

THE FLEA



NEIGHBORHOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

- Maplewood School Volunteers - p. 4
- Neighborhood Stories Project - p. 5 * People's Community Clinic - p.6
- The 4-1-1 on 4020 - p.6 * Digital Billboards - p.7 * Rain Garden - p.7
- Mueller Update - p.8 * Theatre Volunteers - p.8 * Travel p.10 * Chess Club p.10
- 78722 BIZ: Successful E.A.S.T - p.11 * Community Cats - p.11
- Cherrywood Musicians - p.12 * CherryWoodstock Seeking Volunteers - p.12

QUARTERLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2016 ~ ASBURY SERVANT CHURCH
6PM - EL CHILITOS tacos/ music by BAT CITY ~ 6:30 - 8:00 MEETING



Wednesday, February 17, 2016
Cherrywood Quarterly Meeting

@ Asbury Servant Church
38 1/2 Street and Cherrywood Road

6:00 pm - EL CHILITOS tacos
 music by BAT CITY, neighborhood band
 6:30–8 pm Meeting

The agenda will be posted at Cherrywood.org
 Also, check the kiosk at Cherrywood Green and signs posted around the neighborhood for agenda items.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION KIOSK
 Cherrywood Green
 34th Street at Cherrywood Road



Terry Dyke and Jules Kniolek complete construction of the kiosk

CNA STEERING COMMITTEE

CHAIR Jules Kniolek: chair@cherrywood.org

VICE CHAIR. - Meaghan Bludau

SECRETARY - Terry Dyke

TREASURER - Janine Gropp

MEMBERS

Justin Irving, Emily Schwartz, Mark Schiff, Wiccit, Ryan Ofsthun
 and Erin Tassoulas

STEERING COMMITTEE CONCERNS
steering@cherrywood.org

STAY CONNECTED

Neighborhood Concerns
chair@cherrywood.org

Neighborhood Associations

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association
cherrywood.org

Blackland Community Development Corporation
blacklandcdc.org

Mueller Neighborhood Association
Muellerneighborhood.org

Schieffer-Willowbrook
sites.google.com/site/swnaaustin

Austin Neighborhood Council
ancweb.org/neighborhood-groups

Neighborhood Groups

Imagine Cherrywood
www.facebook.com/groups/imaginecherrywood

Friends of Austin Neighborhoods
atxfriends.org

78722 Business Association
78722.biz

List Servs

- Neighbornet – groups.yahoo.com/group/NeighborNet
- Duplex Nation Net – groups.yahoo.com/group/DuplexNation
- CNA Facebook – facebook.com/cna.austin
- Cherrywood 78722 – www.facebook.com/cherrywood78722

Recurring Meetings

78722 Business Association Happy Hour
 First Tuesdays – 8pm

Friends of Willowbrook Reach/Patterson Park
 Second Mondays – 6:30pm

Austin Neighborhood Council East Sector
 Second Tuesdays – 1pm

Blackland Community Development Center
 Second Tuesdays – 6pm

CNA Steering Committee Meeting
 Second Wednesdays – 6:30 – 8pm

Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting
 Third Saturdays – 10am

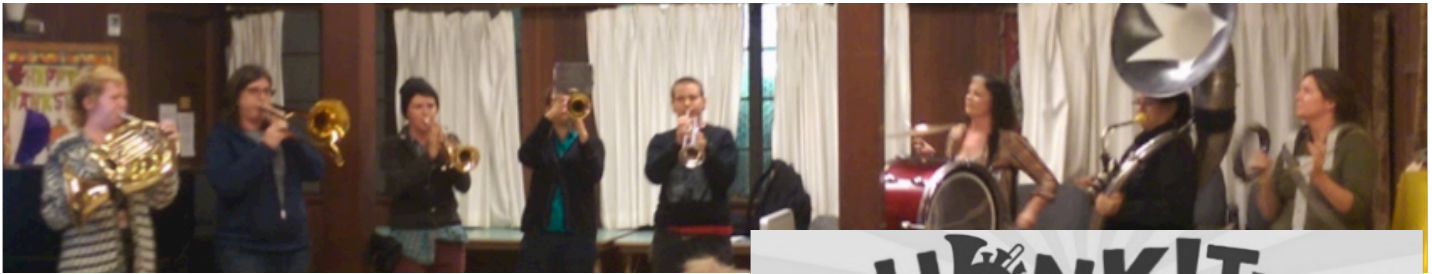
Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Team
 Fourth Mondays – 6:30pm

Austin Neighborhoods Council
 Fourth Wednesdays – 7 - 9pm

Report from the November 2015 Quarterly Public Meeting

The November meeting started with pizza from East Side Pies and ended with a brass band. After tracking down the brass band that occasionally fills the air in Cherrywood with wonderful music, CNA Steering Committee's Erin Tassoulas arranged for the Yes Ma'am Brass Band (pictured below) to join us. They played several songs and introduced us to the free festival of community street bands HONK! TX. The band certainly added to their local following and several people volunteered to host HONK! TX musicians in April.

We reviewed and approved the 2016 budget and discussed local events and development projects. We also welcomed a new steering committee member. See [Cherrywood.org\Meetings](http://Cherrywood.org/Meetings) for complete meeting notes. JOIN US at the next meeting!



HONK! TX Free Festival of Community Street Bands

By Jen Reel, HONK!TX coordinator



HONK!TX is a nonprofit, community-driven festival that brings street and brass bands from around the country to perform for free in the public spaces of Austin, Texas. Mobile and unamplified, HONK! bands transform everyday locations into spontaneous stages, dissolving the line between crowd and performers and inviting everyone to celebrate the joys of music and community. A range of genres will be represented: New Orleans second-line brass, European Klezmer and Balkan, Brazilian, West African and more. HONK! is a celebration of community, collaboration and creative expression. Join the revelry!

We have several Cherrywood neighbors who are in HONK! bands, including James Mescall, who lives across the street from the church. She plays trumpet for the Yes Ma'am Brass Band and is also our Bike Lead for HONK! I, am the founder of the Yes Ma'am Brass Band and I play bass drum. Although she doesn't live in Cherrywood, Alison, our housing coordinator, is a Yes Ma'am baritone player and practices with . The Yes Ma'ams in my house, which is on Merrie Lynn Ave. My partner, who lives in Cherrywood with me also runs the Dead Music Capital Band and is our HONK! site logistics lead. Now, the band doesn't practice here; they're too big to fit in our house! You have probably heard the Collective Dischord practicing Thursday nights across the street from the church at 38 1/2 and Cherrywood, which is where James lives. Although she does not play in that band anymore, her roommate does, and so does our HONK! band lead, as well as our HONK! merchandise lead.

