



The Flea

TRAFFIC CALMING IS COMING TO CHERRYWOOD

By Stefan Schuster

I'm overwhelmingly pleased to announce that we have been chosen by the city to participate in traffic calming during the next year.

The news prompted me to re-read former transportation committee chair Mark Lind's, article on traffic calming from October 2001, and I realized how far we've come on seeds sown so long ago. At that time, Mark reported that we had lost our bid and funding from the city for the program seemed doomed.

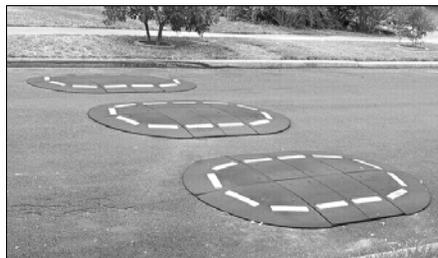
Details resulting from our selection in 2004 are still developing but we should all receive a survey from the city within the next few weeks. Please help us create an innovative solution that works for all modes of getting through our hood.

To learn all about the city's traffic calming program check out the Web site at: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/roadworks/program.html>

Now a few select words from the Web site:

"Traffic Calming is the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicles, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users."

The program uses a variety of devices to reduce speeding on local streets and collector streets. Projects may use devices that reduce traffic volume and make the street a friendlier environment for pedestrians and bicyclists. We have initially mentioned these areas to include 38½ Street, Cherry-



wood Road, Clarkson Avenue, Schieffer Avenue, Manor Road and more.

Examples of traffic calming measures include speed humps or cushions, traffic circles, curb extensions and diverters. These measures – used alone or in various combinations and implemented properly – can be effective in reducing speeding, traffic volume, and conflicts between road users and thereby improving the immediate environment. The installation of traffic calming devices is subject to the approval of emergency services departments, such as the fire department and EMS.

Stay tuned to see how we can work with the city to look at getting around while keeping us all calm about it. I hope we find creative and functional means of being connected to each other and the city. ■

TRAFFIC CALMING MEETING

A meeting of Cherrywood residents with city officials to begin planning traffic calming for our neighborhood has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 28 at Maplewood School.

Cherrywood Neighborhood
quarterly meeting:

Wednesday
April 21

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Maplewood School library

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

Agenda:

These items are noticed for reporting, discussion and possible action:

Hot Topics: Open forum for CNA

members to raise topics of concern

Travis County Hospital Steering Committee: Presentation (5 minutes)

Traffic Calming: Status of recent funding from City of Austin; Discussion of procedures going forward (See article Page 1)

Design Guidelines: Vote on proposed Design Guidelines (See insert and article Page 6)

CNA Non-Profit Status/Mission

Meetings: Report; schedule of meetings to discuss requirements, options and a CNA mission statement (See Page 3)

Residential Parking Permit: Report (See Page 4-5)

Amending the Upper Boggy Creek Plan: Review of additional zoning "tools" eligible for adoption in September. (See Page 5)

Proposal for a coffee house at 38½ St. and Maplewood Avenue. (See Page 5)

Contact Stefan Schuster at 322-0059, if you have an item you would like to add.

CHERRYWOOD CALENDAR

APRIL

- APR 12** 7pm—Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP), Genesis Presbyterian Church. (See Page 7)
- APR 14** 6:30pm—CNA Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos
- APR 21** 6:30pm—Neighborhood association meeting, Maplewood School library. (See Agenda Page 1)
- APR 24** 10am-2pm—Maplewood Spring Fling. (See Page 8)
- APR 28** 7pm—Cherrywood Book Club. For more information e-mail thedelaunes@austin.rr.com.
- APR 28** 6:30pm—Initial meeting for traffic calming in Cherrywood, Maplewood School. (See Page 1)
- APR 30** 5pm to dark—Happy Hour in the 'Hood. Cherrywood Green. (See Page 6)

MAY

- MAY 10** 7pm—FoPP meeting, Genesis Presbyterian Church
- MAY 11** 9am—Kindergarten Round-Up, Maplewood Elementary School library (See Page 8)
- MAY 12** 6:30pm—CNA Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos
- MAY 26** 7pm—Cherrywood Book Club. See April above.

JUNE

- JUN 8** 6:30pm—CNA Steering Committee, Taqueria los Altos
- JUN 14** 7pm—Cherrywood Book Club. See April above.

NEIGHBORNET

By Gordon Bennett

Cherrywood is wired. (1) Our Web page at www.cherrywood.org has lots of permanent information. (2) Our e-mail listserv has 300 members who enjoy timely notices and discussion of local issues. You can subscribe to NeighborNet at cherrywood.org.

This quarter, instead of listing interesting dialogues you missed by not joining, I need to use my space to address a computer problem. Yahoo, our list server, mysteriously removed 15% of our members, and just as mysteriously does not let them readily rejoin.

