



The Flea

HOT TOPICS: BAD DOGS, FAST CARS, AND BUSH WHACKERS

By Michael McClendon

These "hot topics" have appeared on the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association e-mail list serve (NeighborNet) of late. Are they worthy of discussion at the Oct. 15 CNA membership meeting? I have asked that 30 minutes be set aside to find out. If you are interested any in these matters, please come to the meeting and be heard.



1. The dogs aren't really bad, but when they chase after people and bite them they commit a bad act. Details are sketchy, but one report was that a jogger was bitten by a dog north of 38½ near Brookview and sustained injuries. Another report was that a dog attacks passersby near 32nd and Edgewood. You can call animal control (972-6060), but results are questionable. Is there a way to avoid these attacks? If an attack occurs, should the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association send a letter to the owner to try to prevent future attacks? Should the address of the offending dogs be published in the Flea? Should CNA even get involved in this issue?



2. Have you been on Clarkson during rush hour traffic lately? An increasing number of cars use this as a shortcut between 38½ Street and Cherrywood Road, and speeding is the norm. A mother reports watching her 11-year old son nar-

rowly escape being struck by a speeder near the crosswalk at 38½ Street. One NeighborNet well-wisher suggested she keep her kid out of the street: a couple of later emails note that "something" should be done. Gordon Bennett has discovered that \$350,000 may be available from the city for traffic calming in 2004, but we are one of six neighborhoods in the running. Should we try to be selected by the city? If so, how and where should we concentrate our efforts? Who is going to lead the effort? Since Mark Lind left the neighborhood, is anybody taking the lead? Would simple painted crosswalks, or flashing lights saying "slow down," work? Should we spend neighborhood association funds to slow traffic, and if so, how and on what streets?



3. Trees and shrubbery that block sidewalks or streets can impede pedestrians and bicyclists. This can be a genuine safety issue if it forces walkers and bikers into a busy street, and we should all keep our bushes trimmed. But, what if we do not? One well-meaning resident has taken it upon himself to trim bushes. Some have applauded his efforts, others have cursed. Do we need a policy, either formally encouraging or discouraging such acts? Is there a middle ground that would work, such as giving notice to the owner to trim his own bushes, then offering a choice of complaint to the city, or allowing our own crew to do the job?

Again, a larger question is whether it is worthwhile discussing these matters at a general membership meeting? If you think so, come discuss one or more of them. ■

Cherrywood Neighborhood
quarterly meeting:

**Wednesday
October 15
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Maplewood School**

**Open to ALL residents
of Cherrywood.
We need your input!**

Agenda:

Officers' reports

Committee reports

- Communications: Volunteers are needed to be associate editor and photo editor of the Flea
- Safety & security: Neighborhood Watch updates
- Parks & green spaces: Report on the recent public forum on a proposal to triple the number of tennis courts in Patterson Park
- Tree Planting: Order trees now for planting in November
- Planning & Zoning: Report on Sept. 18 committee meeting
- Cherrywood Choices
- Nominating: Election of new members of the Steering Committee. See candidates on Page 3
- Other: Order replacement toilets now to help Cherrywood buy more trees

Current "hot" topics: open discussion of issues of interest with possible action. See article to the left.

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

CHERRYWOOD CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- OCT 15** 6:30pm, Neighborhood association meeting, Maplewood School library. All neighbors are welcome!
- OCT 22** 7–9pm, Cherrywood Book Club. For more details e-mail thedelaunes@austin.rr.com.
- OCT 24** Deadline to turn in gas-powered mowers for a share of electric mower under Cherrywood Conservation Corps program. See article page 9.
- OCT 25** (tentative) Annual Fright Fest, Maplewood School. See article page 7.
- OCT 31** Deadline to sign up for free or rebated toilets coordinated by Cherrywood Conservation Corps; deadline to sign up to purchase a tree in the CNA program or to volunteer to help plant trees. See articles pages 8 and 10.

NOVEMBER

- NOV 10** 7:30pm, Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP), Genesis Presbyterian Church.
- NOV 12** 6:30pm, CNA Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos.
- NOV 22** 11am–6pm, Cherrywood Art Fair, Maplewood Elementary School. See article page 5.

DECEMBER

- DEC 3** 7–9pm, Cherrywood Book Club. (See October above)
- DEC 8** 7:30pm, FoPP, Genesis Presbyterian Church
- DEC 10** 6:30pm, CNA Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos.

ASK OFFICER SHERRY

We haven't gotten any specific questions since the last newsletter so Officer Sherry suggested that we discuss some general crime prevention suggestions.