There are many ways to contribute to HONK!TX including donations, providing housing to visiting musicians, donating a bike for a musician to use which will go to charity after the festival, and bringing food to a potluck for musicians.

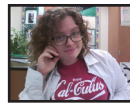
Do you want to help out but still enjoy the festival? Volunteering is a great way to do that! From carrying around a tip bucket, to organizing food for the musicians, to manning the HONK!TX merch table, we've got jobs for any music-lover of any age. Sign up with a friend or family member and join the fun! volunteer@honktx.org

Do you have a group, club, or even just a rowdy bunch that likes to strut their stuff in crazy costumes? Maybe you've always wanted to build a float powered by people on bikes or foot? We want you to be a part of our Sunday East Austin Parade! Join all the HONK!TX bands, community groups and enthusiastic Austinites in marching from Pan-Am Park. Contact us for more information and to reserve your spot! parade@honktx.org



How to Get Involved: Volunteer to Host HONK!TX Musicians

By Alison Earnhart



Happy 2016, everybody! With the start of the new year, we here at the HONK! TX Planning Committee are getting into full gear with preparing for the BIGGEST, AWESOMEST, MOST FUNNEST EVER HONK! TX. We are celebrating our 6th year, and we want to include you in the adventure.

This year, HONK! TX runs Friday through Sunday, April 1, 2, and 3. Traditionally, we try to offer housing for musicians for all three of those nights, and sometimes Thursday night too. Bands also prefer to be housed together, both for logistical and social reasons. It's my job to try to match bands to the available housing and keep bands as together and close as possible. That's why I'm especially excited to work with the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association to help us promote housing in the neighborhood. Not only is Cherrywood a great location so that musicians can bike and use public transportation to get around town, but if many neighbors all volunteer together in the same area, it's so much easier to accommodate larger bands. Few households can host 15-20 musicians at once, but putting five folks here and four folks across the street and another six two houses down ends up adding up and keeping things simple and safe for everyone involved.

Providing free, community housing for visiting musicians is an integral part of what HONK! TX is about. It's not just an issue of finance, it's also part of what makes our event so community-centered. By inviting musicians into the homes of local families, we are building relationships that are enjoyable and meaningful. Some bands come back to the same households year after year and grow genuine friendships. Musicians put on "thank you" shows in folks' back yards, play with kids and pets, and get insider tips on where to get the best breakfast tacos. All the visiting musicians end up getting authentic experiences of Austin that enrich our local community here as well as the international community of brass band musicians.

We are starting to get RSVPs from bands all around the country and we gotta find some space for all these musicians to rest their weary heads at the end of the night. If you are interested in hosting a HONK! TX Musician, please contact HONK! TX Housing housing@honktx.org contact me directly at earnhah3@gmail.com.



Maplewood School Self Portrait "Shades of Us" – 'No Place for Hate'

Maplewood Elementary: Fostering Diversity and Creativity

By Kelli Kirk, MSW, NBCT

Your neighborhood school, Maplewood Elementary, has stretched and grown, just as Cherrywood has. Current enrollment sits at a cozy 470 pre-k through sixth grade students, with ethnic and socioeconomic demographics that mirror the real world. Our school is a microcosm, the perfect place for little people to learn, and practice skills for being big people.

Maplewood Elementary, once described by an AISD superintendent as "The East Side's best kept secret," is a small but diverse group of families and educators with one over-arching goal in mind...to nurture peaceful, open minded, creative thinkers. It's a place where classes research and make presentations on peaceful heroes, like Malala and Cesar Chavez. It's a place where parents, teachers, and students work together on classroom gardens, which are harvested and gobbled up from student-created pottery salad bowls. And it's also a place that is a Welcoming School (welcomingschools.com), one that values and appreciates all families by having "Maplewood Family Tree" celebrations.



Salim Kapasi, Maplewood third grade Dual Language student and winner of the Be the Change Creative Expression Contest

How to Get Involved:

Make a Meaningful Contribution to Maplewood Elementary



Can you spare less than one hour a week help a student at Maplewood Elementary?

Become a Maplewood Mustang Volunteer Tutor and make a real difference in the lives of local children. Volunteers need to be available to meet with a student a minimum of one day a week, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., in 30-45 minute increments.

Typical tutoring subjects included reading and math.

Steps to Get Started:

1. Email Kelli Kirk, Maplewood School Counselor

kelli.kirk@austinisd.org.

In the subject line write: "Interested in Tutoring Program"

2. Complete the online registration form that Ms. Kirk emails you *

3. Agree to a day/time that best fits your schedule

4. Schedule a time for the intro meeting with your student

5. Smile and receive loads of high fives for helping a local kid!

* All Maplewood volunteers are subject to a background check, run by Austin Partners in Education. www.maplewoodelementary.com

Maplewood Family Tree Project

Maplewood Elementary is a place where a Dual Language student, like third-grader, Salim Kapasi, writes an essay titled How Can Gandhi Stop Global Warming-and wins the essay contest! Beatrix McDaniel, Maplewood fourth-grader and Student Council member, shares her views on the school she loves: "This has been my school for many years. It's an AMAZING school that's very welcoming. Here at Maplewood, we have a great teaching strategy of letting kids learn at their own pace. It works for families in all situations. It's a "No Place for Hate" school where there are rarely any bullying issues. Every morning, the kindergarten and upper-grade students come to assembly to hear about current school events. Maplewood is a great school!"



Neighborhood Stories Project

By Nine Francois



Nine Francois, the NSP Coordinator, is a photographer whose passion lies in de-coding and effectively using the language of photography to connect people. She is frequently working on projects that involve taking pictures, telling stories and building community.

In 2012, parents, students, and neighborhood volunteers transformed a barren stretch of earth on the west side of the Kealing Middle School campus into what is now the Kealing Gardens. Today, it includes 11 beds, an outdoor classroom, a perma-culture garden, a garden shed with water collection system, up-cycled garden art, and a community gathering area of benches surrounded by fruit trees. A year after its creation and under the guidance of science teacher Lucinda Pogue, the Gardens became the center point of the newly adopted Eco-Rise Science curriculum at Kealing.

