

The Flea

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS, SIGNS TO BE TOPIC OF JULY 29 MEETING

by Dave Westenbarger

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee crafted a policy in June regarding Neighborhood Watch, a nationwide program that is credited by law enforcement officials with reducing crime. The program is based on the simple concept of neighbors helping neighbors and cooperating with law enforcement. It uses direct techniques, such as being alert and aware, reporting suspicious activity to police and helping educate neighbors about simple ways — like locking doors — that reduce criminal activity.

The Austin Police Department prefers that at least half of residents of a Neighborhood Watch area join the effort. A Watch area may be one block or several blocks, on one street or adjacent streets. Each area has a block captain.

Here is a summary of the Cherrywood Neighborhood association's new policy.

1. The neighborhood association will pursue dual tracks of (a) following recommendations of the association's security committee and the Austin Police Department to install large aluminum Neighborhood Watch signs at the 24 entrances to Cherrywood, and (b) encouraging formation of Neighborhood Watches throughout the neighborhood. (The area served by the CNA extends from Manor Road to Wilshire Boulevard and from I-35 to Airport Boulevard.)

The membership will be asked to approve spending approximately \$650 for

the signs, posts, bolts and concrete at the July 16 meeting. The design for the 24 perimeter signs probably will be chosen and materials will be distributed at the Neighborhood Watch meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. July 29 at Maplewood School.



2. The neighborhood association will provide information packets for Neighborhood Watch block captains, including a copy of each of the official Neighborhood Watch brochures, APD information, and the map of crime reports that our police District Representative posted online. Block captains will be encouraged to circulate brochures as they canvass their neighbors for their Neighborhood Watch. A "read and return" policy for the Neighborhood Watch brochures will help keep costs down and encourage neighborliness by asking folks to read the brochure, sign a circulation list and pass the brochure next door. Block captains will be listed as the place to return the list.

The neighborhood association steering committee will encourage the formation of Neighborhood Watches on blocks where the 24 signs are posted. Other signs can be posted in the interior of the neighborhood on blocks where

Neighborhood Watches are formed, and folks in those Watches will pay for those signs, which cost less than \$30 each, including posts and concrete. Volunteer will have to install signs. If enough Watches are interested the neighborhood association can order signs in bulk.

National Night Out is Tuesday, August 5, and block parties are opportunities to organize Watches and raise funds for large signs, posts and additional materials. ■

**Cherrywood Neighborhood
quarterly meeting:**

**Wednesday, July 16
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Maplewood School**

Likely topics of discussion:

- Neighborhood Watch, including starter kits for block captains
- National Night Out (Aug. 5)
- Patterson Park improvements, including playscape and trail
- Friends of Willowbrook
- Nominations for steering committee elections in October
- Zoning committee activities
- Call for new associate editor for the Flea

Contact Dave Westenbarger, 494-9905, if you have an item you'd like to add.

CHERRYWOOD CALENDAR

JULY

- July 8** 7 pm, Friends of Willowbrook, under the "Twin Elms" near 3900 Willowbrook Dr.
- July 9** 6:30 pm, Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos.
- July 14** 7:30 pm, Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP), Genesis Presbyterian Church.
- July 16** 6:30 pm, CNA general meeting, Maplewood School Library. All neighbors are welcome!
- July 22** Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team, site to be determined.
- July 23** 7-9 pm, Cherrywood Book Club, for more details email thedelaunes@austin.rr.com.
- July 29** 6:30 pm, Neighborhood Watch, Maplewood School.

AUGUST

- Aug. 6** 6-9 pm, National Night Out. Block parties throughout the neighborhood. Visit www.cherrywood.org for list.
- Aug. 11** 7:30 pm, FoPP, Genesis Presbyterian Church.
- Aug. 13** 6:30 pm, CNA Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos.
- Aug. 19** First day of classes at Maplewood School.
- Aug. 27** 7-9 pm, Cherrywood Book Club (see July above).

SEPTEMBER

- Sep. 8** 7:30 pm, FoPP, Genesis Presbyterian Church.
- Sep. 10** 6:30 pm, CNA Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos.
- Sep. 24** 7-9 pm, Cherrywood Book Club (see July above).

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you have comments or suggestions about the Flea, please contact any of the folks listed at the right.

