



NOVEMBER 2008 | VOLUME 15 | NUMBER 1



#### Cherrywood Neighborhood Association General Meeting

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 | 6:30-8 P.M. | MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

ON THE AGENDA: Sustainability issues, including the rollout of the new recycling bins, by a City of Austin representative; election of new CNA Steering Committee members; up-to-date news about neighborhood planning projects; and more.

All Cherrywood neighbors are welcome and encouraged to attend!

#### GORDON BENNETT WAY DEDICATION AT MUELLER



Photo courtesy of TateAustinHahn

On Saturday, November 8, 2008, Mueller dedicated a portion of the hike and bike trail within the community's Southwest Greenway to our friend, Gordon Bennett, who was a longtime Cherrywood neighbor influential in the early planning stages of Mueller helping to shape the mixed-use, urban development on the site of the former airport. Family and friends unveiled the "Gordon Bennett Way" marker, which is located at Zach Scott and Tom Miller streets.

# CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair Jack Josey Newman 426-3934 Secretary Jeremy Mazur 789-9862 Treasurer Rebecca Kohout 477-9560

Members: Michael Bray (retiring term), Deb Freeman, David Greene, Girard Kinney, Robin Peeples, Eve Richter, Mark Schiff, Tom Wald; two vacancies

#### **COMMUNICATIONS / LISTSERVS**

NeighborNet	David Greene	828-7450
Duplex Nation Net	Wendy Morgan	659-6397
Cherrywood.org	Deb Freeman	480-8719
	Wade Holloway	905-2309

#### THE FLEA

Editor	Deb Freeman	480-8719
Advertising	Rebecca Kohout	477-9560
Distribution	Kate & Michael	658-9737

Stricklin

THE FLEA is a the quarterly newsletter for the Cherrywood Neighborhood Assocation; visit www.cherrywood.org.



# STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

To stay connected with your neighbors, we encourage you to join the Cherrywood Neighborhood Listservs, which are open only to Cherrywood residents.

When setting up your Listserv account, you can choose to receive individual e-mails or a daily digest of all e-mails posted that day.

You will need to provide your name and address in order to become a member by clicking on the "Join This Group!" button at the upper right-hand corner of each Web site.

#### **NEIGHBORNET**

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NeighborNet/

#### **DUPLEX NATION**

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DuplexNation/

#### **NOVEMBER 2008**

11/4		Election Day
11/7	7:00 p.m.	CNA Film Night at Asbury UMC
11/8	4:30 p.m.	"Gordon Bennett Way" dedication at Mueller
11/19	6:30 p.m.	CNA Quarterly Meeting at Maplewood Elementary School
11/24	6:30 a m	Large Brush Collection will begin: please have your large brush and limbs on the curb by 6:30 a m

#### **DECEMBER 2008**

12/5 7:00 p.m.	CNA Film Night at Asbury UMC	
12/7	Asbury UMC Food Bank Collection for Capital Area Food Bank	
12/13-14	Cherrywood Art Fair at Maplewood Elementary School	
12/22 6:30 a.m.	Large Bulk Collection will begin; please have your bulk items on the curb by 6:30 a.m.	

#### MONTHLY CHERRYWOOD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Planning & Zoning Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; locations vary.
- Steering Committee meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Star Seeds Cafe.
- Transportation Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Star Seeds Cafe.
- UBC Planning Committee meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Kleberg Hall.

#### **CITY OF AUSTIN PUBLIC MEETINGS**

For a list of upcoming Austin City Council and City of Austin Board & Commission meetings, visit www.ci.austin.tx.us.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## CHERRY PICKINGS By Jack Josey Newman, CNA Steering Committee Chair

Just a few days ago we elected a new president, and placed many others in powerful leadership positions as well. We voted for those who we thought most ready and able to fulfill the responsibilities of office and our high expectations, because there have been few times in our history when we have faced so many challenges at once.

We selected our leaders as well as we could, and try to believe that we chose well. Even more, we fervently hope that these leaders are able to grow to fit their offices, and learn to deal with not only the problems we face currently, but to rise above rigid political dogma and partisanship to solve whatever issues inevitably come later.

Our city and our neighborhood are not immune to the effects of the tremendous pressures of falling property values, layoffs, increasing number of foreclosures, fewer well-paying jobs, on-going military conflicts taking our loved ones, higher prices for necessities including food and access to health care, and much more. Our quality of life as a neighborhood may well rely on how well we help neighbors in need face these issues in the coming months.