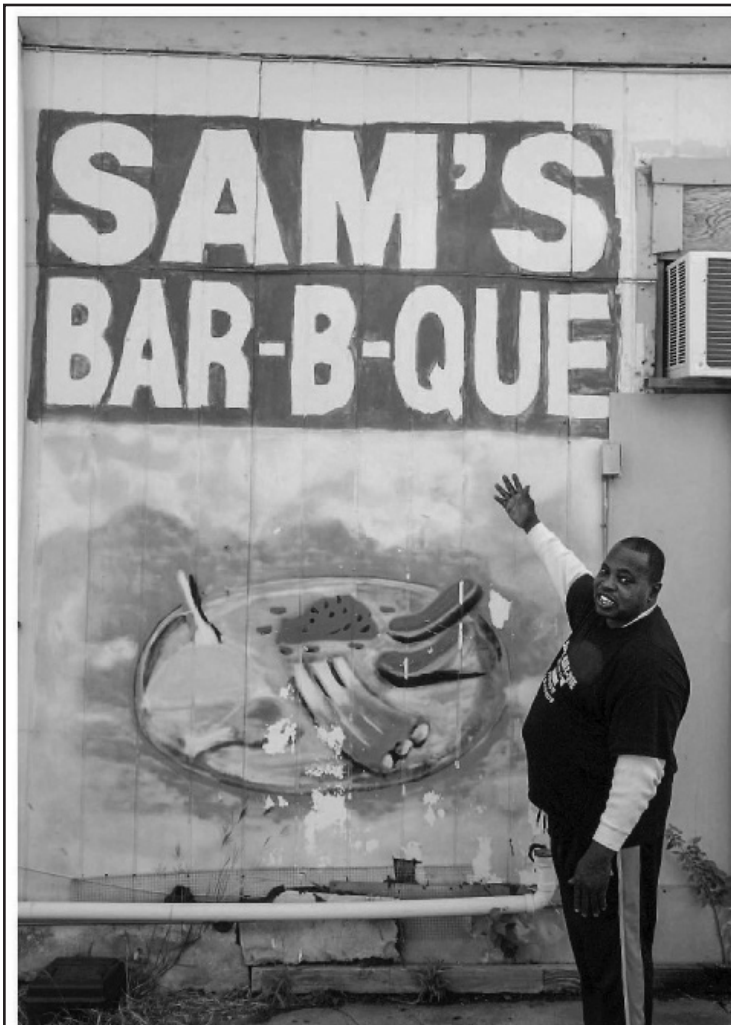
The idea behind the creation of the Kealing Gardens was to connect multiple groups of KMS students through the commonality of food – its production, consumption, and the culture/history that supports it – and to provide opportunities for team-building among the student body as well as between the school and the community. To this end, various spin-off projects were spawned from the gardens, several of which have taken on their own momentum.

One of these spin-offs is the Neighborhood Stories Project (NSP).

NSP pairs KMS students from Kristen Scott's year book class with local residents and business owners to produce a series of profiles of the people who live and work in the Kealing area. Armed with theme-specific questions, recording devices and cameras, the students spend an afternoon honing their journalistic skills while conducting these real-life interviews to learn what they can about the community adjacent to their school. Students are escorted to these off-campus interviews by volunteer photographers who help students execute environmental portraits to accompany the stories.

As one of the accompanying volunteers for the past several years, I can attest to the goose-bumpy connections that are made during these encounters. Old and young, black and white, fast and slow, brown and black – whatever the differences between interviewee and interviewers, they melt away as these kids listen to and learn from the stories offered by their hosts. In many instances, both students and interviewee end the session with heartfelt hugs and an expressed appreciation for having had the opportunity to get to know the other. On the walks back to campus, KMS students frequently say they've never met anyone like the person they just interviewed which invariably leads to a conversation about the richness of the varied cultures of East Austin.

The story about Brian Mays that follows is one from the NSP.



A COMMUNITY INSTITUTION

At 62, Brian Mays is the current owner of Sam's BBQ, an East Austin BBQ staple that has been around since the 1950s. Opened by his grandfather, it's been passed down for 3 generations. It was a big move for his grandfather to open a restaurant in that time because

there were very few restaurants owned and operated by black families. "People think that soul food is like a bunch of pickled pigs feet and Kentucky Fried Chicken, because back then, that was what the white people gave us. The left overs. We learned how to use those and make good food out of it. But the true soul food is BBQ." And that's exactly how his Grandfather Sam made a place for his restaurant in the community.

Mr. Mays grew up and currently lives in East Austin and says that it hasn't really changed that much in the years he's been here. He feels like the new houses and folks are good, but it does impact the taxes. Unfortunately, the paychecks stay the same so a lot of residents don't have money for things that they'd had money for before. "Everything is hard, because everything is going up except your paycheck," Mr. Mays explained.

And though he feels like

the city is mostly the same, he has noticed some changes in his immediate area. "There isn't tradition here anymore. Not like they used to have," he said. The community used to hold picnics and gatherings with people around the entire neighborhood. But with new folks coming, they just

"Sam's Barbeque still here? Yeah, we're gonna be here. We're here to stay."

don't have a connection to the neighborhood's older traditions.

Today Brian Mays continues his grandfather's legacy in the neighborhood by making great barbecue. He's been adding to his reputation by starring in a number of films and music videos. Having worked with celebrities like Nicholas Cage, Al Pacino, Jay Z and Eminem, he finds great joy in acting. He's been in a number of television shows and films including *The Life of David Gale*, *The J Kennedy Show*, Food Network, Eminem's *Slaughterhouse Music Video*, and *JOE*. For every movie, he makes a scrapbook that includes photographs and quotes on set.

Today, he considers himself a changed man. Even though he's had a complicated past, he wants everybody to know how to live, love, and remember by taking pictures and recording what happens.

Story by Allen L.

Austin's People's Community Clinic Growing to Meet Community Needs

Regina Rogoff, JD, Chief Executive Officer, People's Community Clinic

The story of the People's Community Clinic (PCC) is worth sharing. Established in 1970 by a group of volunteer doctors and nurses in a west campus area church basement, it didn't take long for lines to form stretching around the block. Whenever the volunteers needed money, they stood outside with coffee cans and asked for donations. And people gave. These are the deep roots People's has in the Austin community that have held us in good stead for over 45 years.

Today, People's Community Clinic is a Federally Qualified Health Center and recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance as a Patient Centered Medical Home. Seventy-five percent of People's patients live at or below the federal poverty level, and the clinic currently serves as the primary source of health care for over 11,000 patients per year. People's is considered by some as the "gold standard" of community health clinics, having won awards for service to the community, outstanding leadership, and for being a great place to work.