So, if you are OK with Yahoo, then subscribe as above. This is our established "senior" list. But if you wish to avoid Yahoo, then you can join our "junior" list instead. E-mail me at gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu with your name and street address. I will add you. The junior NeighborNet list mirrors the senior one. The same messages reach both. And you can post to either. ■

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://www.cherrywood.org>

Steering Committee

Chair	_____ Stefan Schuster ('04)*	322-0059
Vice-Chair	_____ Maddie Kadas ('05)	478-7966
Secretary	_____ Jennifer Smith ('04)	694-0298
Treasurer	_____ Rebecca Kohout ('05)	415-9876
Members	_____ Meg Brooks ('04)	474-6454
	_____ Bree Buchanan ('04)	482-8468
	_____ J. Scott Chasteen ('05)	791-6755
	_____ Alex Garcia ('05)	474-7532
	_____ Peter Ketter ('04)	473-2736
	_____ Girard Kinney ('04)	478-5042
	_____ Jack Newman ('05)	476-6616
	_____ Lex Dale Owens ('04)	477-6555
	_____ Dave Westenbarger ('05)	494-9905

* 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	
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:	_____ Mike Damal	478-9622
Maplewood:	_____ Kelli Kirk	414-1086
Mueller Redevelopment:	_____ Jim Walker	499-0526
Tree Planting:	_____ Mike Damal	478-9622
Upper Boggy Creek Planning:	_____ Stephen Kreger	477-4216

2004: A LANDMARK YEAR FOR US ALL

*By Stefan Schuster
Steering Committee Chair*



As I take over the reins as chair from Dave Westenbarger, I must repeat his words from last year: It is an honor to be asked to serve as chair of the Cherrywood Steering Committee. We are lucky to have such a dedicated, dynamic and involved group of neighbors, and I hope to get to meet many more of you this year. I want to express my gratitude to Maddie Kadas for serving as vice chair in the coming year and to Dave for his dedication and time in his duties as chair through 2003.

To tell you a little about myself: I was born and raised in Hamburg, Germany, moved to Canada, several oil and gas states, and eventually to Austin in 1988. I came here to go to school and fell in love with our city, its people, and the fabulous weather.

My passions revolve around water and to this end I have three related degrees from UT. I worked for the state in numerous capacities for nearly 10 years and recently made the switch

to work in the private sector providing water supply planning services in Texas. Outside of work my passions include riding my bike, working on my house, spending time with my family and loved ones, exploring Texas, and sailing as often as I can. I also serve on the board of a fabulous local theater company, Salvage Vanguard Theater.

I moved to Cherrywood in March of 2000 when I bought my house at 3708 Werner. I had an immediate connection to the neighborhood, since I was already good friends with Jim Walker and had many friends over time renting in the hood. I've always loved the eclectic nature of our neighborhood and the active and dedicated neighbors who make this a great community.

As a planner, I am enthusiastic about our involvement in traffic calming, the redevelopment of Interstate 35, our active neighborhood and its sense of community, and the Robert Mueller Airport redevelopment. As a resident, I'm ex-

cited about our efforts for design guidelines, a mission development process, our political involvement, keeping our neighborhood walkable and connected for all, and general improvement of our community.

2004 promises to be another exciting year for us as a neighborhood. We have finally been selected for traffic calming by the city and details are still forthcoming, so stay tuned for your chance to participate. The coming year will see groundbreaking activities on the children's hospital at the Robert Mueller site and that means many exciting related activities for our neighborhood. In our pursuit of non-profit incorporation, we are developing a mission, a budget and providing better structure. We are working on important components such as our design guidelines and active committees and communicating with you.

The political season promises to be historic, and I'm sure our outspoken and active membership will make it memorable as well. Please be sure to vote your hopes, not your fears.

I am sure there will be other important issues that develop throughout the year and I am honored to serve the neighborhood in representing your values and priorities. I hope to see you around the hood. ■

THE MISSION OF CNA AND NON-PROFIT STATUS

By Meg Brooks

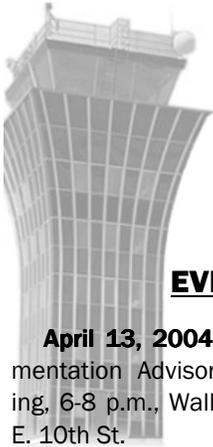
As you may have read in the last Flea, Cherrywood Neighborhood Association has been researching becoming a non-profit corporation. We met with Mark Boyden of Windsor Park Neighborhood Association, which has recently submitted its request for non-profit status to the IRS. He was most helpful, gave us lots of good tips and sent us all of the documents and samples they used to draft submissions. There was also a meeting with folks from the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association and the feeling was generally positive about going forward with this effort.

Maddie Kadas, Emily Schwartz and I volunteered to work on

drafting the documents to be brought back to the Steering Committee and the neighborhood association membership. When we started working on them, we realized that we needed a very specific mission statement and we needed to be clear among our association about the reasons we want to be a non-profit.