We have had a steady number of thefts from cars and front yards and some unfortunate vandalism cases this summer. The most important ways to prevent these crimes are:

- Keep your porch light and other lights on outside your house at night. Light scares criminals away better than almost anything.
- Do not leave unsecured belongings in your yard.
- Leave nothing in your car and be sure to lock it.
- Report suspicious behavior to 911.

Officer Sherry is still monitoring our NeighborNet emails but he has not yet been reassigned to be our District Representative Officer. We still hope that will happen in the near future. For the time being, you can contact Officer Carlos Casas at 974-5917 or his supervisor, Sgt. Troy Officer at 974-6964 if you have any problems or questions. If you would like to submit a question for this column, call or email Meg Brooks at 474-6454 or fishgirls@aol.com. ■

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
	David Menhard ('03)	478-0996
	Lex Dale Owens ('04)	477-6555
	Jennifer Smith ('04)	694-0298

* year term expires

Communications

NeighborNet & Web site: _____	Gordon Bennett	477-7195
The Flea:		
• Editor _____	Sue Taylor	476-1461
• Associate Editor _____	Dolly Ensey	494-9905
• Design & Layout _____	Bethany Andrée	473-2841
• Advertising _____	Rebecca Kohout	415-9876
	Dave Westenbarger	494-9905
• Distribution _____	Jim Walker	499-0526

Committees

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
• Willowbrook Reach _____	Dianne Sullivan, dianne@e-side.com	
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

Projects

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

MEET THE NEW CNA STEERING COMMITTEE SLATE OF CANDIDATES

By Michael McClendon

The Nominating Committee is delighted to announce this slate of candidates for consideration and possible selection at the October neighborhood association meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15 at Maplewood School. This is a wonderfully diverse group both geographically and in such areas as age, gender, occupation and interests. Since this is an odd numbered year, there are six candidates to be elected to two-year terms. Remember, nominations may also be made from the floor, so be sure and come to the meeting and vote for the best candidates.

J. Scott Chasteen works in the field of architecture and has lived in Austin more than five years. Scott lives on Basford Road, and is remodeling his home there. Scott has experience in urban planning, zoning and codes, and is highly interested in Mueller redevelopment, smart growth, transit issues and green spaces.

Alexandra (Alex) Garcia is a nurse and assistant professor and has lived in Austin for more than eight years. She has lived in the neighborhood more than five years, and lives on Larry Lane. Alex is highly interested in safety and crime prevention, traffic issues, and preservation of the character of the neighborhood. Alex would like to increase her interpersonal skills while helping sustain our neighborhood as a healthy community.

Rebecca Kohout is a current Steering Committee member who has worked hard as CNA treasurer and in many other areas, such as delivering hospitality baskets, bringing the art fair to the neighborhood. Rebecca is a real estate agent and has lived in Austin more than 30 years and in the neighborhood off-and-on for 17 years. She lives on East 29th Street. In addition to her current duties, Rebecca lists a high interest in the Flea for the upcoming term.

Jack Newman is in the real estate business and has lived in Austin since 1975 and within the neighborhood since 1979. Jack has previously served on the Steering Committee and was a vice president under the "old" organization. Jack also served as editor of the Flea. For this term, Jack has high interest in the Flea, transit issues, preservation of neighborhood character, and wishes to ensure we remain inclusive. Jack lives on East 37th Street.

Madeleine (Maddie) Kadas was born in Austin, and has lived here off-and-on, including the last three years on French Place. Maddie is an attorney practicing in a specialized area of international environmental law. Maddie has a varied background, including service in the Peace Corp in Guatemala. Maddie lists many areas of high interest, including Maplewood school, local business issues, policy development, parks and green space, and Mueller redevelopment.

Dave Westenbarger has lived in Austin more than four years and within the neighborhood boundaries more than three years. He lives on East 38½ Street. Dave, current president of the Steering Committee, likes to get around Austin without a car, and therefore walks or bikes just about everywhere, including to his job as a planner in North Austin. Dave has been involved in nearly all worthwhile projects undertaken by the neighborhood association. ■

HELP RESEARCH NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

By Peter Ketter

Whether you're concerned about the effects of the I-35 expansion on our neighborhood, interested in preserving Cherrywood's character, or just a history buff who loves the smell of archives in the morning, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association can use your help. We are researching the history of Cherrywood, and volunteers are needed to help gather information from local libraries, archives and public records.

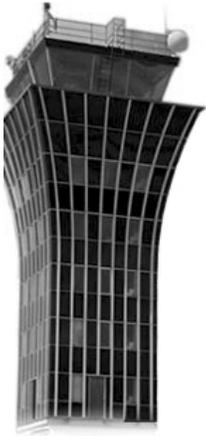
We're hoping to find volunteers who might want to help research their own little piece of Cherrywood. No experience is necessary. We will guide you to the right places, but if you have experience doing research and want to help, we're happy to have you too. Many of the research places have evening and weekend hours, and whether you'd like to do a little or a lot, we can find an assignment that appeals to you. We also want

hear from all the long-time Cherrywood residents who are willing to share their incomparable knowledge of the neighborhood.