What makes People's Community Clinic so successful? It's simple. It's the people. Just ask Hossein. Hossein came to the U.S. in 1976, and after working hard for many years, lost his job when the security company he worked for went bankrupt. Skeptical before his first visit, he quickly changed his mind. "Coming here has changed my life. In my opinion, this is a first-class clinic. I appreciate each person that works for People's Community Clinic. They made a difference in my life, and I appreciate it."

The secret sauce is a holistic or "whole person" approach to patient care. We focus on delivering the services needed to facilitate our patients' long-term well-being; from prenatal care and family planning to pediatrics and adolescent health, through to adult medicine. Well-woman and well-child visits include preventative cancer screens and immunizations. "Wrap-around" integrated behavioral health and social work services for children, adolescents and adults are an important part of the program. The clinic's health education services cover family planning, lactation, chronic disease management, nutrition counseling, and cooking classes to promote healthier lifestyles.

With Texas one of nineteen states not expanding Medicaid, a twelve percent regional year-over-year population growth rate has help put People's services at capacity. Thus in 2014, People's leadership announced plans to expand to a new 59,000-square-foot facility in northeast Austin where almost half of our patients already live. Our plan is to double capacity to over 20,000 patients over the next few years. Opening this April, the new clinic at 1101 Camino La Costa will include a full teaching kitchen, classrooms for health educators and space for community meetings. Our existing Cherrywood site will then be repurposed as People's Center for Women's Health.

	Patient Services		
	Prenatal Care	Immunizations	Acupuncture for Chronic Pain
	Pediatric Care	Chronic Disease Management	Reach Out and Read
	Adolescent Health Services	Health Education	Laboratory Services
	Gynecology and Family Planning	Diabetes Education and Nutritional Counseling	Pharmacy Services
	Adult Primary Care	Social Work Services	
	Tandem Teen Prenatal Care and Parenting	Integrated Behavioral Health Services	

People's Community Clinic Volunteer Opportunities

At People's Clinic it's all about the people. Anya, a patient and mother of two agrees, "Everyone at People's treats my family like their family." You too can join the People's family. Become a volunteer. We are currently looking for folks to fill the following volunteer positions:

Clinic Interpreter: Spanish and English translation for our providers and patients.

Volunteer Reader: Read to young children in the PCC waiting room.

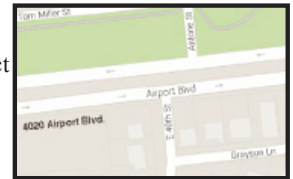
For more information about People's services and impact, please visit <https://www.austinpcc.org/>.

Volunteers must be eighteen years of age, out of high school, and meet immunization requirements. To volunteer, contact Gayla Stock, Volunteer Coordinator, gaylas@austinpcc.org, 512-684-1719. And, as always we thank our Cherrywood neighbors

The 4-1-1 on 4020

By Janine Gropp

The proposal to develop the 2.8 acre site at 4020 Airport Boulevard was approved by the City of Austin on January 26th, according to Glen Coleman of PSW who presented the project to Cherrywood at a General Meeting over a year ago. The plans provided to Girard Kinney by the developer (PSW) in December, include 17 single family residences on the site that will face Airport Boulevard. Most will have three bedrooms and be one or two stories. Current plans on file with the City anticipate that a U-turn on Airport Boulevard will be added to allow south bound traffic to turn around between Schieffer Avenue and 38th 1/2 Street. Consistent with neighborhood requests, the housing development will not connect to Schieffer Avenue to mitigate increased traffic.



Mr. Kinney commented that providing an alternative to people in Cherrywood, Schieffer Willowbrook, and Willshire Wood to having to go all the way to 38th 1/2 Street would strengthen our effort to keep the two Longhorns in place, which are there to prevent cut through traffic. Scheiffer Willowbrook Neighborhood Association Chair David Boston said the SWNA questions the addition of another turn lane on Airport Boulevard, primarily on the increased impervious cover and the potential for more cut-through traffic in the neighborhood. It also has the potential, they say, for increasing peak traffic gridlock, and that there are other alternatives for facilitating traffic flow in and out of the proposed development that have not been investigated. Optimizing the timing of the current traffic lights and turning facilities may be better option.

According to Mr. Boston, the existing turning lanes on Airport Boulevard known as the Longhorns, provide adequate turning capacity, so there is no need for an additional turn lane into the development. Further, Mr. Boston said that PSW has failed to address basic storm water runoff and water detention issues in their latest revisions of the site plan. PSW has also failed to provide an accurate site plan that does not encroach onto the stream bed bordering the property. Basically, SWNA says the plan the developer has submitted will not fit on the property without adversely affecting the creek and adjacent properties. Representatives from SWNA are in communication with the city development review department about these issues.

Sign Off ?

Cherrywood to Vote on Digital Billboards

By Meaghan Bludau and Girard Kinney

The issue of allowing digital billboards in Austin arose at a November 30th meeting of the City of Austin Public Safety Committee. At the meeting, Ray Allen spoke on behalf of Sign On Austin, an organization that supports changing the city sign code to allow for digital billboards. Mr. Allen asked the committee to support proposed amendments which include allowing for an existing billboard to be converted to digital as long as another billboard was permanently removed. Mr. Girard Kinney, president of Scenic Austin and longtime Cherrywood resident, expressed opposition to digital billboards and asked that there be a robust discussion of the topic going forward. Council Member Don Zimmerman, who chairs the committee, said there would be time for unlimited testimony at the next Public Safety Committee meeting on January 24th.

The current sign ordinance was passed in 1983 and prohibits new off-premise signs (billboards). Following the bans on new billboards in the 80s, Austin lost billboards

at the rate of about 3½% per year until an amendment, about 10 years later, allowed an existing off-premise sign to be relocated if the new sign uses the same method and technology as the previous sign and it does not increase illumination; digital billboards are not allowed. Since the relocation amendment passed, the previous attrition of billboards ceased and the number of billboards in the City is no longer decreasing. Emily Schwartz, on behalf of the Cherrywood Steering Committee, was asked to attend the next Austin City Council meeting on January 28 to inform the City Council that the neighborhood would be voting on a resolution on February 17. Ms. Schwartz met with the Scenic Austin Team prior to action taken by council, and through an agreement with councilmember representatives a 120-day process became required for a robust community conversation to occur before any amendment language is crafted by staff, so there will now be ample opportunity for Cherrywood residents to weigh-in on the amendments.

The Steering Committee welcomes feedback from neighbors to draft a resolution aimed at preventing digital billboards. Comments can be sent to steering@cherrywood.org. More information about the issue can be found by visiting the City of Austin website at <https://www.austintexas.gov>.