We are seeking an associate editor for the Flea. If you are interested, contact Sue Taylor, editor, at 476-1461.

CHERRYWOOD *NeighborNet*

Cherrywood has two electronic channels. One channel is our Web page, for permanent stuff. Just open **cherrywood.org** for lots on information about the neighborhood. The other is our "NeighborNet" e-mail list, through which 290 neighbors enjoy timely notices of local goings-on. Visit **cherrywood.org** to subscribe.

This past quarter you would have learned about:

- events
- meetings
- a campaign to organize block Neighborhood Watches
- efforts to make a Seton parking lot in the neighborhood compatible with Randolph Street
- efforts to improve Clarkson Avenue
- neighborhood volunteer opportunities
- city policies regarding pruning near electric wires
- and much more

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://www.cherrywood.org>

Steering Committee

Chair	_____ Dave Westenbarger ('03)*	494-9905
Vice-Chair	_____ Stefan Schuster ('04)	322-0059
Secretary	_____ Meg Brooks ('04)	474-6454
Treasurer	_____ Rebecca Kohout ('03)	415-9876
Members	_____ Bree Buchanan ('04)	482-8468
	_____ Frances DeLaune ('03)	477-1986
	_____ Jeff Folmar ('03)	472-4535
	_____ Peter Ketter ('04)	473-2736
	_____ Girard Kinney ('04)	478-5042
	_____ Lisa McClain ('03)	789-5885
	_____ David Menhard ('03)	478-0996
	_____ Lex Dale Owens ('04)	477-6555
	_____ Jennifer Smith ('04)	694-0298

* year term expires

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- **Photography** _____ Liz Hargrove 478-5043
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- _____ Dave Westenbarger 494-9905
- **Distribution** _____ Jim Walker 499-0526

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Hospitality: _____ Rebecca Kohout 415-9876

_____ Priscilla Boston 478-1867

Nominating: _____ Michael McClendon 482-0016

Parks:

• **Cherrywood Green** _____ Katharine Beisner 708-9407

_____ Brent Hay 236-8721

• **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

Welcome Wagon: _____ Rebecca Kohout 415-9876

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Austin Film Society: _____ Dolly Ensey 494-9905

Blue Ribbon Yard: _____ Priscilla Boston 478-1867

Maplewood: _____ Jack Newman 476-6616

Mueller Redevelopment: _____ Jim Walker 499-0526

Tree Planting: _____ Mike Damal 478-9622

Upper Boggy Creek Planning: Stephen Kreger 477-4216

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

by Michael McClendon

National Night Out is Tuesday, Aug. 5. As part of this 20th national event, neighbors are encouraged to turn on porch lights and to host or attend block parties to generate support for crime prevention. The gatherings also strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relations and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

If you were not invited to attend a party on your street last year, consider hosting one this year. Perhaps, you and two or



three of your neighbors can co-host a gathering. Or simply turn on your porch lights, lock your doors and walk the streets and meet your neighbors. Mainly, do something to meet your neighbors.

National Night Out is a good opportunity

to gather support for the Neighborhood Watch program and to promote crime prevention generally.

If you host a block party, you can submit a written request for police, firefighters or EMS crews to visit your party. You can obtain this form at www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/nno or by contacting Yolanda Buchman at 974-4900 or by e-mail at nno@ci.austin.tx.us. You will also receive a packet of crime prevention materials and neat stuff to give to your neighbors.

National Night Out works. Just getting to know more folks on your block increases the number of people looking out for each other. Don't delay. The deadline to request visits from police, firefighters and EMS is July 11. ■

OFFICER SHERRY RETURNING TO HOOD

by Meg Brooks

Our neighborhood police contact, Officer Dane Sherry, was assigned to another position within the police department in March, much to our disappointment. Comments about Officer Sherry from neighbors were unanimously positive. The Cherrywood Steering Committee wrote a letter to Police Chief Stan Knee to let him how valuable we felt Officer Sherry was to our neighborhood and to request that he be assigned back to us. It worked! Officer Sherry will be back as our District Representative Officer in August. During his absence, Officer Sherry has continued to send information to the NeighborNet, and he will be ready to jump right back in.