To that end, we are proposing two evening meetings to discuss specifically how we want to describe the mission of our association and how becoming a non-profit corporation will support that mission. Because it will take a lot of effort to become and maintain a non-profit corporation, we need to make sure it will best serve our neighborhood and be an effective use of volunteer time.

The time, date and place of these "mission meetings" will be announced at the neighborhood association meeting on April 21. Please call or e-mail if you have any questions or suggestions; Meg Brooks, 474-6454, fishgirls@aol.com. ■



ROBERT MUELLER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

By Jed Buie

EVENTS:

April 13, 2004 – RMMA Plan Implementation Advisory Commission Meeting, 6-8 p.m., Waller Creek Center, 625 E. 10th St.

April 2004 – Naming Committee to recommend project name.

April 2004 – Work to begin on infrastructure.

April 2004 – Children's Medical Center of Central Texas Design Forum, date and location to be announced.

May 11, 2004 – RMMA Plan Implementation Advisory Commission Meeting, 6-8 p.m., Waller Creek Center, 625 E. 10th St.

June 2004 – Seton groundbreaking for the Children's Medical Center of Central Texas at the former airport site.

Web site – The Web site launched in September and is updated with project information and scheduled events. Visit www.rmma.net.

Infrastructure – With the relocation of Children's Medical Center of Central Texas to the Mueller tract, Catellus and the City are working toward beginning work on infrastructure in late March or early April. This will involve the deconstruction of runways and other construc-

tion projects on and off-site.

Transportation committee – As a result of the transportation forums that Catellus and the City of Austin hosted in August and September, the RMMA Transportation Committee was formed. After a process of gathering public input about traffic concerns surrounding the redevelopment of Mueller, these issues were prioritized through a community voting process. The committee members – who represent neighborhood associations – are tackling these issues side-by-side with Catellus and the City of Austin. The transportation committee representative for Cherrywood is Stefan Schuster. Other neighborhood representatives are: Mark Boyden, Windsor Park; Roger Taylor, J.J. Seabrook; Leslie Lawson, Wilshire Wood/Delwood I; Lark Anthony, Pecan Springs; Ken Ronsonette, Delwood II; Matt Hollon, Ridgetop/Morningside; Claire Morris and Rob Caruthers, both RMMA Plan Implementation Advisory Commission.

Children's Medical Center of Central Texas – The new children's hospital is in the design and development phase, with groundbreaking scheduled for June. The new hospital will have 169 beds, 13 operating rooms, outpatient radiology and outpatient rehabilitation capabilities, a specialty care center and a medical office building. Many of the current

hospital's amenities will be retained, including the family resource center and the Half Pint Library. New features include a multi-level healing garden, interior courtyards, a reflecting pond, an amphitheater and labyrinth.

Regional retail – Catellus, the city and surrounding neighborhoods continue to collaborate to achieve the goals for the redevelopment while adhering to the Master Plan. There have been discussions of increasing retail and decreasing office space. No decisions have been announced.

Contract for master developer – Negotiations continue between Catellus and the City of Austin to complete a contract for development of the Mueller tract. The contract, called the master developer agreement, may be completed and signed in June.

Contacts – For more information, visit www.rmma.net, or contact: Greg Weaver, vice president of Catellus; phone 473-0400; fax 472-4414; greg_weaver@catellus.com. Pam Hefner, City of Austin principal planner; phone 974-3511; fax 974-78225; pam.hefner@ci.austin.tx.us. ■

Jed Buie is with TateAustin, the public relations firm for Catellus, which was chosen by the city to develop the former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport.

RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT PROGRAM

By Brian Block

Applications for the City of Austin's Residential Parking Permit Program have been submitted for four streets in the south-west part of the Cherrywood neighborhood.

The program is designed to discourage long-term parking by

non-residents on residential streets. Once it is implemented, signs are posted to reserve curbside parking for residents and their guests. Vehicles parked during the restricted hours will be ticketed if they do not display a valid parking permit. People who apply for permits must demonstrate that they have a vehicle registered in their names and that they are residents of the area. The fee for the residential permit package is \$25 for the first year and \$15 to renew each subsequent year. One package is available to each household, and each package contains two sticker permits and two visitors hang tags.

Restricted parking hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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The program has strict criteria. Every housing unit must be contacted and asked to sign a petition. A minimum of 66.7 percent of the residents must favor the program. In addition, each street must have a minimum of 75 percent of on-street parking occupied during the restricted parking hours.

The neighborhood association does not decide whether to accept the residential parking program. The residents of each street make this decision. The neighborhood association's role is to endorse the proposal to make sure that people are aware that the parking problem could shift to other streets, and to ensure that a larger strategy is in place.

Each of these streets had at least 75 percent of residents in favor of the permit program.