Calendar for Cherrywood Neighborhood Venues

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE

Tuesdays 9pm
Open-Mic Comedy
Thursdays-Saturdays 7pm
Music
Sundays 10am
Groundworks Music
Monday-Friday 8am
Free Hatha Yoga

MI MADRE

Live Music every Wednesday
\$2 Mexican beer
Fourth Saturdays 7-10pm
Salsa Night

SCHOOLHOUSE PUB

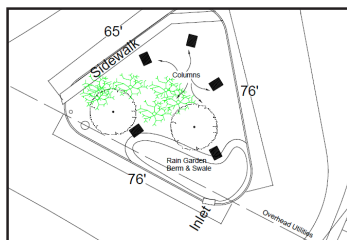
Libations 101
February 22 @ 6pm
Tickets on sale on their website. This month featuring wine cocktails.

IN.GREDIENTS

2/17 - 2/21 - OUTsider Fest
2/20 - Square Dance on the Lawn! 4-6pm
2/25 - Trivia Returns! 7pm
2/26 - Pints for Cash (Birthday & Memorial) 5-8pm

Rain Garden & Mosaic Art Installation Update

By Janine Gropp



Rain Garden Layout

David Boston of the Schieffer-Willowbrook Neighborhood Association reported that the idea for a rain garden and mosaic art installation in the Schieffer-Cherrywood triangle and Patterson Park was brought up in a discussion of neighborhood improvements at the Association's May 2015 meeting.

An application was submitted for the project which required signatures of the adjacent residents and Genesis Church Congregation representatives. According to Mr. Boston, Art in Public Places Director Megan Wells said the main focus will be on the materials, which will be the same as the Larry Monroe bridge and the Deep Eddy mosaic. The proposed art installation



Mosaic Prototype

includes columns that will complement the existing mosaic at Patterson Park. Mr. Boston also reported that the primary artist will be Stefanie Distafano and Associates.

The project is still under review and will require approval from Public Works, Watershed Protection, Road and Bridge, and the Arts Commission. The City of Austin Public Works Department Neighborhood Partnering Program Manager Justin Golbabai has requested additional community outreach to adjacent neighborhood associations in Cherrywood and Wilshire Wood, as well as, stakeholders such as Friends of Patterson Park. This outreach is currently in progress



3/4 - First Friday Block Party 6-9pm
3/8 - Amplify Austin Kickoff Party 6pm
3/19 - Earth Hour Candle Lit Show 8:30pm
3/27 - Spring Festival w/ music by Full Moon Medicine (11am) & Dry Sky & Kyote (1pm)
4/1 - First Friday Block Party w/ Brand New Key 6-9pm

The Butterfly Bar

5th Birthday for The Butterfly Bar @The VORTEX
Feb.18, 2016; 5pm-Midnight

February 2016 Mueller Update

ByRick Krivoniak

The future path of Aldrich Street, now visible from E. 51st between Berkman and Mueller Blvd., leads directly to Mueller's Town Center (a.k.a. "Aldrich Street"), where site preparation at 1911 Aldrich has begun for the Alamo Drafthouse cinema. Slated to open later this year, it will feature six screens for new releases, classics, independent films, foreign movies and special programming. The six theaters, all on the second floor, will hold a total of around 600 people in luxurious 26" wide seats. Two theaters will be equipped with 35mm projectors, and all will feature 4k digital projection and state-of-the-art digital surround sound. The complex includes an adjacent bar/lounge serving up 48 beers on tap and craft cocktails, with outdoor patio seating and a stage for live music. In addition to traditional cinema offerings, Alamo Drafthouse Mueller will be a hub for their growing family and youth programming to serve neighborhood families.

Up the street from the Alamo Drafthouse, the Aldrich 51 affordable apartment complex is expected to break ground in February. Located at 2604 Aldrich, immediately east of the AISD Performing Arts Center, it will also front on 51st Street and have a small com-



AISD Performing Arts Center - Staff Photo

mercial component. The project will consist of 240 units. Fifteen units will be reserved for households with incomes at or below 30% Median Family Income (MFI), and ten of those units are reserved for Permanent Supportive Housing, offering subsidized housing and ongoing support and case management services for individuals and families who had been homeless. Forty-eight units will be reserved for households with incomes at or below 50 percent MFI. One hundred fifty-six (156) units will be reserved for households with incomes at or below 60 percent MFI. Twenty-one (21) units will have no income restrictions. Geared primarily for workforce tenants, most units have one or two-bedrooms. A similar tax-credit/affordable project aimed at families is planned for the future at Mueller, where the goal of offering 25% of the total dwellings for those making at or below 80% of MFI - \$43,050 for 1 person or \$61,450 for a 4-person household for 2015 in Austin.

By year's end, all of Berkman will be constructed to its full width as the housing phase east of the street continues build-out north towards the H-E-B. Mueller's second neighborhood park is well underway in this area. Bounded by Vaughan, Moreno, Tilley & Sorin Streets, John Gaines Park will also have a pool, and is scheduled to open by this summer, where non-Mueller residents will have access similar to that at Mueller's Ella Wooten pool. In 2017, it's expected that Zach Scott, currently in place from Airport to Berkman, will extend on through Mueller to Manor Road near Ratheber Village, and Tilley Street will extend from its current Manor Road intersection to 51st Street, between the Austin Studios and CTECC, or across from the tennis court driveway at Bartholomew Park.

The next meeting of the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (Mueller Commission) is Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 6PM. There is a chance the location will change, but at submission date, the venue was still Meeting Room 1 of the Carver Library, 1161 Angelina Street. Address Mueller questions and comments to bc-rick.krivoniak@austintexas.gov

Theatre Volunteers

Flea Staff

If you have ever been curious how a play goes from script to performance, you might be interested in volunteering at a theatre right across the street from the neighborhood.

Bonnie Cullum, Director of Vortex Theatre on Manor Road, noted that volunteering is so basic that she included it in the mission statement for the theatre's website.

We conjure and navigate the storm of imagination with urgent, unashamed art that dares to dream the world in which we want to live. This magic emanates from our cultural harbor, embraces diverse communities, breaks down barriers, and opens channels for vital exchange.

Bonnie: "I especially like the concept of the cultural harbor. That one of the things we are making here is a place where people can come and 'dock' for a little while. They can audition; they can volunteer. They also know that they can come for a drink, come for dinner, or come to see a show. They can choose to do all three."

Flea: What opportunities for volunteering does Vortex offer?