Officer Sherry has helped us in the past identifying suspicious persons seen in the neighborhood, giving us crime statistics and hints to help us protect ourselves. In the five months that he was assigned to us, he had a big impact, and we look forward to working with him again. His phone number will be the same, 974-4456.

Crime prevention tips:

If you have a crime, police or criminal justice question you would like answered on NeighborNet or in the next Flea, email Meg Brooks at fishgirls@aol.com or call 474-6454. Crime statistics show that vehicle burglaries remain our most prevalent problem in the Cherrywood neighborhood. Just as a reminder, lock your car doors and do not leave any belongings in your car that can be seen from outside the car. ■

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

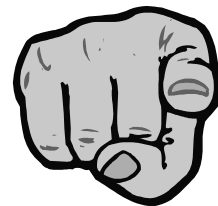
by Michael McClendon

Steering Committee members are needed for the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association. At the October membership meeting, a slate of six Steering Committee members will be presented for election to two-year terms.

It is expected that some of the members whose terms are expiring may seek to continue serving, but it is estimated that we will need three to five new members. We also have one vacancy to fill for the term expiring October 2004, and would like to maintain a list of interested persons to fill this and other vacancies as they occur.

The Nominating Committee (Michael McClendon, Jim Walker, Dave Westenbarger, Priscilla Boston, and Lex Dale Owens) seeks volunteers to serve on the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee meets monthly, elects its own officers, and handles neighborhood association business.

If you are interested in serving, contact Michael McClendon at 482-0016, or michaelmclendon@juno.com or let Jim, Dave, Priscilla or Lex know you are interested. We will ask you to complete a short form regarding your interests, and we will select the slate of candidates from the forms received. This form and more information regarding the Steering Committee are available at www.cherrywood.org. ■



A GOOD DOWNGRADE

by Stefan Schuster

Lately it seems like so many downgrades in the news are negative. But wait, we have great news. Recently the City of Austin's Planning Commission made a favorable decision towards our East Austin neighborhood by recommending the downgrading of 38½ Street and Manor Road from "arterials" to a "neighborhood collectors." For you technical folks, the classifications would be lowered from MAD6 to MAD4.

This coincides with several transportation recommendations from the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan, so efforts spent in the UPBC process continue to pay off. Council members appear to be keeping true to faith in their beliefs in the neighborhood planning process, and now it appears that we

see support from city staff as well.

There is no word on when the council will consider the recommendation; however, council members are due for a short retreat as of this writing. After the City Council acts, the downgrades go to the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), and it isn't known when it will take up 38½ and Manor.

We will have to let our council members know how much we value this effort to look at these corridors as pedestrian friendly environments for trips with local origins and destinations. Challenges are still ahead, however. We need to work with concerns over emergency vehicles access, the fact that all neighborhoods want transportation corridors "elsewhere," and future impacts and needs of the airport redevelopment, just to name a few. ■

UPPER BOGGY CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

by Stephen Kreger

The Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team (UBCPT) met June 10 to determine what role it should play in the future of the Upper Boggy Creek planning area. One role is mandated by the Neighborhood Plan Amendment Process passed by the City Council on June 5. That document says a planning area must have a Neighborhood Planning Team.

Upper Boggy Creek planning area includes the Rogers-Washington/Holy Cross, Blackland, Cherrywood, Wilshire Woods-Delwood I, and Delwood II neighborhoods. It has had a planning team from the beginning, and the existing team must decide how it wants to configure itself for the future. Several options were discussed, and it was decided that each neighborhood association would discuss the issue and the team would meet on July 22 to decide how it would be configured. The team will also decide what its role is relative to the completion of the action items in the Plan. Until then, Stephen Kreger and Bo McCarver will continue as UBCPT chair and vice-chair.

The following is an abbreviated overview of the Neighborhood Plan Amendment

Process. It says individuals must wait until July 2004 to file an application and applications will be accepted only once a year (UBC's month is July). Applications meeting certain exemptions may be filed during the one-year waiting period. The exemptions are:

- if prohibiting the filing of the application imposes an undue hardship on the applicant (determined by the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department (NPZD)),
- if the city staff made an error in the plan (determined by NPZD),
- if the development is a S.M.A.R.T. Housing project (determined by Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department),
- if the project provides environmental protection that is superior to the protection that would be achieved under the existing zoning and development regulations (determined the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department), and
- if the development will provide employment for at least 100 people (determined by the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Department).

