

The Flea

AN EVENTFUL YEAR FOR CNA'S STEERING COMMITTEE

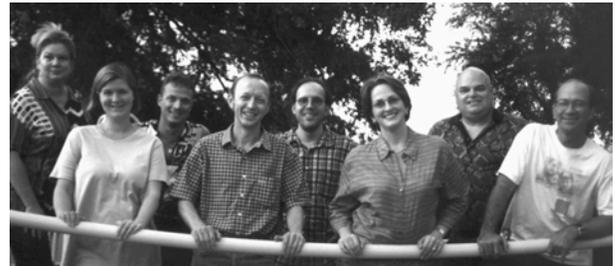
by Bree Buchanan

On the second Wednesday of every month, the Steering Committee of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) convenes to address current challenges and opportunities facing our neighborhood. The thirteen members, elected to staggered two-year terms at the October general membership meeting, are charged with serving as "the principal representative, governing, and policy-recommending body of the Association...governed by the will of the membership as expressed at general and special meetings." Anyone living in Cherrywood is welcome to attend the meetings.

Over the past year alone, the Steering Committee (SC) has dealt with issues that are monumental and threaten to irrevocably alter the neighborhood:

Mueller Redevelopment - SC members met with the Austin City Council to advocate for meaningful neighborhood input throughout the City's contract negotiations with the developer.

Expansion of IH-35 - a delegation from the SC represented CNA at public hearings held by TxDOT and in meetings by the North Central Austin Neighborhood Coalition to argue for mini-



CNA Steering Committee: (l-r) Rebecca Kohout, Frances DeLaune, Stefan Schuster, Jeff Folmar, Dave Westenbarger, Bree Buchanan, Jack Newman, David Menhard (not pictured are James Spanelli, Anderson Simmons and Kyle Ranne). *Photo: Liz Hargrove*

mal adverse impact by TxDOT's plans to expand IH-35 through central Austin.

Neighborhood Planning through City of Austin - the SC has participated in the development of and monitored the ongoing evolution of the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan.

The SC also regularly works on and provides support to the many neighborhood groups involved in projects of more

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CNA'S PRECINCT 131 TO SHOWCASE ELECTRONIC VOTING

by Bree Buchanan

Neighbors who vote at Asbury Methodist Church, the polling place for precinct 131, will find some excitement at the poll on November 5. Travis County chose this precinct, already known for a high voter turnout, to be the first and only polling place with electronic voting. "This is a great opportunity for the voters of precinct 131," Jim Walker, democratic party precinct chair. "Regardless of party affiliation, electronic voting will give Cherrywood residents another rea-

son to come to the poll on Election Day and show our strong commitment to civic participation." Dana DeBeauvoir, Travis County Clerk, a longtime resident of Cherrywood, had proposed her home precinct due to its diverse population and consistently high voter turnout.

Although voters in precinct 131 will be the first to try out the E-Slate electronic voting on Election Day, all 22 voting locations will offer the new electronic voting during the early voting period. At each location, the county will offer train-

ing and support so that all voters can take advantage of this new way to vote. DeBeauvoir reports, "the method does not let voters make over-votes, stray

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Attention All Readers!

The Flea NEEDS an Editor ASAP!

The editor's job is to orchestrate our team of assistant editors, graphic designer and photographer in producing this quarterly newsletter. *What a great way to get involved!!*

Contact Gordon Bennett at 477-7195 or gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING, OCTOBER 16 PLEASE JOIN US!

On the third Wednesday of every third month, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association meets at Maplewood Elementary School (at the corner of Maplewood and 38½ St) to discuss matters of concern to members. Every person over 18 years of age that lives in or owns property within CNA's boundaries is a member. Dues are not collected. Instead, the neighborhood association and this publication are supported by those who contribute their time and energy, as well as those investing their advertising dollars.

Please join us on Wednesday, October 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Maplewood Elementary library. The meetings are informative, inclusive, and interesting. We also strive (and usually succeed) to end by 8:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided at this meeting. Fiesta donates snacks and beverages.