Bonnie Cullum: "We always need more volunteers and I think there is a wide range how volunteers can be involved. They can totally jump in head-first and be on a crew and be part of a production. That can be a two-week commitment or a six-week commitment; that's a serious commitment but that's how new volunteers become part of the whole thing. Someone can also help by volunteering for one day - to build a set, or paint, or help with a clean-up project.

"We are also working on a cultivating this butterfly sanctuary. (The Butterfly Bar is part of the Vortex compound.) We have all these butterfly vines planted everywhere, and we have had a couple of successful monarch emergence, even with the freeze of a few years ago that destroyed most of the plants. This spring we will do a garden party and invite people to come and plant new plants and tend the ones we have. In other words, we have many ways for people to volunteers and be involved."

Flea: Let's back up; do you mean that one day building or painting a set would be that big a help?

Bonnie: "When it comes to building sets, we never have enough help."

Flea: What is the best way for volunteers to connect with Vortex?

"Anyone who wants to volunteer can email Vortex [use the email at the bottom of web site] ... it will come to me, but I can get it to the right people, depending what the volunteer wants to do and the hours available to volunteer. Then we can contact the volunteer when we have a work or a workday that fits their skills and schedule. In our history, some volunteers stick around for a long time and become a regular part of the Vortex, and sometimes it's just a one-time thing ... or they might volunteer to support a friend or relative who might be involved in a show. In our early life it was almost all volunteer. As we are trying to move to be a professional theatre, I'm trying to pay the artists more."

We asked the same question to the other theatres that form the Cherrywood Theatre Fringe.

Jenny Larson (Artistic Director of Salvage Vanguard Theatre):

"Volunteers at Salvage Vanguard Theater work backstage crew, work as board operators, work at the box office, and help us at events. We would not be able to pull off the majority of the hijinks we get up to without an incredible and supportive community of volunteers who love the art we make. If you volunteer at SVT, we always give you free tickets to see the productions."

Andy Berkovsky (Artistic Director and General Manager of City Theatre):

"Each year, with a full season of eight to ten plays and musicals, I know the importance of volunteers to help make our productions a success. Each CTC show has volunteer opportunities available in stage crew, house managing, box office and concessions help, set construction, promotional and fundraising work, and any work in an advisory capacity that can help the organization grow. Be a part of one or all!

The Cherrywood Fringe - Theatre Across the Street



info@citytheatreAustin.org

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Austin, TX 78722
BOX OFFICE 512-524-2870

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

A Man For All Seasons

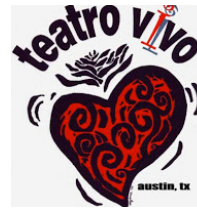
By Robert Bolt
February 12 - March 6

Bus Stop

By William Inge
April 29 - May 2

Arden of Faversham

by William Shakespeare(?)
April 29 - May 22



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February 25-27

In collaboration with ScriptWorks, four original scripts will be chosen for festival production.

February 27 ~ Winning Theatre for Youth Production

Teatro Vivo Produces at The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center and at ZACH.

Rupert and JoAnn Carreo-Reyes, Cherrywood neighbors, are the guiding lights of Teatro Vivo.

INFO - 512 474-6379 <http://teatrovivo.org>

No Shame Theatre

2/19, 3/4, 3/8, 4/1, 4/15
10:00pm – 11:30pm

Tickets and information at <http://gnaptheater.org/>

No Shame is Austin's preeminent open-mic performance series. Don't miss it! Sign ups begin at 9:30 pm. All pieces must be original and under 5 minutes long. We're limited to 15 slots. Don't hurt the stage or the audience. Otherwise, no limits. Script in hand or memorized, funny, musical, dramatic, dance, bad, weird; all styles of performance are welcome.

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Tuesdays – 5:30-6:30

OUTsider Festival

Feb 17th- 21st 2016

The multi-disciplinary festival brings together and showcases film, performance art, theater, visual art, dance and music from more than 30 queer artists from Texas and around the country. Performances focus on issues of being artists from a marginalized group, while addressing culturally sensitive topics. Full event schedule and programming information can be found at: <http://www.outsiderfest.org/festival-schedule/>

COMING IN APRIL

UNLIVED LIVES unites two small theater companies – Salvage Vanguard Theater and The Mighty Mighty Pressure Cooker (Sofia, Bulgaria) who share that an empathetic exchange of life experience will enrich each work and fulfill ongoing missions to create dynamic contemporary performances. Jenny Larson (actor), Graham Reynolds (composer), Ida Daniel (director) and Todor Stoyanov (sound artist) will collaboratively devise a performance that is an examination of the path not taken.



The Mikado: Reclaimed

Devised by the Ensemble
Conceived and Directed by kt shorb
Feb.12-27, 2106
GenEnCo Production

Oh Snap, My Alien Children are Trying to Kill Me

Written and Performed by Zell Miller III
Mar.03-05, 2016 ~ VORTEX Production



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Persephone

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Book and Lyrics by Mick D'arcy; Music and Lyrics by Tyler Mabry
Directed by Matthew Patterson
Mar.25-Apr.16, 2016 ~ VORTEX Production

The Tempest

A fantastical journey to Prospero's magic island
Adapted and Directed by Lorella Loftus and Andy Agne
April 29-May 14, 2016 |
Renaissance Austin Theatre & Sky Candy Production



Cherrywood Coffeehouse to Café Bohème

By Bertrand Piboin

I am a regular at Cherrywood Coffeehouse and it is my primary connection to the neighborhood. I almost always order a double espresso with a little extra hot water.

When I travel to Europe, which I do in most every fall, I do not want to give up my routine of coffee at a similar café. My travels take me to the same places just about every fall, with a visit to a few new places on occasion. My regular places across the great water have some substantial differences from Cherrywood Coffeehouse, but they all provide that cup of double espresso that I take time to enjoy while perusing the news on my iPad or by reading the *International New York Times*.

Paris is my main place to hang out. A few years ago, I found a classic *terrasse* (what the Parisians call the sidewalk cafes) called Le Petit Cardinal. The name likely comes from its location on rue Cardinal Lemoine. It has a classic bar called a zinc. In the late 1800s, bars were made of zinc, but apparently most of them in Paris today are of galvanized steel. When having coffee at a café in Paris, it costs less to have one *au comptoir* (at the counter) as opposed to being at *la salle* (in the interior sitting area) or *la terrasse* (sidewalk area). Yes,

you can find coffee shops in Paris such as Starbucks, but I like going to a zinc.