- Dancy Street - 28th to 29th (75% approval)
- 28th Street - Robinson to Dancy (75% approval)
- 28th Street - Dancy to Lafayette (92% approval)
- Lafayette Ave. - Dean Keeton to 28th (100% approval)

Many people in this area are home during the day, and many residents do not have off-street parking. But there is significant commuter parking on the streets from employees of the UT Physical Plant and the adjacent UT Administrative Building, as well as UT students who use the shuttle stop at Manor Road and Lafayette Avenue.

The city's site visits determined that two of the four streets met the criteria and will be included now. The other two streets were just short of the requirement that 75 percent of parking spaces be occupied when the site visits occurred. They will not be included now, but will be reviewed after the program is implemented and they can be included if they meet the criteria at that time.

The results were:

- Dancy - 28th to 29th (81% of parking places occupied)
- 28th Street - Robinson to Dancy (100% occupied)
- 28th Street - Dancy to Lafayette (71.4% occupied)
- Lafayette - Dean Keeton to 28th (66.6% occupied)

There are several adjacent streets that could be affected once the program is implemented. These include: Dancy (29th to 30th), 29th (Dancy to Lafayette), Lafayette (28th to 29th), and 28th (Dancy to French Place.) The strategy for these streets is to inform residents that the program is being pursued and that the parking problem could shift. Residents on these streets will be offered the opportunity to extend the boundaries of the parking permit program on an expedited basis.

If you have any questions please contact: Brian Block, bsblock@gmx.net (e-mail preferred) or 974-7687 (daytime phone). ■

CNA PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

By Girard Kinney

The Planning and Zoning Committee continues to field questions about development and to offer assistance to those who wish to propose a project or to alter the improvements on their property. The following is an outline of recent and on-going activities:

Mapping: Maps for Upper Boggy Creek, Cherrywood, Willowbrook Reach and Cherrywood Green are in production, and we foresee a meeting this spring to begin to produce a proposed green space plan and a proposed pedestrian and bicycle plan for the neighborhood association.

Green space plan: Portions are in place, and the plans for Patterson Park, Willowbrook Reach, Cherrywood Green and the Upper Boggy Creek Trail are being inserted into the overall plan.

Zoning and variance requests: We continue to assist residents by providing development control information, design guidelines, contacts at the city, and by providing a forum for proposed projects in the neighborhood. The most recent such project is the coffee shop that is proposed for the corner of 38½ & Maplewood. It has been discussed at the P&Z Committee and may be ready for a neighborhood vote at the April 21 general meeting.

Upper Boggy Creek Plan: CNA comprises the largest "subdistrict" of the UBC Plan. September will be the first opportunity to amend this plan, and it is important that we be deciding which of the various tools and/or infill options we may want to include through the amendment process. CNA has already voted to ask the UBC Planning Team to add the "front porch" tool as one amendment at least in our subdistrict, but we may want to add one or more of the other tools and options. The coffee shop, for instance, would require an amendment to the UBC Plan.

Signage: There are several important ordinance amendments being considered by the City Council, some of which may have been resolved by the time of the Flea distribution or the April meeting. One proposal is to allow the relocation of billboards, which is opposed by Scenic Austin and could result in new billboards in our neighborhood. Another would increase enforcement and fines for illegal signs in the street right of way. These so-called "bandit signs" include any private signs between the curb and the property line (usually 10 feet), not excluding lost pet signs, garage sale signs, political signs, etc. This is a controversial topic, and we plan to discuss it at the April neighborhood association meeting.

Please contact Girard Kinney, chair of the Planning and Zoning Committee, at 478-5042, e-mail at gkinney@texas.net, or go to cherrywood.org and click on Projects then Planning to obtain on-line information related to planning and zoning topics in our neighborhood. ■

WHAT DESIGNS SHOULD "DESIGN GUIDELINES" GUIDE?

By Girard Kinney and Gordon Bennett

This issue of the Flea includes an insert, "Design Guidelines (Draft)." On April 21, members of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association will vote to accept, reject or amend these guidelines. So what are they?

They consist of standards and design elements for site planning, front yard improvements and other projects and construction on properties in Cherrywood. All are intended to promote the 1999 Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Vision of safe, sustainable streets and improvements that raise the quality of life in our community. One guideline, for example, reads, "Consider neighbors' interests and comfort when choosing and installing exterior lighting." Yard lighting is good if it improves home security. But it is not good if it glares next door. We hope people will agree and opt for such good features.

The Guidelines emphatically are not standards of taste. CNA is in no position to judge taste or aesthetics. Even a glistening purple metal armadillo on your roof to quietly chime the hour on the hour would be fine. You might be praised for helping keep Austin weird.

Rather, many Guidelines concern how your building should relate to your street and block. Will it preserve or create shade? Considering the amount of vehicular traffic, will there be room for both bicycles and pedestrians? Will walkways, or a sidewalk if one is present or planned, be clear of shrubbery? Might you create a blind intersection?