Besides helping us understand how our neighborhood became the inviting, diverse and livable place it is, knowing the history of Cherrywood can help protect it from insensitive public projects that threaten the qualities we value. Knowledge is power, and the more we know about all aspects of our neighborhood, the better prepared we are to advocate for it.

If you're interested in helping do research, or if you have stories or photos to share, please contact Peter Ketter at peterketter@hotmail.com. ■

The Steering Committee is seeking input about establishing an archive for the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association's records and other items. Tentative arrangements have been made to house the archive at Maplewood Elementary School. If you'd like to be involved or have ideas or documents that should be part of the archives, contact a member of the steering committee.



MUELLER REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

By Jim Walker

It's been a while since news of Mueller redevelopment made the Statesman or the Chronicle. The last big story was the City Council and Catellus approval of incorporating the new Seton Children's Hospital into the Mueller Masterplan as our second major employer (remember the first is the Austin Film Studios). Here is an update on some of the currently lively plot lines:

Mueller Plan Implementation Commission — Continues to meet monthly (second Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at 610 E. 10th St.) to discuss ongoing concerns, new questions, and any evolution of the Masterplan. Call Pam Hefner at the City of Austin, 974-3511, or Jim Walker, chair of the commission, 499-0526, for more information.

Catellus — The large development company based in San Francisco has been in active negotiations with the City of Austin since it was selected as the preferred Master Developer for Mueller in April 2002. Everyone hopes that the final development agreement between Catellus and the city will be signed by

spring 2004. As a part of the negotiations both Catellus and the city have conducted market studies and interviews with local and national builders to test the interest in the Mueller Masterplan. These studies have led to several refinements in the Masterplan, which are presented and reviewed at the monthly Mueller Plan Implementation Commission meetings.

Seton Children's Hospital — Seton and its architect, Karlsburger, held one community design meeting and continue to work through aligning their needs with the Masterplan, and vice versa. Seton officials are attempting to attain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum rating for the new hospital, establishing a high bar for green building for future major employers. The new hospital is scheduled to be open in early 2007 so expect to start seeing demolition and construction activities (demolition of runways near the Wilshire Boulevard intersection, installation of sewer and water pipes) within the next several months.

City of Austin — The city periodically allows some short-term interim uses such as the recent APD Bicycle Safety

Day on the Mueller site (Remember the Cirque de Soleil a few months ago?) Stay tuned to your neighborhood listserv to receive notifications about these events. And of course, the city is deep in negotiations with Catellus to implement the Masterplan.

www.rmna.net — Bookmark this new site for the latest news and resources related to Mueller redevelopment. Once the site goes fully active a notice will be sent out over NeighborNet.

Transportation — Even though by the time you're reading this, the second Mueller Transportation Forum will have happened on Sept. 23, it's not too late to weigh in with your concerns and ideas for controlling traffic through and around Cherrywood resulting from Mueller redevelopment. Contact Gordon Bennett or Jim Walker for the latest.

Misc. — Stay tuned for a workshop opportunity looking at the pros, cons, and alternatives of selling and/or leasing Mueller land. Austin Film Studios is attracting more big movies and sustaining its East Austin internship program, bringing good mojo to Mueller. The Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition will hopefully start up regular monthly meetings again this fall. Stay tuned. ■

UBCPT DECIDES MEMBERSHIP

By Stephen Kreger

The Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team (UBCPT) has formalized the composition of the team. It was decided that the team will include two neighborhood members from each of the five neighborhoods that make up the UBC planning area (Delwood II, Wilshire

Wood-Delwood I, Cherrywood, Blackland, and Rogers-Washington) and one renter and one business owner from each neighborhood if they could be found.

During the planning process, it was very hard to find renters and business owners to participate unless their properties were at issue. So, it might be hard to find representatives from those groups to participate.

The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association's Steering Committee selected Lex Dale Owens and Stephen Kreger to be its neighborhood representatives and will look for a business owner and renter

to complete its part of the team.

At the UBCPT meeting scheduled for Sept. 30, the team was to develop by-laws for the UBCPT, discuss the role of the team and the neighborhood associations relative to accomplishing the action items in the plan, and discuss the team's role in the development of the Featherlite site on Manor Road. It is expected that the UBCPT and other planning teams and/or the affected neighborhood associations will work with the developer to ensure the project meets the intent of the neighborhood plans. ■

HOLIDAY ART FAIR SET FOR NOV. 22

By Audrey Gray

The time is nearing for our second annual neighborhood art fair. This year's event will be Saturday, Nov. 22 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Maplewood Elementary School, at Maplewood Avenue and 38½ Street.

