the baking soda, soap and oil with 1 cup of water. Add the vinegar. Don't mix the vinegar in until last or the mixture may bubble over. Pour the mixture into the sprayer and add 1 gallon of water. Shake or stir to combine the ingredients. Spray plants, covering the tops and bottom of the leaves.

YIELD

About 1 gallon of Deluxe Baking Soda Spray.

MARKET ANALYSIS FOR CNA

Due to the large number of active listings in our neighborhood in the past 90 days, I am listing the general statistics of the available properties. This summary includes sales data for all ACTIVE and SOLD properties in the Cherrywood neighborhood.

As you know, 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.

A BIT OF FENG SHUI

ENHANCE YOUR FAME AND REPUTATION

The Fame Zone of your home is located in the center back section of your home.

If you want to **increase your personal and professional reputation**, think about placing objects symbolic of fire in this area. Think red, heat, sparkles, and triangles. Anything that resembles flames is great for this section of your home.

The Fame zone also relates to setting goals and thinking about the future, so it's great for improving your personal life!



15 ACTIVE LISTINGS

Average 2 bed/2 bath... 1,367 sq. ft.
Average list price... \$310,033
Average price per sq ft... \$230.96
Average days on the market... 73

11 SOLD LISTINGS

Average 2 bed/1 bath... 1,145 sq. ft.
Average list price... \$240,718
Average SOLD price... \$231,330
Average price per sq ft... \$206
Average days on the market... 43

A Cherrywood Resident Since 1972. If you're planning a move to a larger home, need to relocate, or know someone on the move — please contact me:

Rebecca Kohout, GRI, ABR, Broker Associate
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Neighbors, if you've been waiting for the right time to buy a house in Cherrywood or the surrounding areas... this is it!!

Interest rates are at a 45 years 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 and properties available.