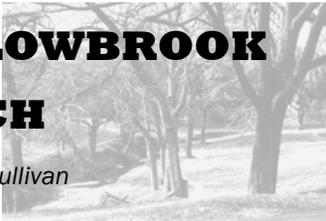
Other Guidelines question whether you will make it easy for neighbors to watch out for one another. Will living-area windows or the front door give a clear view of the street, unobstructed by a tall fence? Will your house number be easily visible? And will you consider such amenities as trees, a sitting porch, or a portico to protect you and visitors from the elements?

Who will enforce them? CNA is not a homeowners association with rules. It is a residents association with interests. So if a property owner wants or needs association approval for a zoning change or a code variance, we might have some leverage. But, really, the Design Guidelines project is almost entirely about education and persuading builders to follow recommended practices. Most of what we hope to accomplish will be done by disseminating standards our membership generally supports, by explaining their rationale, and by offering assistance when requested by CNA members.

The Guidelines (now in draft form) also can be found on-line at www.cherrywood.org in the Download Library. When ready, a supplementary gallery of illustrative photos will be added at <http://asnrc.utexas.edu/~bennett/~cwg/Library.htm>. ■

WILLOWBROOK REACH

By Dianne Sullivan



All the Friends of Willowbrook Reach welcome the rains and spring time. Fortunately last fall's dry spell didn't cause all that much harm.

A few weeks ago, Jerry Bries, a neighbor on East 40th Street, did his periodic creek clean-up. Thank you, Jerry. According to Joe Pearce, longtime resident on Sycamore Drive, the creek is full of perch and minnows. But he keeps looking for the return of the big turtles. Dave Westenbarger reported a sighting of a pair of mallards in the creek close to Cherrywood. And the trees, grasses, shrubs and flowers have come back to life. Now we just need the toads croaking and fireflies.

Girard Kinney heads up the project to map Willowbrook Reach. This enormous work in progress will give us the invaluable tool to design a showcase natural area for our neighborhood. We hope it will be completed this summer.

Dave has constructed the plastic bag dispensers for "scoopin' the poopin'." These will be installed soon. We encourage everyone to be conscientious. A sign for Willowbrook Reach similar to the Cherrywood Green sign has been built.

In the next meeting of the Friends of Willowbrook Reach, we will discuss where to place both the dispensers and the sign. We also will decide locations for bald cypress trees for the creek bed. The swift currents of the rain-swollen creek continue to erode the banks and endanger near-by trees. We hope to secure some funding to implement some erosion control projects. ■

Happy Hour in the 'Hood

In celebration of spring, daylight savings time, Arbor Day and most of all our wonderful neighborhood, please join us at the award-winning gardens of **Cherrywood Green** for light supper fare and non-alcoholic beverages (or feel free to bring your own).

This is not a fundraiser, but we will be asking nominal prices for food and drinks to cover costs. Don't forget your lawn chair.

When: Friday, April 30, 2004

Time: 5:00 p.m. to dark

Where: Cherrywood Green

For more information:

Maddie Kadas 478-7966

Eva Riquelme 481-0474

FRIENDS OF PATTERSON PARK

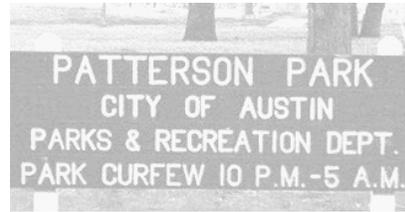
By Isabelle Headrick

Markings of two different kinds appeared on the landscape of Patterson Park this winter. Each of these carries its own significance — both literary and symbolic. One speaks to our need to be vigilant for the park and maintain it; the other, the fact that our hard work over time will pay off in major improvements for the park and the people who use it.

In early February, the new playscape and several picnic tables were tagged with obscenities and gang markings. Our neighbor and fellow FoPP steering committee member Earl Burg spent several hours removing the graffiti. To his frustration, the graffiti re-appeared every day for a week. Each day, Earl removed the graffiti until the perpetrators gave up. We cannot thank Earl enough for this effort. We can build all the playscapes in the world, but unless the members of the community work to keep the park clean and safe, we will lose our ability to enjoy it.

Other markings, bright and pink, appeared on the east hillside a few weeks ago. This appears to be the work of the city's Parks and Recreation Department marking where the new sidewalk will lead up to the playscape. We are expecting this "Phase One" of the trail to go in this spring or early summer. We can't wait to see three years of effort pay off, especially for the mommies pushing strollers up to the playground.

In other news: Friends of Patterson Park is applying for a recreational trail grant to enable us to put in a walking trail through the park (thank you Priscilla Boston and Mark Smolen!). Due to the ADA inspection of the playscape, our bathrooms received new lights, grab bars and locks on the doors. And the park is to receive two new dog-poop bag dispensers, one by the sign on Schieffer and the other at the end of Brookview (the road running by the tennis center).



There is already one near the picnic shelter.

Stay tuned for a celebration of our accomplishments this spring or summer. This may take the form of a community campout or a movie in the park and will probably be combined with a community vision-building meeting.