In addition, the UBCPT can submit an application at any time either on its own or on behalf of an applicant without meeting the above criteria. Once the application is accepted, the applicant must go through the regular channels to get the application approved. The UBCPT must submit a letter to the NPZD supporting or not supporting the application before the Planning Commission hearing. Once an application to amend the plan is accepted by the NPZD, the UBCPT must elicit as much neighborhood input as possible to make a decision regarding the application.

In other business, bound copies of the Plan were distributed. Copies are available in the neighborhood at Maplewood Elementary School, Asbury United Methodist Church, Dave Westenbarger, Girard Kinney, and Stephen Kreger.

Laura Patlove with the City of Austin gave an update of the \$20,000 the UBC planning area received. The Alamo Recreation Center's allocation, \$7,500, will be spent as soon as the bid process is completed. Patterson Park's allocation, \$7,500, will be combined with other money to complete a path from Wilshire Boulevard to the playscape. Cherrywood Green's allocation, \$2,000, will be combined with other money to enhance that area. Maplewood Elementary School's allocation, \$3,000, was spent on landscaping that has been completed. ■

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

by Girard Kinney

"Planning and Zoning 101, a tradition established by former P&Z Chair Mike Damal, returned April 21 at Asbury United Methodist Church. City Planner Greg Guernsey gave us an excellent primer zoning in our neighborhood, and explained changes over the last few years, including those associated with the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan. He talked about pending state legislation that would have affected us, and about "Super Duplex" threat or opportunity, depending on your perspective, that we could be dealing with in the future.

The Planning and Zoning Committee will

lend planning support to Friends of Willowbrook and try to achieve a coordinated and interconnected Greenway System throughout the neighborhood. Integral parts of such a system include Patterson Park, Cherrywood Green, Willowbrook, a future Upper Boggy Creek hike and bike trail, and a network of tree-lined sidewalks and safe, walkable streets.

Value Sky Park remains an issue. It was built as "Park and Fly" in the 1980s between Randolph Street and the railroad on the south side of Manor Road with the conditional support of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association and with safeguards against negative impacts on the neighborhood. The masonry privacy wall and some of the planting we requested were installed, but other parts of our agreement were not kept. Over the years, coiled razor wire was added and landscaping was either not planted or poorly maintained. At night light from the facility became so

bright that one could read in the yards across Randolph. When the facility closed after the airport moved, the coiled wire was removed and the lights were turned off. But recently Seton leased the site for parking for Brackenridge Hospital, which it operates. Coiled razor wire was reinstalled and lights were turned back on, recreating the "prison camp" image that had evolved there. CNA and the Randolph residents are working with the City of Austin and Seton, which operates Brackenridge, to try to eliminate the negative impacts on the adjacent residences and to improve the overall image of the site. Our goal is a facility compatible with residential neighborhoods.

Anyone who has questions or comments about these or other Planning and Zoning issues, or who would like to be a member of the P&Z Committee should contact Girard Kinney. ■

IF THE CITY WANTS TO TRIM OR REMOVE YOUR TREE

by Gordon Bennett and Girard Kinney

Significant power outages during storms result from electric lines mingling with trees. So electric utilities routinely prune trees away from wires. Austin Energy's pruning is contracted out.

Crews from Davey Tree Expert Co. or Asplundh Tree Expert Co. return about once every four years. Austin Energy foresters, arborists, and other pros manage the work.

Every urban shade tree is a treasure. So a decision that one must be pruned back or removed carries the seeds of conflict. In response, Austin Energy (AE) has fashioned a "Utility Forestry Notification" program. In its words, "Before any routine utility tree trimming work is begun, AE contractors, under the management of AE staff, attempt to contact each property owner to explain and

discuss the work to be done...."

When Davey or Asplundh pre-planners determine pruning or removal is needed, they design a "Vegetation Work Plan" for the property that outlines the work to be performed. They make an effort to discuss it with the property owner. If no one answers the door, they leave the plan as a door-hanger, and include a contact phone number. If no communication is received from the property owner, a certified letter is mailed. Only after these steps are taken does work commence.