Agenda for CNA's October meeting:

- Vote: Election of new Steering Committee members
- Resolution: Should CNA send letter to Delwood duplex residents/owners requesting that alleys be cleared of debris, etc.
- Awards presentation for Outstanding Service to the 'Hood
- Updates on Patterson Park and Cherrywood Green
- IH35 expansion and NCINC
- Planning and Zoning, incl. Upper Boggy Creek Plan
- Security issues, incl. closure of crack house in the 'hood
- Voter Registration
- Holiday Art Festival, and more! ■

CHERRYWOOD *NeighborNet*

The CNA website (www.cherrywood.org) is celebrating its 5th year and its 15,000th visitor! On the website you can subscribe to "NeighborNet", the neighborhood listserv reaching almost 10% of Cherrywood residents. In the last few months, subscribers to NeighborNet learned about:

- Lost and found pets
- National Night Out block parties
- "Garagezilla" Saturday (advertised & coordinated garage sales)
- People, places and things for sale, rent, borrowing, or volunteering
- Volunteers improving Cherrywood Green & Patterson Park
- Registering Cherrywood as a "historical" neighborhood
- Traffic-calming initiatives for Maplewood School
- Neighborhood association committee meetings
- The Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan on-line
- Updates on just about anything of local interest

To join us, e-mail your request to subscribe to:
NeighborNet-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://www.cherrywood.org>

Steering Committee

Chair	Bree Buchanan	482-8468
Vice-Chair	Dave Westenbarger	494-9905
Secretary	James Spanelli	236-1482
Treasurer	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
Members	Frances DeLaune	477-1986
	Jeff Folmar	472-4535
	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
	David Menhard	478-0996
	Kyle Ranne	478-7506
	Stefan Schuster	322-0059
	Rebecca Schwarz	478-9618
	Anderson Simmons	431-0812

Communications

The Flea:

• Interim Editor	Bree Buchanan	482-8468
• Assistant Editors	Dolly Ensey	494-9905
	Rebecca Schwarz	478-9618
• Design & Layout	Bethany Andrée	473-2841
• Photography	Liz Hargrove	478-5043
• Advertising	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
	Dave Westenbarger	494-9905
• Distribution	Jim Walker	499-0526
NeighborNet & Website:	Gordon Bennett	477-7195

Committees

Hospitality:	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
	Frances DeLaune	477-1986
Nominating:	Michael McClendon	482-0016
Parks:		
• Cherrywood Green	Katharine Beisner	708-9407
• Patterson Park	Isabelle Headrick	499-0621
Pets:	Gale Greenleaf	474-6245
Planning & Zoning:	Girard Kinney	478-5042
Security:	Jules Vieau	495-9569
Transportation:	Stefan Schuster	322-0059

Projects

Austin Film Society:	Dolly Ensey	494-9905
Blue Ribbon Yard:	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
Maplewood:	Jack Newman	476-6616
Mueller Redevelopment:	Jim Walker	499-0526
Tree Planting:	Mike Damal	478-9622
Upper Boggy Creek Planning:	Steve Kreger	477-4216

UBC photos, in this newsletter, are from the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Planning Area collection.



UBC Photo

IH-35 EXPANSION, THE CONTINUING SAGA...

by Stefan Schuster

Representatives from the Cherrywood and Blackland Neighborhood Associations and the Mobility Workgroup of the Austin Neighborhoods Coalition met with TxDOT on August 7 at the First English Lutheran Church. The purpose of the meeting was for TxDOT to give an update of the proposed design for expanding IH35 through central Austin, including the latest changes based on public hearings held by TxDOT over the summer. CNA representatives had testified at the public hearings in central and north Austin.

The TxDOT team was surprised by the attendance of CNA and Blackland residents and took offense that we were invited by ANC. TxDOT's consultant provided a brief overview of their plans to date and listened to concerns voiced by those present. No significant revisions were shown by TxDOT nor was new information provided by them. The ANC Mobility Workgroup listened intently to our concerns over the proposed design and we pledged to continue working together.

Recently, NCINC received a copy of a response letter from TxDOT to Senator Barrientos attempting to rebut our concerns expressed in an earlier letter to the senator. TxDOT's letter contained standard, bureaucratic responses but no clear reasons for why certain design elements cannot be incorporated. Responses to such queries as, "Why can't an exit ramp be placed at Airport Boulevard to relieve traffic cut-through and congestion in Cherrwood?" are consistently vague and vary from group to group and meeting to meeting.

The Austin Chronicle ran a short news brief in the August 22 issue. A cover story should be published about IH35 by the time this edition of *The Flea* is distributed. NCINC will call a meeting in October to continue organizing our media, lobbying and outreach strategies. ■

(Stefan Schuster is the chair of NCINC, the North Central IH35 Neighborhood Coalition, and a member of the CNA Steering Committee. See www.main.org/ncinc for more information on NCINC.)