The Cherrywood Art Fair committee expects this year's event will be bigger and more exciting than last year's with as many as 20 artists participating. Admission is free.

The fair will include music, food and children's activities as well as textiles, paintings, prints, jewelry, metal work and other



artwork. It is a perfect time for holiday gift shopping, or just mixing with neighbors and art lovers and finding out what is happening with neighborhood artisans.

If you are an artist or craftsperson, we welcome you to join us for the show. All art is eligible, including drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, woodworking, mixed media, fiber, weaving, pottery, clothing, sculpture, jewelry and ceramics. All work must be made by the artist, original in concept and design, or originating from artist's own photographs. Prints of an artist's work are acceptable. Spaces are available for the low fee of \$25, all of which will go to recoup show expenses and to benefit the school.

We also need volunteers to help set up and break down the show, to assist artists and visitors, and help with kids' activities.

Anyone interested in reserving a booth or volunteering at the Cherrywood Art Fair can call Kathy McTee at 472-1128 or e-mail us at cherrywoodartfair@yahoo.com to get more info and/or an application. We look forward to seeing you there. ■

CHERRYWOOD WATCH PARTNERS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES SIGN INITIATIVE REACHES 50% OF GOAL

By Dave Westenbarger

Cherrywood Watch picked up two partners in its Neighborhood Watch sign installation campaign in August. Special thanks go to Steve Vinklarek and Mellie Price, business owners who each donated six signs.

Steve, our local State Farm agent, reminds all residents to mark and record valuables and to secure windows. Mellie owns FrontGate Tickets, a ticket distribution company.

The two donations put Cherrywood half way to its goal of 24 signs for the perimeter entry points to the neighborhood. The neighborhood association Steering Committee will present its recommendations for sign locations at the neighborhood association meeting on Oct. 15.

So far, nearly 20 new Neighborhood Watches have been formed throughout Cherrywood Neighborhood Association. Many thanks to neighbor Chris Throop for his time in assembling all the materi-

als that make up the block captain starter kits. If a block captain has not yet visited you, check the list below to see if your street has an organized Neighborhood Watch, then call me (239-0835) for your block captain's contact details.

3000 block Lafayette Avenue
 3000 block French Place
 3100 block Breeze Terrace
 3200 block Dancy Street
 3200 block Hemlock Street
 3300 block Cherrywood Road
 3300 block Hollywood Avenue
 3500 block Hollywood Avenue
 3500 block Robinson Avenue
 3700 block Werner Avenue
 3700 block Cherrywood Road
 3800 block Halfpenny Street
 1300 block East 29th Street
 East 38½ St. (I-35 to Airport Blvd.)
 1700 block East 32nd Street
 1700 block Schieffer Avenue
 0 block Kern Ramble



Steve Vinklarek (right) hands Dave Westenbarger a new sign for Cherrywood Watch, in the "Boris the Burglar" theme chosen at the July meeting. Photo: Dolly Ensey

If your street is not listed, contact me to pick up a starter kit. Rotating captains and co-captains are recommended by the experts, so if you cannot serve as block captain, maybe one or several of your neighbors can.

Let me know by Oct. 31 if your block watch wants to order more yard signs (\$4.50 each, \$3.25 bulk), large signs (\$25 each, \$22 bulk), brochures (\$3 each, \$1.30 bulk), or decals (cheap either way), and I will include your order with the sign order. ■

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

By Girard Kinney

A surge in building projects usually signals a positive turn in the economy, and this author is optimistic that the Austin economy is looking up. As you have probably noticed, our neighborhood is experiencing a lot of activity involving new residences, additions, remodeling, and changes of use.

The Planning and Zoning Committee urges all who proceed with a project to visit the City of Austin Residential Permit Center to learn what restrictions apply to your project and what building permits are required. The center is on the 5th Floor of One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road.

The P&Z Committee is not the zoning and permit police, and we do not turn in

projects for not having permits. However, a project proceeding without a permit may be in violation of both our voluntary development guidelines (cherrywood.org [download library]) and city codes (<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/bpinfo1.htm>). You are well served to get a building permit, both to avoid being red-tagged (shut down) by the city and to avoid having to remove, relocate or rebuild a structure that is determined after the fact to violate legal requirements.

We are tracking several recent projects for which we have tried to provide information and assistance, all aimed at preserving and increasing the quality of life in the neighborhood.