If the owner demurs, an Austin Energy arborist may offer an explanation or come for a consultation. Sometimes a compromise can be negotiated. According to AE, it is only "one of only two electric utilities nationwide that has such an



extensive notification process." However, occasionally neighbors feel this "pretty exceptional" process is not good enough.

This is where we feel the crux of the issue lies. Good process. Not always followed. There are reported deviations from, even abuses of, what appears to be a reasonable stated strategy for pruning and removal. Some residents report that they were not given a copy of their plan. Others say that the cutting actually performed exceeded that described in the plan.

(continued on page 10)

MAPLEWOOD NOTES

**Your Neighborhood School
3808 Maplewood Ave., 414-4402**

► The 2002-2003 school year at Maplewood ended with loads of frivolity and educational activity. Students, parents, and the community participated in our successful Spring Fling on May 10. Fun was had by all who were doused by the splash machine and boogie woogied to the sounds of local bands, including the Marvelous Maplewood 6th Grade Band, The Bustamoovalators, and Erik Hokkanen.

► Many folks also took advantage of the low priced books and plants for sale. Profits from the event support Maplewood's goal of installing a new, safe, mold-free gym floor. If you would like to make a contribution to this cause, send donations to Maplewood PTA at P.O. Box 1711, 78767-1711. Note on your check that it's for the gym floor.

► Many thanks to Spring Fling contributors: Academy, Aesthetica Med Spa. Airport Florist, Alf's Florist, Amy's Ice Cream, Bank of America, Coca-Cola, Dr. Chocolate, East Side Cafe, Grande Communications, Hangers Cleaners, Half Price Books, Hancock Recreation Center, Julio's, Manuel's/Chango's Restaurants, Ruby's BBQ, Sam's Club, Sacred Cup, Stubb's, Target, Uncommon Objects, Wal-Mart.

► Career Day at Maplewood on May 12 also was a highlight. Many community members spoke with Maplewood students about the specifics of their careers. Speakers included a judge, many artists and musicians, a veterinarian, fire fighters, and several others. Specific thanks to Cherrywood neighbors Maryann Grisham, Chris Throop, Elizabeth Warren, and Dr. Besch of the Austin Veterinary Clinic.

► If you haven't already, check out the improvements around the school grounds. Parents and students have worked hard to create a granite walkway, to score and stain the cement entrance, and to plant many native, drought tolerant plants. Community members are always welcome to assist with maintenance of our improvements or to help with the continual upkeep of our great, old school. Just give us a call or stop by.

► Registration for pre-kindergarten students who will be 4 years old before Sept. 1, 2003, and meet either economic or language eligibility, will be in early August. Keep your eye on the Maplewood marquee for specific dates. The first day of classes for all Maplewood students is Tuesday, Aug. 19.

► Kudos to Ms. Amanda Braziel and Dr. Pauline Walker, Maplewood teachers who received a \$3,500 economic and science grant. They plan to have a complete rain-water collection system installed, build a green house, and guide students through the yearly process of propagating, growing, and selling plants to benefit the school.

► Also, listed here are Maplewood students who had perfect attendance for the **whole year. WOW!** Laura Allen, Lisa Allen, Jill Andrews, Brachey Barnes, Katara Caro, Marisa Castillo, Keyosa Clark, Nicholas Dush, Raymond Dush, Rashad Jarmon, Rashed Jarmon, Jacquelyn Jobe, Danielle Johnson, Deirdre Johnson, Jami Jones, Jordan Mackey, Sarah Menhard, Jorge Muñoz, Miguel Muñoz, Samuel Russell, Luis Rivero, Darin Scoggins, Kristina Simmons, Tiffiney Stewart, Brandon Taylor, Olyvia Valentine. ■

This Maplewood news column is written by Kelli Kirk, a counselor at Maplewood who lives in our neighborhood.

Some of the many beautiful improvements to the Maplewood grounds, including the scored and stained entrance, native plants and gardens, granite pathways, and detailed sidewalks.

Photos: Laura Patlove



FRIENDS OF WILLOWBROOK ORGANIZES

by Dianne Sullivan

With the success of the Cherrywood Green project, it's time to turn our attention to another of our neighborhood's treasures. A tributary of Boggy Creek meanders from above 40th and Cherrywood, between Sycamore Drive and Willowbrook Drive to 38½ Street. The City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department maintains the creek and adjacent grassland.