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 Park to come to our meetings. The next three will be at 7 p.m. on April 12, May 10 and June 14 (second Monday of the month) at Genesis Presbyterian Church. For more information on FoPP, call Isabelle at 499-0621 or e-mail isaneews@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 St., Suite 1001, Austin, Texas 78701). ■



Friends of Patterson Park's steering committee members from left: Earl Burg, Priscilla Boston and Mark Smolen.

WELCOME

Rebecca Kohout has been delivering welcome baskets, courtesy of Fiesta, to the neighborhood's new residents. A warm welcome to homeowners who have moved here recently, including:

- Alan Holt, 2200 Manor Road
- Ron Hinkle, 1707 Schieffer Ave.
- Zelma Smith, 1410 East 37th St.
- Mary Ward, 1713 East 32nd St.
- Amy Ferranti and Matt Soble, 3713 Robinson Ave.
- Maria & Joe Dylan, Zakary Selaman, 3318 Cherrywood Road
- Mychal Mitchell, 1724 Giles St.
- Brandon Rodriguez, 3306 Robinson Ave.
- John Basso and Meredith Kleykamp, 2705 French Place

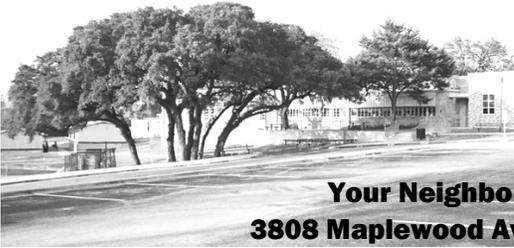
If you have bought a home in Cherrywood in the past several months and have not heard from the neighborhood association's welcome wagon, it is because you weren't home when Rebecca came to deliver your basket. Please call her at 415-9876 to set up a time for delivery. Your basket is waiting. ■



INTERNSHIPS & SUMMER CAMPS

The deadline for Austin Film Society summer internship applications is Saturday, May 1. Visit www.austinfilm.org for more information on internships and summer media camps.

MAPLEWOOD NOTES



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

It's hard to believe there are only two months of school left this year. In preparation for the next school year, Maplewood would like to invite all prospective kindergarten students (those 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2004) and their families to attend our Kindergarten Round-Up at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 11 in the Maplewood library. You will get to meet teachers, visit classrooms, and hear about the creative and innovative educational opportunities offered at our school.

Registration for Pre-K students, those 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2004, will be available in our office during the last week of July. Please call the office at 414-4402 or stop by if you have any questions.

Congratulations to sixth grade students and their teacher, Ms. Debo Tatum, who recently placed fourth at the Austin Science Fun Day competition. Their topic was solar energy — a topic on which our sixth graders experts. Also, congratulations go to fifth grade teacher Mr. Rich Levy, our Maplewood teacher of the year.

Some fifth and sixth grade students are involved in a service organization called PALS. This group of dedicated kids works each week with younger students on campus by tutoring or just being much-needed friends. The program benefits both the younger and older students in many ways, including increased self-esteem, a sense of contribution to the Maplewood culture and community, and fun. During February, the PALS group organized a fundraiser for children with leukemia, Pennies for Patients. As a result, Maplewood raised more than \$500 to be donated to the Leukemia Society.

Neighbors, please mark your calendar for April 24. That's when Maplewood will have our annual Spring Fling. Stop by to listen to live music, eat good food, and get great deals on books and plants — all the while supporting your local public school. ■

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

CELEBRATE SPRING AT MAPLEWOOD'S SPRING FLING

By Priscilla Boston

Spring in Texas is short but sweet. You gotta enjoy it while you can. You can have some fun and benefit your neighborhood school at Maplewood's annual Spring Fling.

On Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Maplewood PTA invites you to join your friends and neighbors and play outdoors for a while. Food includes grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, baked goods and Jim-Jim's Ices. Groove to the beat of live music provided by Maplewood's choir, band and orchestras, along with the fabulous Box Car Preachers, a 15-person plus jug band.

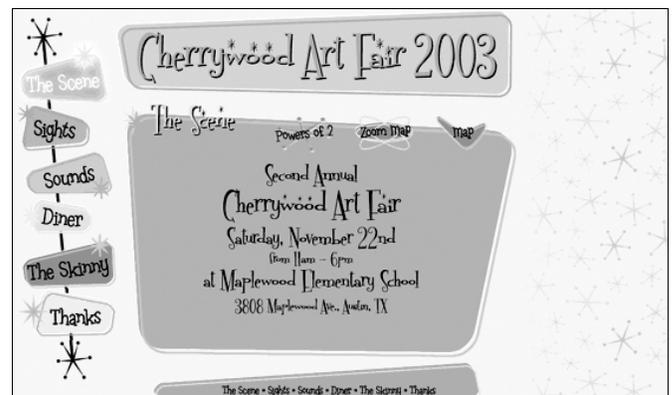
Tickets will be on sale for drawings of gift baskets packed with donated goodies assembled by each grade level at Maplewood. The gift baskets are called Pamper Mom, Toy Joy, Arts and Crafts, Snack Attack, Family Fun, Kiss the Cook, Just for Dad, and At the Movies

Other activities will include terra cotta pot decorating for Teacher Appreciation Week, a moon walk, a cake walk, sack race, pie eating contest and basketball. We hope to see you there. ■

CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR WEB SITE WINS AWARD

Congratulations to Marilyn Fenn, neighbor, painter, Web and graphic designer.