MEET THE NEW CNA STEERING COMMITTEE SLATE OF CANDIDATES

by Michael McClendon

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the seven open seats on the CNA Steering Committee for your consideration and possible election for a two-year term at the October 16 General Membership Meeting. Note: nominations may also be made from the floor prior to the election. Our candidates are briefly introduced as follows:

Meg Brooks, an Assistant District Attorney, has lived in Austin almost her entire life and has rented a home in Cherrywood for the past five years. Meg has expertise in crime deterrence and also has a high interest in Maplewood Elementary School and preserving neighborhood character.

Bree Buchanan, clinical director at U.T. School of Law, has served as the Chair

of the Steering Committee for the past year. This would be her second two-year term. Ms. Buchanan, an 8-year resident of CNA, reports that she looks forward to serving on the Steering Committee in a "non-officer" capacity.

Peter Ketter, a historian for the Texas Historical Commission, has lived in Austin over eight years and recently moved to Cherrywood. Peter is knowledgeable about, and has a high interest in, neighborhood and historic preservation and related issues such as zoning and Smart Growth.

Girard Kinney, an architect, is a lifelong resident of Austin and has lived in Cherrywood over twenty years. Girard is active in many areas and is an expert on Mueller Airport redevelopment, proposed IH 35 expansion, planning and zoning, and many other topics.

Lex Dale Owens, a paramedic, has lived both in Austin and Cherrywood for over fifty years. Lex Dale is very active in crime prevention and other neighborhood safety issues, and also has a high interest in traffic and transit issues.

Stefan Schuster, a water resource planner, has lived in Austin for fifteen years and in Cherrywood for almost three years. Stefan is very active in planning issues, such as transit and traffic, and chairs NCINC, a group dedicated to improving the IH 35 redesign. Stefan's interests extend to most anything that will help preserve or improve our neighborhood for future residents.

Anderson Simmons, a private-practice attorney, has lived in Austin off-and-on since 1977 and in Cherrywood the past two years. Anderson was recently elected to fill a vacancy on the Steering Committee and has been especially helpful in researching legal issues. Anderson is highly interested in preserving the diversity and character of Cherrywood. ■

PATTERSON PARK NEWSFLASH

by Isabelle Headrick

On September 9, the City Council approved the expenditure of \$100,000 for a new playscape at Patterson Park! Despite budget cuts in many departments, the Council is moving forward with funds from a park improvement bond initiative approved by voters several years ago. PARD's Design Team is seeking neighborhood input, and Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP) plans to be actively involved in a community-wide design process. A stroller and wheelchair-accessible path running from Wilshire Boulevard to the playscape, will be a critical element of the design. The process, once begun, will take about nine months. Stay tuned for future announcements!

By now, you may have noticed the new shade cover over the baby pool at Patterson Park. To celebrate this much-needed improvement to the pool and to thank the folks at HEB who generously donated the shade cover, FoPP hosted a neighborhood pool party on August 18. Although the pool had officially closed for the season, our friends at PARD re-



Kids and adults frolic in the baby pool, under the new shade, generously donated by HEB. Photo: Liz Hargrove

opened the pool and provided lifeguards for the celebration. Friends and fellow park lovers enjoyed free ice cream and good company, and signed a large thank you card to HEB.

FoPP is taking a serious interest in our park and neighborhood trees. Before

this newsletter goes to press, we will have met with the city's Urban Forestry Department to learn more about how to take care of trees and what the community can do to support the City's efforts. Also, the City has begun to address some of the west side's erosion problems.

Donations to FoPP are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. Checks should be made payable to Austin Parks Foundation with "Patterson Park" on the memo line.

Send to APF, 815 Brazos, Suite 1001, Austin, TX 78701. We welcome anyone with an interest in Patterson Park to come to our meetings, which are usually held monthly at Genesis Presbyterian Church. For more information, call Isabelle at 499-0621 or e-mail her at pattpark@texas.net. ■

A park is so much more than just a park or a green space. When we care for it, we take care not only of the physical environment but also of our relationships - with our children, our friends, our dogs. We take care of our memories and of the promise of future enjoyments. We build not only a playscape but also a place where parents and children forge friendships. We don't just erect a shade cover over the baby pool-we create a space where babies can enjoy splashing safely and grow up into kids who love to swim. We not only take care of our post oaks, we create a pleasant space for the musician (who are you?) who brings the serene and joyful sounds of his saxophone into the park. The list goes on...