Currently the city contracts with Easter Seals to mow the grass and trim the

creek banks and creek bed to 12 inches in February, April, June, August and October. Several years ago, a neighborhood group negotiated an agreement with the city to recognize several wildflower areas that would not be disturbed or mowed from April until after everything went to seed in late Spring.

Now a new committee — Friends of Willowbrook — is forming to further develop the partnership with the Watershed Protection Department. Initially, we need to produce a reliable map with not only mowing and wildflower areas but other amenities the group may want to pursue. There will be much to do over the next few years. Quite a few suggestions have been informally discussed. These include:

- building a foot bridge or two

- creating one or more low water crossings that will provide safety for fish during floods
- aggressive planting of riparian flora to secure eroded banks
- construction of some retaining walls
- identifying plants
- identifying other amenities the group may want to pursue

Anyone interested in contributing time, talent and energy is invited to attend the first meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday July 8 under the Twin Elms close to 3900 Sycamore Dr. Bring your own picnic and chairs, blankets, etc.

For further information, questions or suggestions contact Dianne Sullivan at: eside_diannesullivan@yahoo.com. ■

PATTERSON PARK NEWS

by Isabelle Headrick

This summer at Patterson Park marks the beginning of being able to enjoy the fruits of some of our labors — our kids can swim in the newly-shaded baby pool (thanks once more to the good people at HEB and City of Austin Aquatics), and construction will have begun on the new playscape as this newsletter goes to print.

Friends of Patterson Park is entering into discussions with representatives of the City's Parks and Recreation Department and the Capital Area Tennis Association regarding the tentative proposal to expand Pharr Tennis Center from 8 to 18 (up to 24) courts. Please stay tuned for a community forum on this topic sometime this fall.

We are still working hard to pull together the funding for Phase One of the trail — the Americans with Disability Act-accessible segment from Wilshire Boulevard up to the playscape. Recently, a representative from the City approached the disability advocacy group ADAPT on

our behalf to discuss the possibility of ADA funds being applied toward the cost of Phase One. In addition, we continue to look ahead toward developing a full trail system in Patterson—which brings me to a special request we have of the neighborhood...

In the process of exploring grant opportunities we have learned that we will need to take our preliminary drawing of the trail to the level of being a construction-ready document. To this end, Friends of Patterson Park is seeking a landscape architect or civil engineer to draw up such a document. We would ideally like to hire someone from the communities close to Patterson who is willing to do some or all of the work pro-bono. This is an excellent opportunity to make a lasting contribution to this neighborhood jewel. If you are such a professional or know of one, please contact Mark Smolen at 451-1433 or smolen@sbcglobal.net for further discussion.

We continue to need the community's support in other ways. We hope to defray costs by using volunteer labor for trail construction and need more individuals with grantwriting experience. If you are interested in trailbuilding, grant-

writing, and/or would like to work on getting a skatepark in Patterson, please get in touch.

Donations to Friends of Patterson Park are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. You may send a check payable to Austin Parks Foundation with "Patterson Park" on the memo line (mail it to APF at 815 Brazos St., Suite 1001, Austin, Texas 78701). We welcome anyone with an interest in Patterson to come to our meetings, which are usually the second Monday of every month at Genesis Presbyterian Church. For more information on FoPP, call Isabelle at 499-0621 or e-mail pattpark@texas.net.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Cherrywood neighbor and Flea distributor Jim MacKay, who puts his feet where his mouth is, has earned the 2003 Employee Recognition Award for his exceptional contributions to pollution prevention from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This accolade is based upon demonstrating employee leadership in preventing pollution and minimizing waste, one of which is Jim's daily commute to and from work. He pedals 20 miles on his bicycle — rain or shine. ■

CHERRYWOOD SONGWRITER GETS AUSTRALIAN HONOR

by Bill Jones

Long time Cherrywood resident Kathy Murray Jones received a Chain Award for the 2003 Song of the Year from the Australian Blues Music Association. Murray Jones was honored for her song, "Call Me Mrs. Blues," recorded by the Kate Meehan Band. This song is featured on Meehan's new "Soulshaker" CD along with three other Murray Jones' originals.