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." John F. Kennedy

#### VOTE FOR NEW CNA-SC OFFICERS By David Greene, CNA Communications Chair

We're saying thanks and farewell to a few Steering Committee members this month as we elect a new cohort of two-year terms. And there's still time for you to join or nominate someone.

So...Did you participate in this spring's party caucuses and walk away wanting more? Wondering where to invest your momentum coming off the election? As I suggested last March on NeighborNet, you don't have to wait four years for another evening of hashing out policies and initiatives with your neighbors in an effort to rebuild community. You can join the Cherrywood Neighborhod Association's Steering Committee (CNA-SC). Our meetings are shorter than a caucus, plus the food selection's better (we've been meeting a local restaurants so you can have dinner and a drink).

Yes, if you want to work on local planning or alternative transportation solutions, neighborhood sustainability, mental health solutions, affordable housing, or your pet neighborhood initiative - or even a neighborhood pet initiative - bring your ideas and energy to the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association. We will elect new members at the CNA General Meeting, Wednesday, November 19, at Maplewood Elementary. We have several vacancies and are only as good as the individuals who participate. You can help sustain this community forum and the collaborations it fosters to help define and implement the best ideas for the neighborhood.

The terms of the following CNA-SC members are expiring and they would like your vote to continue their work for the neighborhood:

**Jeremy Mazur | Secretary:** I have been honored to serve as Secretary of the Steering Committee for the past year. During this time I felt that I was brought up to speed with regard to many of the issues involving our beloved neighborhood. With this background I hope to continue to work for, and advocate with, fellow residents for the betterment of this fantastic place that we call home.

**Robin Peeples:** I've lived in Cherrywood (as a renter) for about a year and a half of the five years I've lived in Austin since beginning undergraduate school. I was introduced to how active and engaged this community is

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during the presidential primaries this spring, and was really excited to stay involved locally. I like to contribute wherever I can be useful, so I volunteered as soon as I heard there were Steering Committee vacancies. I'm sure all agree that this is a truly special neighborhood, and it also happens to be where my parents lived when I was born. I graduated from UT in May with degrees in Design and French, and since then I've been working at UT and doing freelance design work.

**Eve Richter:** I have lived in Cherrywood for three of my four years in Austin. I got here as fast as I could, and would not want to live anywhere else in Austin. I am one of the (apparently) few renters involved in neighborhood issues, although I would like to see our perspective represented more. I am one of the contingent that rents here because I love it, but can't afford to buy here. Since I believe it is all of our duty to give back to the community, I feel strongly that it is part of my obligation as a member of the Cherrywood community to do what I can to strengthen and improve the neighborhood. I work for the City of Austin in economic development (focusing on emerging technologies), so I am pretty current on local issues. I'm an amateur filmmaker (as most of my neighbors figure out eventually, watching us film in the yard and surrounding 'hood) and avid dog lover.

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

**Vacancies:** So again, if you've had your small-d democratic fires ignited by this year's election events, I encourage you to check out the Cherrywood republic's Steering Committee, liberate your community spirit, and help us green the neighborhood with your independent contribution to the collective. It'll be good for your constitution, it should be a natural law, and the 'party' could positively reform your social life!

**2007-09 terms continuing:** Deb Freeman, David Greene, Girard Kinney, Rebecca Kohout, Tom Wald, and Jack Josey Newman. (One vacancy needs to be filled).

Photo courtesy of George Holcombe

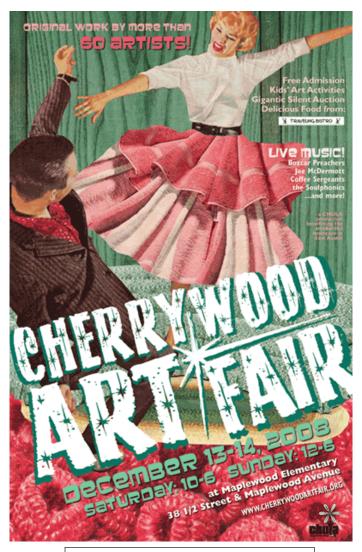


# CHERRYWOOD LENDS SUPPORT TO THE CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK

Jack Newman, Mike Sullivan, and Melvin Walenta talked with neighbors as they filled the blue barrel with food for Austin's hungry during both morning and afternoon rush hours this past September.

More than 3,000 lbs. of food were raised along with \$300.