PAUSE FOR PETS

by Dianne Midgette

Although fall brings promise of milder days and cooler nights, persistent warm weather remains a concern for our furry companions. Old or infirm animals need special precautions: keeping them inside during the heat of the day, using cooling cushions or providing a wet hole in the dirt in which to lie.

Even young, healthy dogs should not run during the heat of the day. Dogs know

this instinctively, yet humans need to be reminded of this precaution. Exercise should be done in the cooler morning and evening hours. Consideration should be given to the animal's physical condition. Because fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes are alive and well most of the year here in Texas, especially Cherrywood; my vet recommends year-round precaution for heartworm.

Inner city living poses unique problems for pets. Traffic related injuries and deaths occur when animals run free. Cherrywood has had problems with cats

being chased and killed by loose dogs. If your dog does not respond to your command, please keep it on a leash or in a fenced yard.

Finally, everyone should be on notice that, since September 2001, animal abuse is a felony. Please report any incidents of abuse to the police. Animal Trustees of Austin is a good resource for more information on this topic. Our neighborhood is happily populated with lots of pet lovers who look out for our four-legged and two-legged friends. Together, we can keep it that way. ■

FUNDING FOR SAFE ROUTES TO MAPLEWOOD

by Dave Westenbarger

Maplewood Elementary is kicking off the new school year with hopes for improved student safety and traffic calming around the school and surrounding streets. Maplewood PTA and Cherrywood residents are assembling an application for state funding to build sidewalks, install curb extensions, stripe crosswalks, relocate signs, and stripe bike lanes on the major routes students use to walk to school. It's all part of "Safe Routes to School," a state program funded by the Texas Legislature in 2001, that aims to encourage parents to let their children walk or pedal to school by making routes safer for students.

Improvements under consideration include:

- striping the Maplewood driveway and parking lot to improve pedestrian safety
- relocating the flashing signs on East 38½ St. to improve visibility to motorists, and stenciling "SCHOOL ZONE" on both east and west approaches to the school
- curb extensions and re-striping the crosswalk on East 38½ St. at Maplewood Ave.
- a sidewalk on the south side of East 38½ St. from Clarkson Ave. to the sidewalk at Asbury United Methodist Church and on the west side of Maplewood Ave.
- a four-foot sidewalk on the east side of Lafayette Ave., in-

cluding crosswalk striping at East 37th St., Concordia Ave., and East 34th St.

- curb extensions and crosswalk striping on Clarkson Ave. at both East 38½ St. and Cherrywood Rd., forcing motorists to slow down to turn the corners
- median strip or planters on East 38½ St. from Lafayette Ave. to Clarkson Ave., with crosswalk striping and stenciling "SLOW" on the eastbound lane
- striped crosswalks and curb extensions at East 38½ St and Cherrywood Rd.
- striped crosswalk, curb extensions, and speed humps on Cherrywood Rd. at East 34th St.
- bicycle lanes on Cherrywood Rd. from Manor Rd. to Wilshire Blvd. and on East 38½ St. from Delwood Center to Cherrywood Rd.
- crushed granite trail along Clarkson Ave. from East 38½ St. to Cherrywood Rd.

Several of the Maplewood Safe Routes may also be decorated with a mustang logo or horseshoes.

Applications are due December 6 and must be accompanied by a commitment from the City of Austin to provide 20 percent of total project costs (\$200,000). CNA will be asked to support the application at the October 16 meeting, including writing a letter to accompany the application. ■

Special thanks go to Fiesta Mart for supplying the feast for the July 26th kick-off workshop.

WHO MADE THE NEW CHERRYWOOD GREEN SIGN?

by Sally King

Wondering who the creative genius is behind the lovely new sign at Cherrywood Green? Meet your neighbor, Brent Hay. He is a member of Friends of Cherrywood Green (FoCG), a group of volunteers that is building a neighborhood pocket park at 34th and Cherrywood. Brent volunteered to replace the old sign and presented several proposals to the Cherrywood Green group in mid-August. The FoCG committee enthusiastically accepted his proposal and moved to cover the cost for his supplies with money raised from their spring fundraiser.