Some are:

- Value Sky Park — We continue to work with Seton Medical Center and city officials to reduce the impact of this parking-lot facility on neighbors, particularly on Randolph Street. We have gotten the coiled razor wire replaced with a single strand of barbed wire (an im-

provement but still not acceptable), and lighting is turned off after 9 p.m. and on weekends. Seton is exploring landscaping to address aesthetic and security concerns.

- Duplex in 3200 block of Hemlock — a new project, with half to be owner occupied.
- 3500 block of Hollywood — a side-yard issue involving a carport.
- Duplex in 3300 block of Werner — Concerns about permits and neighborhood guidelines.
- 4000 block of Cherrywood Road — a proposed carport that would require a side-yard variance.
- Numerous small projects involving on-street and off-street parking issues.
- Review of emerging changes in city codes and revisions of CNA neighborhood guidelines.

Anyone wishing to be listed as a Planning & Zoning Committee member and to receive e-mails on that topic, please e-mail Girard Kinney at gkinney@texas.net or call Girard at home: 478-5042. ■

LORETTA ENJOYS 50 YEARS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

By Jared & Stacy James, with the generosity of Ms. Loretta

Crossing East Avenue to go to grade school at Robert E. Lee or University Junior High used to be common place for the children of the neighborhood, but nowadays few parents or children walk across East Avenue, now known as Interstate 35.

The freeway used to be just another street with traffic lights and crosswalks. Those days, many of the lots were empty, when the neighborhood was just blossoming, like so many wild flowers.

Loretta's (she asked that her last name not be used) parents bought the house she currently lives in around 1953. She was 12 years old and had lived in several small Texas towns, but from then on Austin would be home. She has enjoyed watching Austin change as much as watching things that stay the same. The buildings that now house Children's Advocacy were once home to the main office of the Brown Schools. According to Loretta, life is a little wilder in Austin now, and she's a little wilder too. In recent months she's been taking in more and more live music.

You might find Loretta, a spirited 60ish lady, over at Jupiter on Friday nights enjoying an in-store performance or down at Shady Grove on a Thursday night for Unplugged. Loretta, my wife and I enjoy many a Texas evening talking about the folks who have lived on the street, but mostly we talk about how lucky we are to live in a part of town that has worked so hard to preserve that idea of a neighborhood. We agree that even though you may not know everybody on a first name basis, you can smile and say "hi." ■

WELCOME



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

- Tina Brown & Barbie Cohen, 1501 E. 34th
- Andrew Gomez, 3716 Werner
- Anne Marie Thomas, 3503 Basford

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. ■

**THE REAL
HAPPY
MEAL:
MORE THAN
500,000
SERVED**



Happy meals have been served in the Austin area and Travis County for more than 30 years, but are probably different from the kind you might first think of. Instead of drive-through window, there's friendly door-to-door service. Instead of fast food, there's fast delivery of nutritious food. There are regular customers, yet there's always room for new faces.

Meals on Wheels and More (MoWaM) has clocked plenty of mileage since revving up its philanthropic engine when it first served 4,600 "happy" meals cooked in two East Austin kitchens by eight volunteers. Currently, 1,800 homebound, elderly or disabled people are served five days a week. However, because of the economic downturn, more and more people are turning to MoWaM.

Normally requests increase 1 percent monthly. Since April of this year, that figure has tripled. Many people have lost their jobs. Primary caregivers find themselves working two jobs and cannot provide the usual amount of care, leaving the most vulnerable in need. Right now, MoWaM needs you and 49 more volunteers to deliver meals.

One volunteer can handle a route. Or create a team of four persons, who can share the route by making a commitment to drive once a month. During one lunch hour a week, gather meals at one of the 13 convenient pickup locations and deliver. You'll be amazed how great you feel about yourself, but most importantly, how grateful others are for your time and effort. You'll be delivering nourishment, showing someone cares and helping folks feel valued as members of our community.

Help foster compassion, dignity, hope and preserve independence by volunteering to deliver meals.

Call Suellen Mills today at 476-MEAL, extension 130.

See www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org for more information or see www.cherrywood.org and click on Cherrywood Choices to read MoWaM's profile. ■

Cherrywood Choices was created to connect neighbors with neighbors – individuals, families, businesses and organizations –

with opportunities to be served and to serve others living and working in and around our neighborhood.

**Cherrywood
Choices**



**MAPLEWOOD
NOTES**

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

The 2003-2004 school year started amazingly well, thanks in large part to our new principal, Luiz Lazaro. Mr. Lazaro comes to us after many years in the Austin school district as a teacher, and most recently as assistant to an area superintendent – great principal preparatory work. Students and teachers appreciate his leadership, feel supported, and are working hard and having loads of fun learning from each other.