Thank you, neighbors!



**Article by Kathleen McTee** 

The Cherrywood Art Fair (CAF) isn't just about great local art, music and food, not simply a wonderful place to do your holiday shopping, greet neighbors, and Keep Austin Interesting in a festive holiday setting. In reality, the CAF supports a larger mission: creating art education opportunities for young people in East Austin. This year, the new Little Artist/Big Artist project connects local art students with established local artists, giving kids the chance to experience art-making outside of school, and showing them a glimpse of expanded possibilities for the future.

Little Artist/Big Artist pairs five Maplewood sixth graders with five CAF artist participants. Each student/artist team is creating two works of art: one to be sold in the Silent Auction at the show, one to be kept by the student.

Jennifer Ober, an art teacher at Maplewood, said, "The kids who have experiences with art outside of school see it in a new light. I believe that these experiences built their self-esteem as well as their knowledge base. They might begin to see art as a career path or a subject to pursue in middle and high school. All five of the kids are super excited about working with a "real" artist in a "real" art studio. Who knows, maybe they'll form a lasting friendship with their artist mentor."

Of course, mentorship doesn't just benefit the mentored! Edmund "Edmo" Martinez, one of the project's Big Artists, said, "I have mentored kids before and it is always a rewarding experience. Kids

haven't been taught the rules yet so they don't even know they are breaking them. There is an element of play present that seems to dwindle away as one matures. Kids make art for fun without the preconceived idea of what the end result should be. I find that incredibly rejuvenating and liberating."

Other established artists participating in the project include Ines Batllo of IB Graphics, mosaicist Holli Brown, painter Jane Heyman, and jeweler Natalie Tischler of Ornamental Things.

Facilitating these experiences, and promoting art and art education in general, is only a part of the mission of the Cherrywood Urban Landscape and Arts League (CHULA), a non-profit organization designed to benefit arts and artful landscape in East Austin. Previously, CHULA has funded beautification projects on 38th½ Street and in Patterson Park, and art lessons for a deserving East Austin student (taught by an equally deserving, under-funded Austin artist). The Art Fair is CHULA's main annual fundraising event.

Jane Walton, CHULA treasurer and Art Fair coordinator, envisioned and created the Little Artist/Big Artist project. She said, "My experience in life has been that one thing leads to another. Every artist

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The Cherrywood Art Fair supports a larger mission: creating art education opportunities for young people in East Austin.

can point to a time and a person that changed the course for them; someone who listened, or who they listened to; someone who believed in them; or someone whose lack of belief in them gave them the angry energy to move in a direction that changed their lives. I think the more we can provide opportunities for this kind of serendipity, the more that possibilities are multiplied."

Cherrywood Art Fair began in 2002 as a tiny neighborhood event at Asbury Methodist Church, with 10 artists on hand. The next year, CAF moved to Maplewood Elementary with five times as many artists, and has evolved into one of Austin's most popular and well-regarded holiday events.

Austin's Leslie Bonnell, artist/owner of Glitz-krieg, has shown her work at the Art Fair since the very first year, and watched it grow. She said, "Knowing that the proceeds from the fair directly impact the kids programs at Maplewood is truly the best part of participating. My own creativity was fostered and honed in early childhood arts programs and that has contributed to my process as an artist and craftsperson in countless ways. I love seeing and interacting with the Maplewood kids during the fair and I'm so proud of what the fair is doing to help light that creative spark for a new generation."

Last year, CAF brought more than 4,000 visitors to Cherrywood to enjoy the work of more than 80 artists and musicians. This year's event on December 13-14, 2008 promises to be no less spectacular.

But while fairgoers ooh and aah over the creations of today's artists, they may not know that they are supporting the artists of the future, too. Over the years, the CAF has donated more than \$6,000 to the art program at Maplewood. Ms. Ober said, "The Cherrywood Art Fair has had such an enormous impact on the Maplewood art program. The annual donation has built an art fund, allowing me to purchase tons of stuff to enrich our classes: from rolling drying racks, to poles for street puppet skeletons, to extra clay for our salad bowl project, to plywood for mosaics, to a class set of pliers for wire sculptures, and on and on!"