Armed with a router, pressure-treated wood, wood stain, and an assistant (the author), Brent created a sign that fit the natural beauty of the area. A few weeks later, his creation was treated with water sealant and installed, with the help of neighbors, Katharine Beisner, Joe Ahlquist, Jimmy Harper, Mike Damal, Maddie and Chris Kadas, John Breaux, and the author.

Want to assist Brent, Katharine, and the FoCG group keep this area clean and usable? Join them for an upcoming workday. Watch for future events and workdays on Cherrywood's NeighborNet. Future installations will include a picnic table and benches. Stop by and enjoy this urban respite, and revel in one of the things that makes our neighborhood unique and enjoyable. ■



The new Cherrywood Green sign, designed and made by Brent Hay. Photo: Liz Hargrove

NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN PASSED BY CITY COUNCIL

by Stephen Kreger

On August 23, 2003, the Austin City Council passed the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan (the Plan) after two years of hard work (and over 40 meetings) by residents of the five neighborhoods comprising the UBC planning area. The neighborhoods represented include Delwood II, Wilshire Wood/Delwood I, Cherrywood, Blackland, and Holy Cross. Many people with different backgrounds and viewpoints reached consensus to craft a plan that reflects the values of a majority of the planning area.

The Plan includes action items for each area, such as the downgrading of 38 ½th Street (a lesser designation will take it out of the "major arterial" category). CNA and the UBC Planning Team must now convince CAMPO to change this designation. Hopefully, this change will be easier to do with Council's support of the Plan.

The Plan also includes provisions for land use (zoning). The planning area was reviewed with special emphasis given to the commercial corridors such as Airport Boulevard and Manor Road. Some rezoning was done, conditional overlays were

added, and mixed-use designations were added (allowing a building to have both retail and residential uses). In theory, the Planning Team would have to first approve proposed zoning changes before approval of the change by City Council.

Although City Council has approved the Plan, future amendments will be necessary. Future issues to be decided include the structure of the ongoing Planning Team and coordination with neighborhood associations and residents to implement the Plan. Additionally, decisions must be made on use of the \$20,000 budgeted by the City for the planning area. The current plan provides for: \$2500 to Wilshire Wood/Delwood I for bike lane striping, \$3000 to Maplewood Elementary School for books, \$2000 to Cherrywood Green, and \$6250 each to Patterson Park and Alamo Recreation Center. If the money cannot be used for the bike lanes and/or Maplewood, the money will be equally allocated between Patterson Park and Alamo Recreation Center.

A plan of this magnitude will have critics. Although this one is not perfect, I am proud of what we created. I want to thank all of the neighbors who participated in the process as well as City of Austin staff. The Plan would not have happened without all of you. I especially want to thank the UBC Vice-Chair, Bo McCarver of the Blackland Neighborhood Association, for all of his help and hard work. ■

(Stephen Kreger is Chair of the UBC Neighborhood Planning Team.)

LONG STRUGGLE AGAINST DERELICT HOME OWNERS NEARING END

by Gordon Bennett

The City Building Inspection Department has finally condemned the infamous house on Vineland. The building inspector's photographs of the inside of the structure show enough drug paraphernalia to suggest it was functioning as a crack house.

The owners need a building permit to enter the structure, which has been boarded up by the City. The owners have 60 days to bring it up to code, with a 30-day extension possible. If the owners fail to respond, the City may demolish the house. Even if they do respond, the County will most likely take possession because no property taxes have been paid since 1994. If they do so, the County has the option of putting the property up for auction.

The Vineland property was previously sold at auction in January 2001. But after the owners declared bankruptcy, a federal judge cancelled the sale and returned the property to its "homesteaders." The owners failed three times to appear at court hearings with the judge ultimately ruling they may not refile their bankruptcy case.

To retain possession now, the owners would have to (1) pay their back taxes, (2) get building permits, and (3) move immediately to bring the structure up to Building Code. To sell the lot themselves, they would have to first settle the tax arrears.

The end game is nigh. But CNA still must press the City and the County to act. Neither is likely to make it a priority without our prodding. ■

CNA BLUE RIBBON YARD

Congratulations to Jon and Deborah Coats at 3809 Sycamore on winning the coveted Blue Ribbon Yard Award! The Coats, both 6th grade teachers at Maplewood Elementary, are thrilled to receive the award. Their gardening philosophy is "xeriscape is best - save that water!"



