



The Flea

CAMPO VOTES - CHERRYWOOD WINS!

By Harold Cook

After a comprehensive and coordinated lobbying effort by residents of Cherrywood and the Blackland neighborhood to our south, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) voted to remove both 38½ Street and Manor Road from its 2030 Plan, the long-range planning document that maps out transportation priorities until 2030. This is a big win for Cherrywood residents, and effectively takes both streets off the radar screen for expansion or widening for now.

Scores of Cherrywood residents had written letters to CAMPO board members, and many testified at a public hearing several weeks ago. In the end, the Manor Road and 38½ Street removal issue was the only item of con-

cern in the Austin area on which the CAMPO board sided with a neighborhood over CAMPO's own staff recommendations, showing once again the power of neighborhood vigilance and activism.

CAMPO staff, sensing that the grassroots efforts were having an effect on the board members, had proposed a compromise in which the two streets would not be fully included in the plan, but "studied" for future full inclusion. Due in part to another round of neighborhood communications with board members in the 48 hours preceding the vote, CAMPO also rejected the staff compromise and instead removed the two streets from the plan entirely, handing Cherrywood residents a complete victory.

In private discussions with CAMPO board members after the vote, several said Cherrywood prevailed because the entire neighborhood was "on the same page," in large numbers, respectful yet

clear, and explained the public interest rather than merely a neighborhood-specific self-interest. It was especially helpful that Cherrywood and Blackland also organized more public input in the 2030 plan process than other neighborhood groups with concerns about the 200-plus page comprehensive document.

Special thanks go to Travis County Commissioner Karen Sonleitner who ultimately made the motion to overrule CAMPO staff and remove the streets from the plan, and to Austin City Council Member Danny Thomas and State

(Continued on Page 3)

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

By Michael McClendon/Lex Dale Owens

National Night Out is Tuesday, Aug. 2.

One of the proven ways to fight crime is to get to know your neighbors and keep watchful eyes on your neighborhood. National Night Out is a good opportunity to spend some time getting to know who lives up and down your street. The event helps heighten crime-prevention awareness and strengthen police-community relations.

Block parties from 7 to 9 p.m. are encouraged, and if you register your party,

police, fire and/or EMS crews will try to visit. The City of Austin will provide packets of safety information and some gifts, such as t-shirts and pencils. If you cannot attend a party, please turn on your porch light and walk your block on Aug. 2 and say hello to your neighbors.

For more information or to register your party, go to www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/nno or contact Rosie Salinas at 974-4900 or nno@ci.austin.tx.us. Eleven parties had been registered in Cherrywood by June 17.

Also, if you plan to host a block party, please let Jennifer Elsner know at textimage.mac.com. Jennifer is preparing a map of Cherrywood parties that will be posted on the Internet. ■

Cherrywood Neighborhood quarterly meeting:

**Wednesday, July 20
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Maplewood School library**

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

Agenda:

- 1) Officers' reports (10 minutes)
- 2) UBC report (5 minutes)
- 3) Safety and crime report (10 minutes)
- 4) Approval of interim steering committee members (5 minutes)
- 5) Approval of by-laws (5 minutes)
- 6) Traffic calming update (5 minutes)
- 7) UT Academic Health Science Center update (5 minutes)
- 8) Open discussion—issues facing Cherrywood (30 minutes)
- 9) Announcements (5 minutes)

Next Meeting: Oct 19

CHERRYWOOD CALENDAR

JULY

- JUL 10 10:00am-Noon** — Canned food donation, Asbury United Methodist Church. (See Page 9)
- JUL 12 7:30pm** — Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP) meeting, Vivo's. (See Page 9)
- JUL 13 6:30pm** — CNA Steering Committee meeting.
- JUL 20 6:30-8:00pm** — **CNA quarterly meeting, Maplewood School library.** (See Agenda Page 1)
- JUL 27 7:00pm** — Cherrywood Book Club. For information, e-mail thedelaunes@austin.rr.com

AUGUST

- AUG 2 7:00-9:00pm** — National Night Out. (See Page 1)
- AUG 3 time TBA** — Mueller Neighborhood Coalition, Asbury United Methodist Church. (See Page 4)
- AUG 9 6:00pm** — Mueller Commission, Waller Creek Plaza
- AUG 9 7:30pm** — FoPP meeting, Vivo's. (See Page 9)
- AUG 10 6:30pm** — CNA Steering Committee meeting
- AUG 14 10:00am-Noon** — Canned food donation, Asbury United Methodist Church. (See Page 9)
- AUG 24 7:00pm** — Cherrywood Book Club. For information, e-mail thedelaunes@austin.rr.com
- AUG 30 time TBA** — UBCPT meeting. (See Page 4)
- AUG 31 6:30pm** — Visioning session on tract on Airport Blvd. south of Schieffer. (See Page 7)