Beyond these much needed funds, the show has benefitted the school in other ways, Ms. Ober said, "The Art Fair has brought a lot of positive attention to our unique little neighborhood school. Every year kids and parents from other schools stop by the kids' art booth and comment on the art in the hallway or the great vibe of Maplewood. The addition of the Little Artist/Big Artist program takes CHULA's commitment to the students of our school even one step further. "

The seventh annual Cherrywood Art Fair, will be held Saturday and Sunday, December 13-14, 2008 at Maplewood Elementary School. For complete information on participating artists, and how to get involved as a sponsor or volunteer, visit www.cherrywoodartfair.org.



## **GRAFFITI OR SAFETY ART?**

Have you seen these signs throughout the neighborhood? What's your take on them? Do you know the mystery artist?

Photos submitted by Jennifer Elsner.











Photos courtesy of Mike "Sully" Sullivan



#### **GORDON BENNETT BLOCK PARTY**

On Sunday, August 24, 2008, Cherrywood held its
First Annual Gordon Bennett Block Party at the Patterson
Park Pavilion. A big thanks goes out to all of our sponsors:
Clementine's, Rebecca Kohout, and Fiesta, who covered
the cost of the permit and provided the incredible
snow cone machine and snacks.

Special thanks to Jen Spencer for coordinating the party. And, thanks to those Cherrywooders who joined in. We had more than 80 people come throughout the day, and it was a great way to enjoy the last weekend of summer, meet new neighbors, and create new memories with our community.

'Til the next gathering...

# CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Martin Barrera, CNA Planning & Zoning Committee Chair

The CNA Planning and Zoning Committee (P&Z) is actively participating in a variety of issues that affect the quality of life in our neighborhood. In the coming months we'll continue the Visioning Process for 38th½ Street initiated last year by the P&Z Committee, and continued by a special Task Force of both the CNA P&Z and CNA Transportation Committees (see Amy Brotman's article on the following pages). We'll continue to monitor the Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) Zoning District at the Martin Luther King Blvd. / Manor Road Commuter Rail Station. (Note: The MLK Station Area Plan and the TOD Zoning District extend north across Manor Road into CNA). We'll also begin a critical analysis of the City of Austin's Residential Design and Compatibility Standards (McMansion Ordinance) and compare and contrast the City's Standard with the Cherrywood Design Guidelines and we'll research the recent trend of "Vacation Rentals" operating in some our vacant neighborhood properties.

Recently the CNA P&Z Committee made recommendations to the CNA Steering Committee and Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Planning Team regarding properties in the neighborhood:

#### 1704 East 38-1/2 Street Variance Request

The homeowners requested to decrease the minimum front street setback from 25 feet to 15 feet in order to erect an addition to an existing single-family residence. The CNA Steering Committee, acting on a unanimous recommendation of the CNA P&Z Committee, voted unanimously to support the variance request to allow an Open-Sided Carport to infringe into the existing front setback on Half Penny to within 15 feet of the property line. Support for this variance was only for the specific carport infringement that was presented to the CNA P&Z committee on October 7, 2008. The City of Austin Board of Adjustment approved the variance request on October 13, 2008.



#### AN ECO-TRADITION: THE 12TH ANNUAL CHERRYWOOD TREE PLANTING

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On Saturday, October 25, 2008, 11 volunteers helped plant and deliver 36 trees in what has become a tradition. Brennan Bankston, Lori Beck, Kari Bourland, Mike Damal, Kyra Edeker, Michael Gomez, David Juvenal, Kim Keeper, Matthew Seibert, Mike Sullivan, and Sherri Whit marsh participated in this annual fall event. When initially soliciting volunteers, I did not receive many queries, however the strong volunteer influence of Cherrywood came through in the end with a great group of enthusiastic volunteers. Burr oak, live oak, chinquapin oak, Mexican plum, redbud, buckeye, desert willow, and eve's necklace trees were planted and/or delivered to residents. This year brings our 12-year total to 326 trees planted or delivered. This has made a huge difference in the neighborhood and to our contribution to helping the environment. Almost all of the streets in Cherrywood have trees planted from this program!



As a reminder, it is very important to water newly planted trees, or even trees that have been planted in the past few years. We are in a drought condition, and it is important to water though the winter so the trees develop strong root systems to survive our hot summers. The best way to water a tree is to let a hose drip at the base of the tree (a pencil width stream of water is ideal) for a few hours so the area around the tree gets a good soaking. Do this every week or two during periods of dry weather and this will ensure a healthy, fast growing tree! If you have any questions, contact Mike Damal at mdamal@peoplepc.com.