She won a Texas Interactive Media (TIM) Notable Achievement Award in the sales and marketing category for her design of the Cherrywood Art Fair Web site. As one of the fair's organizers, Marilyn donated her time and creativity to produce www.cherrywoodartfair.org, promoting the fair, its artists and Maplewood Elementary School's art program.



Marilyn Fenn's Web site design.

WILDLIFE RESCUE OF AUSTIN



Cherrywood
Choices

Spring has sprung and Wildlife Rescue of Austin is springing into action. Led by President Preston Doughty, this non-profit, which began in 1977, is readying for its busiest time of year — baby season — when sick, injured or orphaned wildlife are accepted daily for rehabilitation and release.

Last year Wildlife Rescue and its rehabilitators provided a little R&R to 3,000 animals. Its new drop-off center, 5401 E. Martin Luther King Blvd., alone received 1,400 animals: 870 birds, 140 opossums, 120 squirrels, 110 cottontails, 90 raccoons and 50 deer.

Wildlife Rescue's mission is to rehabilitate and ultimately release sick, injured and orphaned wildlife, to educate the public on how to co-exist with wildlife, to promote the preservation of the environment in order to ensure continued natural populations of wildlife.

Wildlife Rescue needs to be notified before any animal is delivered to assure the presence of staff, who'll begin preparing for the best care possible. Nearby predators make it dangerous for unattended animals.

Wildlife offspring have little parental supervision and may seem abandoned to us since they're left alone for long periods. Often it's best to leave them alone until the parent returns, making sure to keep away cats, dogs and children.

Refrain from feeding or giving liquid. Wrong food or food fed incorrectly greatly decreases chances of survival. If a wild animal is so starved or dehydrated that it cannot stay alive during the short time it takes to reach a rehabilitator, it's more than likely going to succumb regardless.

Any injured wildlife or known orphans should be brought to Wildlife Rescue in a warm, quiet, dark box, such as a shoebox lined with tissue for baby birds and with soft, fleecy material for small mammals. The same type of materials can be used if it's necessary to keep babies overnight.

Learn more by taking a Wildlife Rescue course offered in spring and fall: general wildlife, basic techniques and small mammals. Persons who've taken the general class may volunteer in various capacities: hotline staff, aides to rehabilitators, interns, transporters, newsletter staff, fundraisers or wildlife proponents. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Beth Gross at bgross@mail.utexas.edu or wildliferescue@sbcglobal.net.

Varying levels of membership exist, including \$20 for individuals or \$25 for families; members receive the Critter Chronicle newsletter. Monetary donations may be made by credit card, Randall's Remarkable Card designation #2780, coins in collection boxes or checks mailed to P.O. Box 806, Austin, 78767-0806. Treat Wildlife Rescue clients to acorns or pecans in the shell. Flannel blankets, heating pads, paper towels or a washer/dryer set are also needed. Contact Wildlife Rescue at 472-WILD or www.austinwildliferescue.org. ■

Cherrywood Choices was created to connect neighbors with neighbors, individuals, families, businesses and organizations with opportunities to be served and to serve people who live or work in our neighborhood. For more information, visit www.cherrywood.org and click on Cherrywood Choices.

Tips from Wildlife Rescue

Baby birds — The old adage “a baby bird won't be accepted by its parents, if it's been touched by human hands” is not true. Birds have very poor senses of smell. Those without feathers, nestlings, are blown or pushed out by siblings and can be safely returned to the nest. Fledglings, baby birds with partial feathers, jump or fall out of nests trying to fly. A fledgling should stay where it's found, so its parents can feed it until it flies. Makeshift nests can be crafted with a well-drained container or basket, lined with straw/nest debris. Reunite a duckling with its mother. Contact a rehabber if a napping screech owl fails to become active by nightfall. It usually climbs back into its nest, but if in danger, place it on the nearest tree branch or protect it until dusk. If the pair of herons nesting high above Edgewood produces a straying baby, call Wildlife Rescue since reaching the high nest would be difficult.

Other babies — Return a baby cottontail to its nest, a small depression in the grass; but make sure it's being fed regularly. Place 2 long, crossed strings over the nest, then check to see if the strings are moved; if not, the baby needs Wildlife Rescue's assistance. Place a baby squirrel in a shallow box at the base of a tree, so it's mother can retrieve it without interference. A baby raccoon, should be put out at dusk so it can be reclaimed during evening hours. A lost baby opossum less than 7 inches long, not including tail, needs to be taken to Wildlife Rescue.