Deborah and Jon Coats, 3809 Sycamore
Photo: Dave Westenbarger

SUMMARY OF JULY 17TH CNA MEETING

Bree Buchanan, Steering Committee Chair, welcomed those in attendance and facilitated the following presentations:

1. FRIENDS OF PATTERSON PARK,

report by Isabel Headrick

HEB will underwrite half the cost of shading the baby pool. FoPP is applying to the Austin Parks Foundation for a grant to hire a landscape architect to design a jogging trail around the Park. The City Capital Improvement budget has \$100,000 earmarked for the playground. If it survives budget cutting, construction should be in spring '03. Applied Materials is promising to fund a "Kaboom" playground project one day this fall. (For more info, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PattPark/> or <http://www.kaboom.org/what.asp>)

2. UPPER BOGGY CREEK PLAN,

report by Stephen Kreger

On Council's agenda for July 18. Zoning hearings begin at 4p. Another Stratus hearing is scheduled, and SOS is calling out its supporters. UBC comes AFTER Stratus (which has the potential to take hours), so it may get postponed until August 1. This wouldn't be all bad. If Council approves subdistricts July 18, then UBC (which includes subdistricts) would come up when these are legal.

3. FLEA, report by Bree Buchanan

Bree will edit the October issue as interim editor while we seek a new Editor-in-Chief. Contact her with questions about the position or the issue. The FLEA Team (including Assistant Editors, Photo Editor, Layout Artist, Advertising Manager, and Distribution Coordinator) plan to meet July 25, 6:30p at the Sacred Cup (Manor at Chicon). Anyone interested in helping, or with ideas, is more than welcome to join in.

4. NORTH CENTRAL I-35 NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION (NCINC),

report by Stefan Schuster

****MOTION Passes**** CNA should formally participate in this coalition of neighborhoods along the central section of I-35. YEA 29. NAY 0. NCINC hopes to achieve neighborhood-friendly design improvements in TxDOT's long-term upgrade plan. (See for more info: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ncinc/>)

5. HISTORIC DESIGNATION

A representative of the Texas Historical Commission encouraged us to seek their agency's assistance in applying for status as an "eligible" neighborhood for historic designation.

6. NOMINATIONS,

report by Michael McClendon

The Nominations Committee seeks 7 new or repeating Steering Committee members for a 2-year term beginning in November. Michael has a short form for interested folks to return. Discussion of the joys of CNA Steering Committee participation.

7. PLANNING & ZONING,

report by Girard Kinney

This Committee plans to meet September 3, location TBA. Tasks include assessing the effects of UBC Plan rezonings, reviving the "Zoning 101" elucidation Mike Damal used to offer, and setting an agenda for this revived Committee (dormant during the UBC process).

8. SECURITY, report by Lex Dale Owens

a.) Pato's Tacos - the present demolition was ordered by the City. But owner Roland Ramirez apparently has topped the financing hurdles and will re-open a new restaurant in October. Reportedly he has applied for a full liquor license. The new Pato's it seems will be a little spiffier. Details are scarce.

b.) That house - the "shut it down" campaign has picked up a new player. A Travis County Assistant District Attorney attended and introduced us to some new avenues to pursue, including an abatement suit. Police Chief Knee has been invited to the August Steering Committee meeting. This blight is going to be removed, one way or another.

c.) National Night Out August 6, Block Parties

9. MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL "Pedestrian Audit," report by Dave Westenbarger
The Trans Texas Alliance will offer us this workshop July 26, 5-9p, Maplewood Elementary. One object is to get the City more actively involved in making it safer for kids to walk and bike to the School. "Maplewood PTA will use the ideas developed at the workshop to put together a project to be nominated and we need your input!"

10. RMMA, report by Jim Walker

The City has hired Thompson & Knight to negotiate its contract with Catellus. One issue is how the public will be kept informed of the progress of the negotiations (expected to take months). ■

Steering Committee

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immediate, day to day concerns of residents:

Park Improvement - Friends of Patterson Park and Friends of Cherrywood Green have both thrived over the past year, making tremendous improvements to our green spaces. The SC has lent support to these efforts whenever possible.

Crime and Security - the SC has assisted in efforts to close down the drug house in our neighborhood, served as link between the neighborhood and the police, promoted National Night Out and is recruiting residents to serve as block captains.