Neighbors are invited to upcoming Maplewood events including our Annual Fright Fest, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 25, and the Cherrywood Art Fair on Saturday, Nov. 22. Stop by and support our community artists or just treat your eyes to their creations and have a good time.

The school grounds continue to improve and become more beautiful. Many are responsible for the hard work and donations, especially local independent business Howard Nursery and supportive parents Charlie Gandy, Priscilla Boston, Kristin Light, and Sherrie Hovis-Clubb. Sherrie is installing student created mosaic bricks along Maplewood Avenue, and they are spectacular. Many thanks go to the Upper Boggy Creek team for including Maplewood as a recipient of the city grant, which has been the impetus for the school improvements.

Neighbors, if you use the school fields to run and play with your dogs, please be respectful and clean up after them. Children's feet and play equipment have been involved in some "stinky" encounters already this year – eeewww! There is a doggie bag box on the north end of the playground, or bring along your own old grocery bags.

Maplewood welcomes all who would like to volunteer in any way, including story telling on our RIF days, or making a difference in one child's life by becoming a mentor. Also, Maplewood will be implementing a grant soon that includes installing a rainwater collection system for the school and erecting a green house for ongoing plant propagation. If you have expertise in these areas, or are willing to lend some time and energy towards these efforts, please contact us. And Maplewood is looking for a community member to be on our Campus Advisory Council, the decision-making committee for the school.

The public school system is a marvelous institution that thrives on support from ALL community members. For more information, stop by the office any time or call 414-4402. ■

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

FoPP

PATTERSON PARK
CITY OF AUSTIN
PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.
PARK CURFEW 10 P.M. - 5 A.M.

By Isabelle
Headrick

My family had a wonderful summer at Patterson seeing neighbors and friends from Maplewood and the Open Door almost every day at the pool. Now we find ourselves in mid-autumn and, as of the printing of this newsletter, Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP) will have faced some challenges and will have continued to work hard toward achieving our goals for the park.

As you have read in past Patterson Park columns, members of the city's Parks and Recreation Department and the Capital Area Tennis Association expressed interest in transforming Pharr Tennis Center into a regional tennis facility with up to 24 courts, a tournament stadium, a new clubhouse and expanded parking. Not surprisingly, neighborhood residents and FoPP raised concerns. While originally Friends of Patterson Park intended to sponsor a community forum and information session on this topic, planning with city staff did not go as hoped, and in the end PARD employees organized the forum. Friends of Patterson Park did, however, receive

a tremendous amount of support from several neighborhoods, most notably from Cherrywood, in printing and distributing flyers about the forum. (Thank you, Sue Taylor, Dave Westenbarger, Jack Newman and all the members of Cherrywood's Flea distribution team.) We are grateful for this outpouring of support from CNA as well as from the Wilshire Wood/Delwood I, Delwood II, and J.J. Seabrook neighborhood associations.

In other news, there have been exciting developments relating to the trail. Kevin Sweat, a resident of Delwood II who enjoys Patterson Park with his wife and two sons, volunteered his professional services as a civil engineer. Kevin drew up detailed construction documents for "Phase One," the ADA-accessible segment from Wilshire Boulevard up to the playscape. This will allow us to seek bids on the construction of Phase One. In addition, we are continuing a dialogue with the disability advocacy group ADAPT to obtain ADA funding for the leg of Phase One that reaches out of park property. If you ever get the opportunity to meet Kevin, please thank him for his enormous contribution.

As you read this, the new playscape may already be up. We are planning a ribbon-cutting party to mark this exciting event and celebrate. At this point, I

would like to thank a third set of people for their time: The staff of Parks and Recreation's Planning and Design Department has gone out of its way to be responsive to the community's ideas and wishes. Stewart Strong, the director of P&D, Marty Stump, the landscape architect who designed our playscape and helped us with trail design, Julie Lipton, Sarah Campbell, and Kim Jamail, who is helping us with the ribbon-cutting, all deserve our thanks.

Friends of Patterson Park needs you. We are seeking individuals to bring their passion and dedication to the good work of restoring our beloved Patterson to the ranks of Austin's first-class parks. We are well on our way, but there is a lot of work to be done. We welcome anyone with an interest in Patterson to come to our meetings—the next two will be at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 10 and Dec. 8 at Genesis Presbyterian Church. For more information on FoPP, call Isabelle at 499-0621 or e-mail pattpark@texas.net. As always, 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 Street, Suite 1001, Austin, Texas 78701). ■

TREE PLANTING**THIS FALL**

By Mike Damal

Over the past six years, more than 175 trees have been planted in Cherrywood during neighborhood tree plantings. These programs have evolved, with some year's trees being bought by residents, and other year's trees being donated by the city. The trees are then planted by neighborhood volunteers.