By Mike Damal

#### 1110 East 32nd Street Rezoning Request

The property was recently purchased by a group of doctors who practice Pediatric Cardiology at St. David's Hospital. The property is currently zoned Neighborhood Office-Historic-Neighborhood Plan (NO-H-NP) which allows office uses, but not medical office uses. At the CNA P&Z meeting on October 1, 2008, the property owners requested a Zoning Change to Limited Office-Historic-Neighborhood Plan (LO-H-NP) to allow the medical office use. Also the current Upper Boggy Creek Future Land Use Map (FLUM) designates this property as a civic use. The property owners also requested support for a Land Use Amendment that must be initiated by the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood and approved by the Austin City Council. On October 8, 2008, the CNA Steering Committee, acting on a recommendation of its P&Z Committee, unanimously voted to support the Zoning Change request and the Land Use Amendment request at the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Planning Team meeting October 28, 2008, subject to a restrictive covenant filed and recorded in the Travis County Official Public Records on November 3, 2008 that will require the new owners to: 1) construct a new accessible sidewalk along 32nd Street; 2) remove about 2000 square feet of asphalt in the "panhandle" comprising the northernmost part of the property; and 3) plant native shade trees in that area. The UBC voted unanimously to support the Zoning Change request and the Land Use

Amendment request, as approved by the CNA P&Z and Steering Committees, at future City of Austin Planning Commission and City Council meetings.

#### 3109 North IH-35

Escuelita del Alma, a Spanish immersion childcare learning center is renovating the building at the corner of IH-35 and East 32nd Street. Although Escuelita del Alma has made no variance or rezoning requests, their architect has made several presentations to keep the CNA P&Z committee apprised of their progress during the planning and construction of the renovation. The CNA P&Z Committee suggested that the parking lot be reconfigured to allow oneway traffic into the site from the IH-35 frontage road, and that the parking lot exit only onto East 32nd Street. The applicant complied with this request. The property, zoned Commercial Services-Neighborhood Plan (CS-NP), is appropriately zoned for a Commercial Day Care. An adjacent vacant lot also zoned CS-NP is being converted to a playground for the daycare. A small portion of the adjacent vacant lot zoned SF-3 is planned to be an organic garden for the Day Care, but no work has been performed on that portion of the property. An update is expected at the next CNA P&Z meeting.

If you would like to participate in the CNA Planning & Zoning Committee, contact Martin Barrera at martin@mb-architect.com.

Trick or Treating 2008





#### 38TH-1/2 STREET: GATEWAY TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By Amy Brotman

One of the gateways into the heart of our neighborhood is East 38th½ Street. This street brings together the many small neighborhood pockets that make up Cherrywood. Whether we're on foot or bike or in a car or bus, many of us use it as a primary route in, out, and around the neighborhood. And, at certain parts of the day, it can be downright unsafe for almost any mode of transportation.

To get a better understanding, let's look at some 38th½ Street facts:

- It's a City of Austin designated bike route.
- East 38th½ Street hosts several important city bus routes.
- It's one of the few streets that offer a continuous connection between deep east Austin, IH-35, and Mopac.
- It is bordered by commercial and residential properties, two churches and an elementary school.
- It is anchored at our border with gas stations and a strip shopping center that serve the commuter market.
- Our wonderful elementary school, Maplewood creates a school zone on East 38th½ Street, and is accessed by the only crosswalk on East 38th½ Street adjacent the railroad crossing at Clarkson.
- There's a freight and commuter rail crossing on East 38th½ bordering the crosswalk and the school.
- And, we're adding new, dense neighborhoods directly adjacent to our east and west – Mueller and East Avenue (the former Concordia site).

When you consider these points and the fact that Austin's population is forecast to double in the next 20 years with east Austin growing at a greater percentage than many other areas, it means that more and more people will be coming to and through our neighborhoods. And, many of them will use East 38th½ Street as an avenue to get to where they're going.

So, how do we help make the street safer for our neighborhood and yet still accommodate all of the growth that's supposed to happen? In order to get ahead of the curve, the CNA Planning & Zoning committee decided to work with residents to create a long range vision for East 38th½ Street. This vision will help guide us on decisions that will need to be made to help us shape the growth through the center of the neighborhood.

During the beginning stages of this process, it became evident that we would need to address transportation challenges sooner rather than later. We assembled a task force and got to work.

A group of us came up with a list of as many of the challenges as we could identify from as many points of view as we could come up with – pedestrian, bicyclist, bus passenger, and vehicle driver. Then, we identified all of the organizations from the state and city that could help us solve the problems.