Communications - members of the SC ensure communication with the residents through the publication and distribution of the Flea, as well as maintenance of the NeighborNet.

Other initiatives demanding SC attention have included: negotiations with Austin Energy and Grande Communications regarding design and placement of structures in the neighborhood, zoning issues, voter registration, support for Maplewood, Blue Ribbon Yard, welcome wagon for new residents, and social events, such as the Holiday Art Festival. ■



KID TO KID:

The Convenience Store Challenge

by Ronan Buchanan Melomo (age 6)

Photo: Liz Hargrove

Hi! My name is Ronan. I want kids in the neighborhood to know about Monarch and Malik's, two convenience stores that I really like. Kids, especially new ones, should know what the stores have and which one they should go to. So, on Labor Day, my mom and I made a trip to both to see which store was better.

I think a good convenience store should have: (1) lots of different kinds of candy; (2) lots of different kinds of sodas; (3) lots of different kinds of ice cream (and must have the Country Cone and the Chocolate Fudge Bar). A good store should also be friendly and kids should be able to buy a lot of stuff with a little money.

Both stores had lots of different candy and sodas to choose from. I think it's important that only Monarch had Nestle's Quik chocolate milk. Malik's definitely had a bigger ice cream selection (they have two freezers of ice creams!), but only Monarch had the Chocolate Fudge Bar. Also, the Country Cone was 30 cents cheaper at Monarch. Prices on candy were the same at each store, but a Vanilla Coke cost ten cents more at Monarch.

At both stores, the clerks said "hello" to me. I thought the guy at Monarch was friendlier because he remembered me, asked about my dad and teased me. I liked being teased by him. Also, a long time ago when I smashed my thumb at Home Depot, the clerk at Monarch gave me candy.

Anyway, I really had fun working on this story. Bye! ■

JUST DON'T CALL HER "DOCTOR" GALE

by Adrienne Diehr, Kathy Menhard and Kathy Goodwin

Cherrywood neighborhood residents may know Gale Greenleaf from her daily walks around the greenbelt with her black lab, Saki. She seems to know everyone in the neighborhood, often stopping for a chat or to pet an appealing dog or cat. Gale takes time to get to know pets as well as their owners. She can always spot a newcomer or stray - both human and animal. She knows who lives in each house, the names and personalities of their pets, their remodeling plans and projects. She is a living "Who's Who" of the neighborhood.

Gale is known for her dry sense of humor, direct "tell it like it is" manner, dedication to recycling and willingness to go out of her way to lend a hand to her neighbors. If you have enjoyed the wildflowers in the greenbelt each spring, you can thank Gale, as well as Mother Nature. For years she has conducted an annual crusade, urging City of Austin officials to delay mowing the greenbelt until the wildflowers have dropped their seeds for the coming year.

In addition to her roles as friend, neighbor, animal lover, and ecological warrior, Gale has pursued many intellectual interests. After moving into her house on Giles Street in 1984, she completed a B.A. degree at St. Edward's University, having previously attended Goddard College in Vermont. She next completed a master's degree in Journalism at the University of Texas. In August, she was awarded a PhD in American Studies at the University of Texas. Her doctoral dissertation, titled "Co-housing in the United States: Utopian Idealism in the 21st Century," reflects Gale's interest in both the concepts and practices of community. She currently teaches technical writing at the U.T. College of Engineering. Whenever she is not teaching, she heads for Maine, where she is renovating a small house as a cool escape from Austin summers.

On September 1, 2002 Gale celebrated her birthday and the completion of her PhD. At her party, hosted by Kathy Goodwin, Gale thanked her friends and neighbors for their support while she was finishing her dissertation. With a mischievous grin and a twinkle in her eye, she asked one more favor. Call Gale "defender of wildflowers, animal lover, friend and neighborhood raconteur," but don't call her "Doctor!" ■

WELCOME TO CHERRYWOOD!

Priscilla Boston and Rebecca Kohout have been busy delivering welcome baskets to CNA's newest additions. A warm welcome to the new homeowners who moved in to our neighborhood from May through August:

Ashley Bodoin & James Ryals, 3714 Hollywood
Tracy & Chris Stone, 3812 Brookview
Carlos & Maribel Rivero, 3100 Dancy
Debbie & Ben Apple, 3003 Breeze Terrace
Atsu Magayama, 4004 Cherrywood

If you are new to the 'hood and have not heard from CNA's Welcome Wagon, please call Rebecca at 415-9876, or Priscilla at 478-1867.