Another town I frequent is Dinard, a small resort town on the north coast of Brittany across from England. My preferred place for the morning coffee in Dinard is Le Skipper, located in the center of the town. It has a long, narrow bar and a small *terrasse*. Unlike Paris, the price is the same whether or not you get it at the bar. Still, I prefer sitting at the bar. It's a prime location for watching people, whether they are locals or the tourists who come from many places.

The other place I visit every fall is Stuttgart, Germany, where I have close friends who graciously accept me as part of their



family.

The central city has a number of coffee houses, but I like to frequent an inviting place called Café Bohème. Of the three, it reminds me the most of Cherrywood. It has delicious food choices, opens a little later in the morning at 10:00 a.m., stays open fairly late, sells craft beer and wine, and has live music on some nights. Most important, it has my double espresso, stretched with a little hot water, at about the same price as I pay *au comptoir* at Le Petit Cardinal.

Cherrywood Chess Club

By Mansoor Kapasi

The Cherrywood Chess Club formed in 2014 when two intrepid parents realized chess could impart to their respective children, and their peers, some grand lessons of life. The importance of thinking ahead before making a decision. Accepting the consequences of one's actions. Turning a bad situation good through perseverance and fortitude.

Can't say much of that happened, really. But a lot of kids - more than thirty - have attended at some time to learn chess. It turns out the parents need chess help, too. Some of the more dedicated kids improved their game over weeks and months to the point of trouncing the adults. Fortunately, Cherrywood moms and dads show good sportsmanship (i.e., very effectively hide their shame and disgrace) when losing a game of strategy and intellect to someone one-fifth their age.

Nearly seventy meetings after our first chess club gathering in the summer of 2014, we also celebrate our network of extended friendships and acquaintances that otherwise would not have formed. Like any good neighborhood endeavor, the Cherrywood Chess Club builds



community. In addition to chess practice and play, we break banana bread together (thanks, Lily!), share our stories, play rambunctious soccer later in the day, and feel glad with the assuredness that we get to do it all again next week.



Flea Staff Photo

Anyone is welcome to join us - young or old - with a kid or without, and whether you have experience in the game or still call that funny-moving piece a "horsey."

We meet from 10:30-11:30am on Sundays. When the weather is good we meet at ingredients. Otherwise, we meet at my house. E-mail mrkapasi@yahoo.com if you're interested.

Happy Checkmating!

Community Cats

By Dolly Ensey



Have you ever thought: Whose kitty is that? Where did those cats come from? Sometimes an

owned cat is simply passing through to its regular territory as evidenced in the BBC documentary *Where Cats Go*. Or sometimes they are what is known as feral, stray or “community” cats, abandoned felines and their offspring.

Current statistics estimate Austin’s community cats to be 170,000, of which 90% are not fixed. Each spring approximately 300,000 unwanted and abandoned cats are born, but only 100,000 survive while others die of starvation, disease, accidents or are killed by predators before they are five months old.

Since February 2011, the Austin Animal Center (AAC) has achieved its monthly No Kill goal by saving more than 90% of the animals that enter the shelter. Last November, it excelled with a 97.5% save rate! This monthly achievement does not come easily, especially when the Austin shelter takes in thousands of animals - 17,831 animals in 2015. Our warm climate in Austin often causes kitten season to extend far past Spring, which makes the Trap-Neuter-Release program a necessary and effective tool. To give you an idea of how the pet population explosion affects Austin, assume that one un-spayed female feline, her mate, and their offspring produce two litters each year with 2.8 surviving kittens per litter. Within seven years, each of the 96,119 spectators at the University of Texas Darrell K. Royal Stadium would

have close to four cats in their laps!

AAC works closely with animal rescue partners Austin Pets Alive!, Austin Humane Society, Animal Trustees of Austin, Emancipet, and a hundred more smaller rescue partners. However, they still need our support. We can be part of the solution to help control the number of

unwanted cats in our area and I encourage people to watch the Austin Humane Society’s PSA on YouTube, “Too Many Kitties in the City.”

So, what to do? Identify and verify that the outdoor cats in your area are not someone’s beloved pet. A fixed feline will have a notched/tipped ear if they have been taken in by the Trap-Neuter-Release program. If you choose to self-trap, refer to the ShadowCats.net web site Resources page and one of the groups below for your next steps.

Animal Trustees of Austin, 5129 Cameron Road, Austin, 512-450-0111
animaltrustees.org/ATA/site/appointments.asp

Austin Humane Society and City of Austin’s Community Cat Program, 512-978-0504 (English) or 512-978-0505 (Spanish)
CommunityCats@austintexas.gov
 The Humane Society provided free sterilization, rabies vaccinations, and a place for cats to recover after surgery.

Emancipet Stationary Clinic, 7201 Levander Loop, 512-587-SPAY (7729)
Emancipet.org/spay-neuter/appointment-request-form/
 Emancipet Mobile Clinic: emancipet.org/spay-neuter/freedays/

You can also help by providing sightings and locations to the following contacts at Austin Humane Society: Michelle 512-978-0504 (English) or Luis 512-978-0505 (Spanish) or contact Dolly Ensey for questions at 512-553-6729.

ABOUT TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN (TNR)

the PROBLEM... It's estimated that **tens of millions** of feral and stray cats freely roam the streets of the United States and breed rapidly! Doing nothing and using ineffective approaches are what have resulted in the current overpopulation problem. Trying to rescue all of the feral cats and find them homes is impossible given their numbers and their limited socialization. Removing or relocating all of the feral cats invites new unspayed cats to move in, and the cycle of reproduction starts again.

the SOLUTION... Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the **only method proven to be humane and effective** in controlling free-roaming cat population growth. **TNR is about:**

- Population control and permanently reducing the number of cats in an area
- Lowering cat intake into shelters, thereby lowering shelter euthanasia rates
- Reducing the spread of disease
- The returned, spayed/neutered colony **guards its territory**, discouraging unspayed cats from moving in and beginning the cycle of overpopulation again.

What's the difference?

STRAY CAT	FERAL CAT
A tame cat who has become lost or has been abandoned; she has been socialized to people at some point in her life.	A cat who has become feral or wild; she is fearful of people and usually lives on her own outdoors.

TRAP (1) After adequate preparations, including educating the community about the TNR process, solitary cats are trapped using humane traps.

NEUTER (2) The captured cats are brought in their traps to a spay/neuter provider. Typically, TNR programs also provide vaccinations against certain diseases, like rabies.

RETURN (3) After recovery from surgery, feral cats are returned to where they were trapped and are supplied with ongoing access to food and fresh water.