The tradition continues for the seventh year. With recent budget cuts, trees are no longer available from the city, however our program has evolved to provide quality 5-7 foot trees for no more than \$15 per tree. And with

neighborhood volunteers to plant your tree—all you have to do is decide where it should be planted. For less than the price of a pizza you can do something to benefit the environment and beautify the neighborhood. If your home already has many trees, why not talk to a shade-deprived neighbor and donate a tree to grace that property?

We will plan a group tree planting in late October or early November, the best time to plant in Austin. We are looking for volunteers to help plant and coordinate the planting. This is not hard work — digging the hole for the tree is only one small part. Please call Mike Damal at 478-9622, or e-mail mdamal@grandecom.net.

If you wish to have a tree planted, please call me and let me know how

many trees you want, the type of tree desired (the price will be no more than \$15/tree with some varieties slightly less). In the past we have had a choice of crepe myrtle, redbud, live oak, red oak, burr oak, Chinese pistache, pecan, and cedar elm—all excellent choices for our neighborhood.

Please notify me no later than Oct. 31 if you want a tree or wish to volunteer. Also if anyone desires larger trees or needs transport to pick up trees for their own personal planting, please call me and I will be more than happy to help.

The annual tree plantings are a tradition in the neighborhood. Hopefully this tradition can stimulate renewed interest in improving Cherrywood with eco-friendly projects. ■

CHERRYWOOD GREEN

By Brent Hay

It's been an active summer at Cherrywood Green and as fall approaches, it's time to recognize the help and support from our unsung friends and neighbors who play an integral part in maintaining and improving the Green.

The Friends of Cherrywood Green express continued thanks to our partners at the city who have provided patient, proactive guidance and help: Sarah Campbell, Parks and Recreation Department; and Laura Patlove, Neighborhood Planning and Zoning. The Green wouldn't be where it is today with out these wonderful people.

It's fun making the big improvements to the Green, but less than fun to do the day to day maintenance. These troupers keep the park tidy and groomed.

- The mowing brigade consists of Chris Buitron, Jimmy Harper, Chris Kadas, Maddie Kadas, Sally King, Eva Riquelme, Barbara Hess and Steve Bartelomeo.
- My mother, Lori Irvin, who lives in Houston, helped me with much of the weeding in the new bed during the summer
- Thanks must also go to those who anonymously mulch, pick up trash and perform other less noticeable but much needed tasks.

On Aug. 5, more than 50 neighbors enjoyed a potluck dinner, beer and meeting their neighbors for National Night Out. We also had the opportunity to meet representatives from the Austin police and fire departments and paramedic units. ■

WILLOWBROOK REACH TO BE MAPPED

By Dianne Sullivan

In July, the Friends of Willowbrook gathered for our first meeting. After visiting about the history of this City of Austin land, we decided to name our committee the Friends of Willowbrook Reach.

The discussion soon turned to our top priority of mapping the area between Cherrywood Road and 38½ Street. Girard Kinney will have the maps created and the Friends will spend a Saturday walking the area and identifying all the trees, path location and other features.

Once this is completed, we plan to move into the next phase of a major tree planting project for late fall. Specific trees will be included along the creek bank to control the ongoing erosion caused during high creek flows.

A sign for Willowbrook Reach is being prepared and is modeled after the Cherrywood Green sign. We expect it to be installed this fall.

For more details, contact Dianne at dianne@e-side.com. ■

TRADE IN GAS MOWER FOR FREE ELECTRIC *(to share with neighbors)*

Cherrywood Conservation Corps. has a special offer for Cherrywood neighbors for the first six to sign up. To promote exhaust-free electric mowers, the Home Depot on Woodward Street in South Austin is donating one cordless, mulching electric mower to our neighborhood.

The pilot program asks that up to six neighbors who want to share the new mower trade in gas-powered mowers to qualify. Cherrywood has been chosen as the first neighborhood to pilot this program.

Gasoline-powered lawn/garden equipment is responsible for a disproportionate amount of ozone and particulate air pollution in urban areas. Ground-level ozone and particulate pollution can adversely affect your health. In fact, it is estimated that tens of thousands of Americans die prematurely due to particulate air pollution annually. Not surprisingly, carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, the major greenhouse gas, are spewed out in enormous quantities from gas-powered mowers.

A substantial amount of gasoline and oil is spilled each year by people filling the small gas/oil receptacles on lawn mowers. This spillage results in non-point source pollution that contaminates creeks and lakes. Furthermore, bagged grass clippings account for a significant amount of our total solid waste during the growing season, and this ends up in our over-used landfills.