CNA'S FIRST ANNUAL HOLIDAY ART FESTIVAL, NOVEMBER 23

Join us for the first annual Cherrywood Neighborhood Holiday Art Festival, Saturday, November 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, on the corner of 38½ and Cherrywood. Enjoy coffee and scrumptious treats while checking out the wonderful art being made right here in our neighborhood. Meet some neighbors, do a little holiday shopping and relax during the pre-holiday madness. We will have fun activities for the kiddies, music for everyone, storytelling, and of course, all sorts of art, including painting, metalwork, art textiles, decorative objects, one-of-a-kind handbags, jewelry, ceramic. You will be amazed at the creative stuff your neighbors are doing while you're not looking!

Artists and neighbors have been working hard since August to plan the show, and we could use a helping hand or two (or ten, or twenty!). We still need volunteers to help us with advertising, the bake sale, decorations, set up and clean up, and greeting visitors from all over Austin. Carry a box, make a call, or bake some cookies, meet some artists, and help us show off what makes Cherrywood a cool place to live. (Plus, I'm sure that volunteers will get a first look at all the great art at the show!)

If you've been known to pick up a guitar (and people don't run from the room screaming when you do...), we're also looking for a few good acoustic musicians to help lend a festive air to the Fest. (And no, you don't have to play holiday music!)

To volunteer for any of these great tasks, to donate money or goods, or for more information, contact our e-mail: cnartfest@yahoo.com, or call Kathy McTee at 472-1128. It's going to be a great day, and hopefully the beginning of another fun neighborhood tradition. Even if you don't have time to volunteer, mark your calendar for November 23, and stop by to see the show and do a little holiday shopping. Spread the word! ■

Precinct 131

(continued from page 1)

their marks or other errors that might invalidate selections. The new system is easy to use, and fully accessible."

On Election Day, November 5, other neighborhood precincts will use the regular optical scan paper ballot method one last time. DeBeauvoir is planning a transition to E-Slate voting that will go citywide in May 2003, expanding the new method to both Early and Election Day polling places. "Due to aging equipment, new voting laws, and the growth of our county, Travis County needs to move to a newer kind of voting system. The E-Slate system was studied by the County Clerk Elections Task Force for a year before being selected as the best option."

Paper ballots will be offered to any Election Day voter who objects or is otherwise not ready to vote the new way. The precinct 131 election judges support the idea and are enthusiastic about training for the new system. In the September Steering Committee meeting, the county's proposal was enthusiastically endorsed. ■

LAND OWNERSHIP, THE BIG PICTURE

by M. L. Lehmann

Wiser heads are always telling us to "look at the big picture." Plenty difficult when we're right in the middle of it, at ground level. So we strive for the bird's-eye view with maps and books that expose the creeping trends we dismissed as local or too absurd.

That's what I thought of private claims to public property, from air waves to the water we drink and especially the DNA of plants, animals and even ourselves! No, says David Bollier in *Silent Theft*, it IS happening, big time. Are we going to get used to these claims, the way we got used to slavery - which now seems unthinkable? Do these claims include land, another natural resource that, like water, is essential to life? A couple of centuries ago we would have given private landownership, especially huge holdings which always seem to result, the same verdict that the majority gave slavery: too entrenched, via Western Civilization, ever to change.

The big picture on land ownership is changing, partly because there were always cities that hung on to public property, especially income-producing property, notably Singapore and Hong Kong, and partly because nationwide in nearly every city, land speculation by developers and often a public eager to profit too from the rise in land values (can you blame us?) is causing huge headaches for cities. The biggest headache may be trying to supply affordable housing in an over-heated land market which has made land, hence housing, UNaffordable even for the middle class. And there's the loss of environmental control. Austin's City Council is passing the hat for funds to buy critical land over the Edwards aquifer. Too little too late is the public's verdict.

The lesson, "ownership = control," is not lost on anyone, including research groups like the Lincoln Foundation. MIT Professor Yu-Hung Hong's new book, *International Experiences in Leasing Public Land*, soon to be released by Lincoln, describes governments' various lease-holding arrangements and what seems to work and why, or why not. Keep The Land puts in its two cents as usual (see ad in this issue) and has details about four ground-leasing cities at www.KeepTheLand.org. ■