We invited all the pertinent groups including local businesses and neighbors to a planning session so that we could get everyone in the same room and start brainstorming possible solutions. On Wednesday, October 15, 2008, that meeting took place at the Smile Center in the Delwood Shopping Center.

Jim Walker led the charge, and outlined viewpoints from all the various stakeholders – Capital Metro, City of Austin traffic engineers and bicycle program folks, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Texas Department of Transportation, local businesses, Maplewood Elementary, Austin Police Department, and neighborhood residents.

From listening to all the groups, a few things became clear:

• The placement of the bus stop at Robinson and East 38th½ Street creates a very dangerous situation for cars, bicycles and pedestrians.

- Neighbors, commuters and businesses need safe pedestrian, bicycle, automobile and bus means to travel down and across East 38th½ to access businesses, Maplewood School and other neighborhood amenities.
- Even slight changes to the current situation may have unintended consequences, so it's essential that all groups work together to come up with the best possible solutions.

The group then split into brainstorming teams organized by mode of transportation—bike/pedestrian, bus, and automobile. Each team was charged with brainstorming possible solutions for their particular mode's challenges. The teams brainstormed and marked up maps with proposed solutions and then presented their progress to the big group.

No matter what the mode of transportation, common themes emerged:

- The east-bound bus stop at Robinson is not optimally placed. All groups recommended a move for the stop ranging from placing it in the Delwood Shopping Center to moving it to the corner at Hollywood.
- At least one additional crosswalk is desired. Ideally, this would be signaled.

- A light or stop sign is desired on East 38th½ between IH-35 and Maplewood in order to slow traffic and allow for all modes to safely enter/cross East 38th½ Street from the neighborhood.
- A west-bound bus stop that does not interfere with traffic on 38th½ Street is desired. The concept was to create a bus pull-in on the Delwood Shopping Center side of the street.
- Wider, accessible sidewalks with fewer pedestrian obstacles are needed to facilitate pedestrian traffic on both sides of the street.
- A continuous bike lane from IH-35 to Anchor Lane is desired and is in the city plans. This lane would not only slow vehicular traffic, but would allow for safer cycling along East 38th½ Street.

We ended the evening with an understanding that the experts heard and understood us and that they would work with us to fix the problems. While we're not expecting things to happen tomorrow, we are on the radar and timed the meeting appropriately to be added into planning and budgeting cycles.

The taskforce will be following up with the experts and will keep the neighborhood up-to-date on developments. Stay tuned!



Neighbors and local businesses met to discuss challenges facing 38th1/2 Street.

Photo courtesy of Amy Brotman



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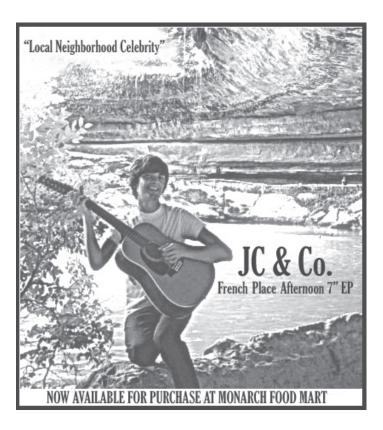
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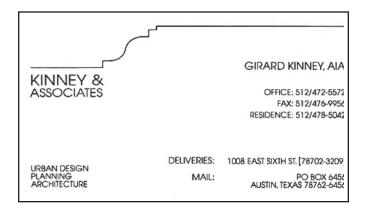


#### THE FLEA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

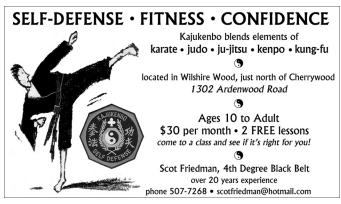
THE FLEA is in need of advertising assistance and would like your help with ad sales. This is an excellent way to establish relationships with our local merchants and offer them the benefit of our great advertising mechanism. Many businesses are switching their advertising to the grass-roots level so you'll be offering them a service that is a win-win situation. It only takes a few hours each quarter and you'll be making a big difference in our community. To volunteer, please contact Rebecca Kohout at 477-9560 or rebecca@austinexpertrealtor.com.

In addition, we need assistance delivering THE FLEA on a quarterly basis. If you would like to help with the November issue, please contact Michael Stricklin at 658-9737.