In 1989, Meehan's guitar player happened to tape one of Murray Jones' songs, "Exception to the Rule," from an Australian blues radio program. After performing the song for 11 years, Meehan decided to record it on her "Long As I've Sung the Blues" CD. She tracked Murray Jones from Tasmania, Australia, to Austin through DJ Larry Monroe of KUT radio. Meehan and Murray Jones forged a strong musical connection and friendship.

Meehan has recorded seven of Murray Jones' original songs and dedicated her CD, "Soulshaker" to Murray Jones as "the most inspiring and talented songwriter and musician that I have been lucky enough to meet at the crossroads of my singing career." Murray Jones says, "Kate Meehan is a world-class, fabulous singer and I am so lucky to have her doing my material. I think the world is ready for a hot Australian Blues Queen and I believe that the sky's the limit for Kate." Kate Meehan's CDs can be obtained at www.katemeehan.com.

Murray Jones' band Kathy & The Kilowatts, with Kathy's husband Bill Jones on guitar, traveled Texas and the Southwest for 20 years but is taking a hiatus from live shows. The band has shared the bill with Koko Taylor, Bobby Bland, Albert King, Sam & Dave, Albert Collins, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Marcia Ball and others. When not writing songs, Murray Jones does yoga, plays ukulele and likes to walk her dog Mavis in the neighborhood. ■

Bill Jones is known on the Internet as Monsterjones and the Austin Chronicle called him "Austin's Premier Garage Kit Model Builder." See his work at Monsterjones.com. He plays guitar and accordion.

CHERRYWOOD ART FEST 2003 NOVEMBER 22

by Audrey Gray & Kathy McTee

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Art Fest committee is planning this year's event for Saturday, November 22. We want many neighborhood artists, musicians to share their talents with neighbors. If anyone is interested in participating as an artist or a volunteer, contact Kathleen McTee at 472-1128 or e-mail cnartfest@yahoo.com for more information.

Last year's event was a great success. Everyone enjoyed the music, food, including yummy pie, and a variety of beautiful wares, including paintings, textiles and jewelry.

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Art Fest is an event in the best spirit of old Austin — art for fun's sake. This event was created to bring folks in the neighborhood together to have fun and see what cool things are being created in our own studios. Help make this year even better — come and lend a hand getting ready for the big day, sell your original



artwork, or simply enjoy an hour or two of snacking and shopping. We'll see you there. Did we mention pie? ■



BLUE RIBBON YARD

by Priscilla Boston

The winner this time is the lovely woodland yard of Betsy and Leon Reinisch at 4014 Cherrywood. Betsy and Leon say that American Arbors provided them with a design that minimizes maintenance, such as mowing, and suggested plants that thrive on their heavily-treed lot. The yard includes a visually interesting French drain across half of the front of the house to deal with a drainage problem.

Betsy and Leon Reinisch's Blue Ribbon Yard. *Photo: Dave Westenbarger*

A PLANET CALLED CANCER

by Robbin Griffith Clipson

When she was 26, Cherrywood neighbor Heidi Schultz Adams received devastating news from her doctor. Her struggle to find support when there was little continues to shape Adams' drive to meet the needs of others who fight for their lives against cancer during early adulthood.

In her book "Here and Now," available in most book stores, she crafts a glimpse into the existential vitality of cancer survivors. Heidi and fellow survivor Elena Dorfman capture the visions and voices of survivors of all ages, sizes, shapes, diagnoses, races and resources. Documenting their journeys became a stepping stone to an even bigger vision — www.planetcancer.org, a Web site for fellow survivors who find themselves at the critical juncture between late adolescence and early adulthood, for whom few supports and resources exist.

Planet Cancer is a gateway to the touchpoints necessary for surviving the harsh and lonely existence between diagnosis and recovery. Adams observes: "For

this age group, once the diagnosis is declared and the healing regimen has begun, the isolation can be terrifying and there are few resources that target this age group." Planet Cancer guides a guest to resources like retreats, seminars and myriad support systems designed just for adults in their 20s and 30s.

Discover a safe haven of black humor and comic relief camaraderie. As fresh for that moment as the early frames of MASH during the dark days of warring madness, one's visit to Planet Cancer can become an on-line oasis for refueling or an occasional roadmap to additional resources. The survivor can find various coping and comfort zones tailored to special needs.