Wildlife Rescue accepts amphibians and reptiles. Austin Nature and Science Center provides insect information at www.ci.austin.tx.us/ansc.

CHERRYWOOD CHOICES CHANGES...

Austin Area Urban League has moved its headquarters from 1825 E. 38½ St. to La Costa Green, 1033 La Posada Drive, Austin 78752.

Children's Advocacy Center became The Center For Child Protection. Its location remains the same at 1110 E. 32nd St. near Interstate 35. Contact their Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Faz at mfaz@centerforchildprotection.org or visit the Web site www.centerforchildprotection.org. ■

FAMILY TIES

By Alissa Jones Zachary

Do you know how to get instant street credentials even if you are a basically nerdy, uptight teen-ager? You say, "My father makes guitars." It's one of those things that everyone knows is cool and difficult. I'm lucky. My father really does make guitars in our neighborhood.

My father, Sam Jones, is a luthier, the fancy Latin term. Though I've seen a banjo, an occasional mandolin and charango, what he mostly makes is guitars in his converted garage, specializing in fancy hand inlay work. A guitar intended for my sister has abalone bluebonnets; the guitar I've yet to learn to play has yellow mother of pearl roses climbing up the neck. I'm told by people who know this type of work that it is a vanishing and valuable art.

My father has never sold a guitar, not that he would mind, it's just such a big fuss. To earn a living he does taxes for old hippies and others out of that wood-

shop. If you want to see the guitars or the shop, bring your taxes or brush up on old bluegrass tunes because you will have to sing your way in.

My father essentially is a hermit. He's been entrenched in the neighborhood since 1974, but has made an effort to stay under the radar. Nothing he does could have sustained his artistic habits on his own. The smartest thing he ever did was marry my mother, Regina Rogoff. If my father is essentially hermetic, then my mother's as unsealed and outgoing as they come.

Mom has worked as an activist and non-profit executive in Austin for longer than I can remember. She was a staff attorney for Legal Aid of Central Texas, then its executive director for a combined total of 30 years. Now she's executive director of People's Community Clinic, at I-35 and 30th Street, with a shorter commute and more time to be in 78722.

My mother is one of the righteous — ask her about Austin Interfaith sometime. It's hard for family friends to see

what my parents have in common. There's always some conflict when a hermit and a firebrand make a go of it, but passion is passion and the heart of our house beats somewhere between my father's woodshop and my mother's command central where each pursues passion without worrying too much about reward.

Being close to my folks is the reason my husband Billy and I decided to live in Cherrywood. That's true to some extent. I grew up here. My sister Sarah and I both attended Open Door Preschool and Maplewood Elementary. For me this is the magical corner of Austin that makes space for big passions, for the social justice of a People's Community Clinic and the artistic visions of the Vortex, a neighborhood that has exploited the benefits of the university without being overrun by it. I want that space, not for big houses, but for big ideas and big people. So far I've only been proven right. ■

CHANGES COME TO BLUE RIBBON YARD PROGRAM

By Mike Damal

For the past two years Cherrywood Neighborhood Association has sponsored the Blue Ribbon Yard program, highlighting a few of our many beautiful gardens. This quarter's winner is the home of Holly Chacona and John Cooper at 1303 E. 30th St. This beautiful yard is highlighted by limestone accents, Xeriscaped plantings, and an arbor and bench. At night, indirect lighting provides security and gives the yard a beautiful ambiance. Holly said she started with the plantings while John did the stonework, with no set blueprint, and the yard developed into the lovely garden that we enjoy today.

The Blue Ribbon Yard program is now sponsored by Big Red Sun nursery

at 1102 E. Cesar Chavez, three blocks east of I-35, www.bigredsunn.com. This locally owned garden center is one of the most unique places I have seen in Austin, a must for those desiring a garden different from the rest. Big Red Sun offered to sponsor our Blue Ribbon Yard program, and Holly and John received a \$25 gift certificate from the nursery. I hope to cultivate this relationship to promote the gardens we enjoy in Cherrywood.

Nominations and voting for the Blue Ribbon Yard is done through NeighborNet, CNA's listserv and through a separate list of interested neighborhood participants. If you wish to be added to the list of participants, please e-mail me at

mdamal@grandecom.net. If you do not have e-mail and are interested in this program please call me at 478-9622.

Part of the greatness of Cherrywood comes from the camaraderie and social awareness we have. One way we can make a statement is through our physical environment. We all live busy lives, and at times it is difficult to find time to tend to our yards. However, doing this can help give us a focus and energy for our other obligations while providing us with an environment that says, "I care for my neighbors and my community." ■



Blue Ribbon Yards winners: Holly Chacona & John Cooper, 1303 E. 30th.