EAR TIPPING is the universal sign of a neutered feral cat. The procedure involves removing about 1/4" off the tip of the cat's ear. (Typically the left ear) while the cat is anesthetized for spaying/neutering; healing is rapid. The mark will help prevent unnecessary surgery, confinement, or euthanasia.

Partner Charities
PartnerCharities.org
www.austintexas.gov/department/animal-welfare

78722 Biz: Another Successful East Austin Studio Tour

By Caitlin B. Alexander



The 78722 Business Association works to develop our East Austin neighborhood as a vibrant commercial district where the arts, local business and neighborhood community flourishes. Visit 78722.biz to learn more about us. Annual membership dues are \$25.

November was a month of creativity! In Cherrywood, we actively celebrate and support our artists, and the annual East Austin Studio Tour (EAST) is the perfect chance to do so. This year, it started with a kickoff party organized by our 78722 Biz and hosted by Cherrywood Coffeehouse. It was a great chance for artists to mingle, share tour tips, and have a few moments away from the studio.

The two weekends of EAST at the end of November went by quickly with nearly-constant foot traffic, people strolled casually through the neighborhood from one stop to the next. It was a lucrative year for our 78722 artists who displayed a wide range of visual arts, including painting, printmaking, sculpture, jewelry-making, photography, mixed media, furniture design, digital painting, traditional pencil work, and mosaics.

The 78722 artists who participated this year, in tour order, were: Claire Bresette, Meg McLaughlin, Karen Maness, Charles Heppner, Kelsey Jenkinson, T.R. Rodriguez Studio, Erik Tragus, Matt Kressin, Michael Merritt, Jennifer Balkan, Susan Potter, Christine Nall, Karen Davis Alexander, Caitlin B. Alexander, Evan Horn, Alec Hamilton, Mark Epstein, and several collectives and galleries including Slugfest Printmaking, Flatbed Press, East Space, Imagine Art, Gallery Shoal

Creek, and Photo Methode Gallery. EAST is citywide, but we are so excited to be earning a name for ourselves in specifically Cherrywood. Many tour-goers pinpointed us out of the hundreds and hundreds of artists on the tour. A number of our artists are award-winning, most notably, Jennifer Balkan winning “Best Visual Artist” by the Austin Chronicle.

Because most participants are so busy during the event and rarely have time to visit other studios, I coordinated a meet-up between tour stops on Kirkwood Road for artists to meet, share some wine and finally catch a glimpse of each other’s work. It was a wonderful night! Everyone wished they could have visited a couple of remaining stops, but time passed much too quickly, and perhaps a few too many minutes were devoted to additional joys of the evening: dogs, wine, children and pie. They wouldn’t have had it any other way, though, as all felt so grateful to be included in this vibrantly creative community.

The artists of 78722 would like to thank the sponsors of this community who have helped so much in supporting our goals with the East Austin Studio Tour: 22Biz, Chula League, Cherrywood Coffeehouse, and Thunderbird Coffee. You are all pillars of the community and we are so proud to be a part of it with you.

Also, thank you to each and every person who walked through the studio doors - without you, we wouldn’t have a tour! If I had to describe Cherrywood in just a few adjectives, although tempted by the physical beauty of the area that initially drew me in, I would use the words welcoming, supportive, vibrant, and nurturing. What a wonderful place to be!

Photo by Jennifer Potter-Miller

CherryWoodstock Festival Vision: A Neighborhood of Music

By Ryan O and Wiccit



To celebrate our cherished community, we humble folk of Cherrywood have an idea! What if we gathered the local, neighborhood musicians and had ourselves a little

festival?! By WE, I mean US and by US, I mean YOU! Imagine all of us dancing on the Green, sharing an afternoon together, young and old, hootin' and stompin' as friends. Imagine those bands a few doors down, that you only hear through their garage doors, given a stage to bare their souls. This is our neighborhood and we want to give it the spotlight!

We are looking for neighborhood volunteers to make this thing happen, including local businesses who would like to participate and bands from around the 'hood.

Please email us at: cherrywoodstock@gmail.com

Ryan O and Wiccit are members of the CNA Steering Committee.

THE FLEA

Flea Staff

Editor - Janine Gropp

Layout - Mike Sullivan

Advertising - Meagan Bludau

Distribution - Frances Greene

Have an idea for an article or want to photograph neighborhood events?

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association is seeking people to get involved as Steering Committee members and FLEA volunteers to write articles.

Ever wonder how the Flea gets flicked? The Flea is distributed to Cherrywood residents by a dedicated team of volunteers led by Francie Greene. A few of the fleaflickers are on the cover.

Why do People Volunteer?

The University of Texas RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community ServiceLeader.org website states that adding your effort to the work of others makes everyone's lives better. A few of the motivations identified by volunteers include: to share a skill, to get to know the community, to make new friends, to gain leadership skills, to keep busy, to have an impact, to learn something new, to assure progress, to be part of a team, and/or to do interesting, fun things together with others in the community.

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4010 quarterly in February, May, August, and November. © 2015. All rights reserved.

Cherrywood Musicians

Taylor Rushing, Banjo, and the Stovetop Rangers

My name is Taylor Rushing and I am gigging musician and banjo instructor here in Austin. I often teach lessons out of my own home or make house calls to folks around town who are just beginning to learn the instrument. I love teaching the banjo specifically because it really touches people in a very visceral and natural way. I love to tell my students that the banjo is a drum on a stick and its intent is to create wild harmony of rhythm and melody. It's the peoples' instrument and I love to share it with as many



Austinites as possible. Though the five-string banjo has its origins in traditional American music, I encourage lovers of all music and dance to take on the instrument.

Though I am not from Texas originally, I feel very fortunate to get to play in a wonderful community of musicians and lovers of tradi-

tional music. As an avid 78 RPM record collector, I find Austin to be a goldmine of beautiful and rare recordings of vernacular string bands, border musicians, and blues guitarists from the 1920s and 30s. I currently play in a band called the Stovetop Rangers, a group focused on playing forgotten string band music from the turn of the century and the early days of commercial recording. We can often be seen playing the Buzzmill every first and third Saturday of the month and shooting around town playing various square dances and hoedowns. I definitely suggest that anyone who is interested in old-time traditional music to get involved with the Austin Friends of Traditional Mu-

sic as well as Texas Folk Life. Both organizations nurture a community of music and can provide endless resources to the interested listener.

Taylor Rushing can be reached at taylorwrihrushing@gmail.com, website <http://taylorwrushing.com>



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