Electric mowers are an excellent choice for Cherrywood's small lots. No gas/oil needed. No annual tune-ups. And they are quiet.

So drag that old beast out of your shed and call Dave at the CCC (494-9905 or 239-0835) by Oct. 24. He or another CCCer will pick-up your gas-powered mower. The mowers are scrapped, melted down and reformed into rebar for building material by Commercial Metals. Neighbors will keep and recharge the new mower in their garages and take it to a neighbor's garage on a predetermined rotating basis.

Call Dave if you want to help pick up mowers, too. And thanks for helping improve Austin's air. ■



The Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee voted to fund 3 bag dispensers and Mutt Mitts for our three parks: Cherrywood Green, Willowbrook Reach and Patterson Park. Bosco and Gracie invite you to use them and to leave clean bags in the boxes for others.

Photo: Dolly Ensey

ACT NOW TO REPLACE OLD TOILET FOR FREE AND SAVE MONEY TWO WAYS

By Dave Westenbarger

Cherrywood and the Cherrywood Conservation Corps. are partnering with the city to help you save money on your water bill two ways. First, every free or rebated replacement toilet you order through CCC saves you money by reducing water use and helps raise \$10 to buy trees for your neighborhood. Second, by acting now, you also save by reducing water consumption from November to January, the period used to set your wastewater bill for the coming year.

CCC can coordinate ordering and installation of a free toilet for you, or you can select from the list of rebated toilets on the City's web site at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/sftoilet.htm>. Scroll down to "Toilets eligible for rebate" where you also can look at a list of vendors. Call Chris Kadas (478-7966—evenings) by Oct. 31 to apply. Some minor restrictions apply — see bullets.

The toilets selected by the city all have very good flushing performance, passing standards set by the National Association of Home Builders and Consumer Reports evaluations from 2002. While all toilets sold today are required by law to use no



more than 1.6 gallons per flush, these models are greatly improved over ones sold just a few years ago. With toilets costing \$70 and up, and many needing replacement anyway, this is a great deal. CCC will even help you fill out the paperwork, deliver the toilet, and find a plumber.

Also, participation in this and any other City of Austin water conservation program between June 1 and Dec. 31 will qualify you to register for a 2004 Honda Civic Hybrid. Details at www.cityofaustin.org/watercon.

- The free toilet offer (Crane Universal Rundle "Atlas" 4191, pictured) (PLUS) \$30 off installation by a licensed plumber.
- Rebate of \$100 on more than 30 selected models includes up to \$30 for installation (up to \$100 for toilet alone, or up to \$70 for toilet plus \$30 for installation).
- Limit 3 per household.
- Residence must have been built before 1991.
- Cannot be used to replace a current ultra low flow toilet.
- New fixture may not use an early closure flapper.
- Free delivery of free toilets only. ■

BLUE RIBBON YARD

By David Boston

Congratulations Leslie and Jules Vieau, winners of the Summer 2003 Blue Ribbon Yard award for their lovely yard at 3815 Cherrywood Road.

Author Henry Miller once found a letter promoting a tree-trimming project for resulting in "more light, more air, and more beauty." Miller found this a lovely turn of phrase. When you hear the story, you'd think it inspired the Vieaus too.

In Leslie's own words: "We started by hiring Jill Nokes to design a landscape plan. Later, when we focused on the back yard, Nan Blake adjusted the design. Judy Adler's Feng Shui consultation was a big help. We wanted it to look loose and informal, but not lanky or messy."

"Through careful attention and sheer dedication, Jules brought the grass from dirt with a few plugs to lush beauty. We lost four large trees in two years — hackberry and ash. It changed our yard from shady to sunny, forcing us to adjust some plantings."

Leslie's advice:

- Get professional help — cheaper than repeatedly replacing ugly or dead plants
- Be patient: first year it sleeps, second year it creeps, third year it leaps.
- Care for your plants: weed, water, feed, prune.
- Cut back! Looks leggy, scrawny, dead, overgrown? Give a haircut. It'll come back better than ever.

Five years later the Vieaus' yard has distinct garden areas filled with native plants interspersed with colorful annuals, giving it a bright and airy appeal. If you look closely, you may see Jules reading Henry Miller on the porch.

A wonderful landscape is a gift to the

community. I'm inspired to think about far greater things than my day-to-day existence. We all need "more light, more air, and more beauty." We should thank those who provide it free of charge. A more favorable environment for all is a wonderful thing.

See a yard that inspires you? Contact Priscilla Boston 478-1867 or peboston@juno.com. ■



Jules and Leslie Vieau's award winning yard.
Photo: Dave Westenbarger