Heidi explains: "Pediatric oncology provides an excellent cohesive model from early detection all the way through treatment. And because the majority of cancer patients are over 50, there are many established support networks for them. But young adults in their 20s and 30s often get lumped into care that misses the unique issues of this critical age group, issues like fertility, facing mortality for the first time, becoming dependent on parents again, dropping out of school or disrupting a newly launched career. Add alienation and isolation to

an already overwhelming reality and the need for Planet Cancer becomes evident. The need for psychosocial support during those days becomes critical."

During Heidi's treatment, the idea grew out of a friendship that developed between her and two others who faced the same trauma of fighting for their lives in a lonely place. Heidi is the only one of the three who remains to see Planet Cancer thrive and grow into a vital network for folks whose travel plans never targeted the place "cancer." What began as a simple Web site has grown into an organization linking survivors and their families to countless resources. At Planet Cancer, glimpse a world you never imagined: a world of healing, spiritual humus and ultimately hope born of community on a planet called cancer. ■



LONGTIME NEIGHBOR GETS NEW DIGS

Wright House Wellness Center, a Cherrywood Choices group, recently moved its administrative offices into the former Literacy Austin site, next to Hoover's Cooking restaurant on Manor Road. The rest of the center remains in its original location at The Wright House, 4301-B Interstate 35, next to St. George's Episcopal Church. Joe Barnes, community development director, invites neighbors to drop by the office to discover the programs it offers to improve lives of people with chronic illnesses, such as cancer, Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS. Feel free to pick up brochures regarding low-to-no cost services of both physical and emotional support, helping persons make healthier life style choices and employ holistic health therapies to delay progression of illness. Information: 467-0088 or www.thewrighthouse.org. ■

WELCOME

Rebecca Kohout has been delivering welcome baskets to the neighborhood's new residents. A warm welcome to homeowners who have moved here since March.

- Clayton Harrison, 3407 Hollywood Ave.
- Elizabeth Jackson, 3211 Dancy
- Heather and Alberto Telo, 3200 Cherrywood Rd.
- Randall and Christine Terrell, 4017 Cherrywood Rd.
- Ashley Winston and Lacy Knearem, 3810 Brookview Rd.
- Randall & Donya Stockton, 1717 East 38 1/2 St.

If you have bought a home in Cherrywood in the past several months and have not heard from the neighborhood association's Welcome Wagon, it is because you weren't home when Rebecca came by to deliver your basket. Please call her at 415-9876 to set up a time for delivery. Your basket is waiting.

(Tree Trimming, continued from page 5)

We may be able to encourage more general respect for the ideal process. But as a neighborhood we also feel we must monitor how carefully contract crews are following announced guidelines. Multiple crews each working on multiple trees are in the field at one time. Some of them may feel no one cares or is watching. As always, *"eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."* (Sound familiar?)

Here are further steps you might consider:

- If someone appears ready to prune your tree, ask to see the Vegetation Work Plan. If you are not in specific agreement, attempt to negotiate a compromise or seek assistance from Austin

Energy (see below). Make sure the contractor understands a dispute is under discussion.

- Make sure work to which you specifically agree is clearly described on the plan. If you can do so safely, clearly mark cuts to which you agree (using surveyor's tape or other bright material).
- Take a photo (showing the agreed markings).
- Take or send your photo and your objection to the Forestry Program, Austin Energy, 721 Barton Springs Road, Austin TX 78704 (494-9400: select language, then 3, then 7).
- Post your objection to the Cherrywood listserv, **NeighborNet@yahoogroups.com**. Get your neighbors involved.
- If you have further questions about trees targeted for removal that are over

8 inches in diameter (at breast height), contact O.B. McKown (974-6330) or Jim Rhoades (974-1876) at Watershed Protection.

- Bring in your own arborist to consult, supervise, or do the work.
- If a tree must be removed, ask Austin Energy for a replacement. Plant tall species away from power lines.

We recommend these Web sites:

- Austin Energy NeighborWoods program — www.ci.austin.tx.us/news/02/ae_neighborwoods.htm
- TreeFolks (of Austin) — www.treefolks.org
- National Arbor Day Foundation — www.arborday.org
- The Urban Forest — www.urbanforest.org. ■