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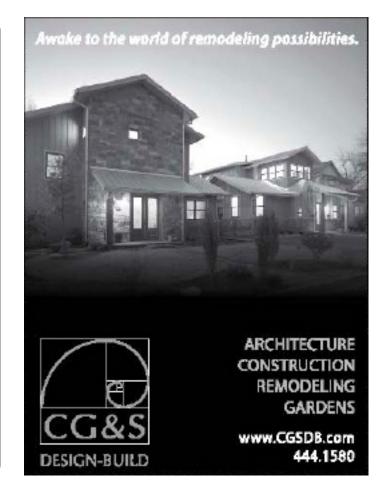


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For almost 60 years, we have been proud to be your neighbor. Although many things have changed since we first opened our doors in 1950, our goal remains the same: to provide the residents of the Delwood and Wilshire Wood neighborhoods with high quality laundry and dry cleaning service at a fair price. We thank you for your many years of support.

#### We offer the following services:

- Quality dry cleaning and shirt laundry service.
  - Expert alterations and repairs.
  - Comforter and bedspread cleaning.
- Same day service available on garments received weekdays before 10am.
- Professional, knowledgeable, and experienced staff.

1406 East 38 1/2 Street 478-2460 Mon-Fri 7am-6pm; Sat 9am-noon

#### IN THE MIDDLE

of a major life change

#### WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE?

If you're between jobs, in school, or starting your own business, don't sweat it. I have plans from Assurant Health designed with your needs in mind. To find out more about short term, student or individual medical coverage, call me today.



Steve Vinklarek, Agent 3700 N IH 35 Bus: 512-452-0214 www.steveinsures.com steve@steveinsures.com

See a local State Farm agent for more details on coverage, costs, restrictions, and renewability. Assurant Health products are underwritten and issued by Time Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI, which is financially responsible for these products. No member of the State Farm family of companies is financially responsible for these products. Assurant, Assurant Health and Time Insurance Company are not affiliates of State Farm.





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02/06

#### Rebecca's

## HOME OWNER'S UPDATE

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

**Fall 2008** 

#### Hang some Green with Beta-Carotene!

If you want to spruce up an evergreen wreath without tracking down tiny apples or oranges to wire on, try, uhmmm, brussel sprouts or artichokes! There are lots of other possibilities in the produce department of your local grocer...but these are two of my favorites. Just fluff out the leaves a bit, and bore a hold through the bottom of the woody portion with a round toothpick. Thread florist wire through the hole, then attach it to the greenery. Group the sprouts and chokes in clusters, just as you would decorate with fruits or flowers. If you're out of florist's wire, just grab some twist ties and use them instead.

# Bit of Feng Shui

#### Refresh Your Home's Chi

I love to use this chart when I'm updating a home for better curb appeal in my real estate practice. My clients are so often amazed at how the color choice improves the chi while working with the existing house color!

South (Fire) = Burgundy, red, purple, or rose Southwest (Earth) = Beige, brown or yellow West (Metal) = Any of the metallic colors like gold, silver, or copper. Also, white. Northwest (Metal) = Same as for West... gold, silver, copper or white. North (Water) = Dark colors like black, charcoal gray, blue. Northeast (Earth) = Beige, brown or yellow. East (Wood) = Any shade of green Southeast (Wood) = Any shade of green



# MARKET ANALYSIS FOR THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD

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..

Average home in Cherrywood is 3 beds, 2 baths. Average home is about 1,400 square feet. Average list price is \$302,732.00 Average Sells price is \$258,286.00 Average price per square foot is about \$220.00 List price to sales price quotient is 98% Average days on market is 83.

#### FEATURED HOMES FOR SALE

2008 Hamilton ..... \$247.000 3 beds, 2 baths, approx 1,200 sq ft Great xeriscaped lot w/ privacy Fencing.



**3805 Grayson..... \$225,000** 3 beds, 1 bath, 3 living areas Large kitchen, large lot!



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

#### A Cherrywood Resident Since 1972

If you're planning a move to a larger home, need to relocate, or know someone on the move-contact me, Rebecca Kohout at Coldwell Banker United Realtors, 415-9876, or rebecca@austinexpertrealtor.com. www.austinexpertrealtor.com FOR THE BEST MOVE OF YOUR LIFE!



RICHARD SMITH,
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Each Office is Independently
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Direct: 512.415.9876
Fax: 512.477.9560
Rebecca Kohout Email: rebecca@
austinexpertrealtor.com

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.