SEPTEMBER

- SEP 7 time TBA** — Mueller Neighborhood Coalition (tentative)
- SEP 11 10:00am-Noon** — Canned food donation, Asbury United Methodist Church. (See Page 9)
- SEP 13 6:00pm** — Mueller Commission, Waller Creek Plaza
- SEP 14 6:30pm** — CNA Steering Committee meeting
- SEP 28 7:00pm** — Cherrywood Book Club. For information, e-mail thedelaunes@austin.rr.com

WIRED: STAY INFORMED ELECTRONICALLY

Open Cherrywood.org to find our Web site. Once there, select NeighborNet to subscribe to our listserv. Questions? Ask gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

Subscribers can post messages, post photos, and search the archive. Read messages as they are posted (average of 5 per day), read a daily digest (posted at midnight), or read at the Web site (no e-mail).

If you were subscribed this quarter, you learned about:

- 1) progress of the traffic calming plan
- 2) neighborhood potluck suppers
- 3) garage sales, lost pets, new eateries
- 4) Austin Energy's free thermostat offer
- 5) summer programs for kids at Patterson Park
- 6) UT's proposed medical school at Mueller
- 7) and more... ■

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://www.cherrywood.org>

P.O. Box 4010, Austin, TX 78765-4010

Steering Committee

Chair	_____	Randall Terrell ('06)*	451-0346
Vice-Chair	_____	Kyle King ('06)	476-0596
Secretary	_____	Maxwell McDaniel ('06)	236-0223
Treasurer	_____	Alexandra (Alex) Garcia ('05)	474-7532
Members	_____	J. Scott Chasteen ('05)	791-6755
		Jennifer Elsner ('06)	692-7604
		Girard Kinney ('05)	478-5042
		Rebecca Kohout ('05)	415-9876
		Jack Newman ('05)	476-6616
		Charles Roadman ('06)	476-0599
		Dave Westenbarger ('05)	494-9905
		Chris Kadas (interim)	
		Lex Dale Owens (interim)	

* year term expires

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NeighborNet & Web site:	_____	Gordon Bennett	477-7195
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• Editor	_____	Sue Taylor	476-1461
• Associate Editor	_____	Dolly Ensey	494-9905
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• Advertising	_____	Alexandra (Alex) Garcia	474-7532
		Dave Westenbarger	494-9905
• Distribution	_____	Alex Garcia	474-7532

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		Priscilla Boston	478-1867
Nominating:	_____	Jennifer Elsner	692-7604
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• Cherrywood Green	_____	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:	_____	Lex Dale Owens	477-6555
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:	_____	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

VICTORY AT C — CAMPO, THAT IS.

By Randall Terrell, CNA Steering Committee Chair

"All politics is local." — Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr.

As you've read by now, our neighborhood won a major victory in defeating a proposal to include 38½ Street and Manor Road in the CAMPO 2030 Plan. Details aside, inclusion in the 2030 Plan could have resulted in these streets becoming four-lane "minor arterials" delegated to handle increasingly heavy, non-local commuter traffic. Austin traffic no doubt needs help. But bisecting our neighborhood with streets that act as barriers to pedestrians and novice bikers was not the best idea. So the neighborhood rose to oppose it. And guess what? We won. Not only did we win, we were the only neighborhood to successfully lobby CAMPO to alter the 2030 Plan.

If you've been watching closely, you might have noticed that the CAMPO success is just another sign of the growing influence of our neighborhood. Other signs, like the availability of money for traffic calming, winning grants for neighborhood beautification, and the defeat of a plan to expand the Pharr Tennis Center across much of Patterson Park show that our little neighborhood is a quiet force in local politics. We are such a force because our neighbors care, get involved, and (for the most part) conduct a civil and rational dialog with government decision makers.

Now, despite all our past successes, we need you. More issues, more pressures, and more powerful interests are facing our neighborhood than ever before. We need you to get involved. Whether you want to help with the Art Fair, install Crime Watch signs, contact local officials, or volunteer for upcoming vacancies in the Steering Committee, there are many ways that you can help. Contact us; we can help you help your neighborhood. ■

WE WANT YOU

By Jennifer Elsner

A lot of work is involved in handling the business of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association, and the Steering Committee is the primary body making sure the work gets done. The Steering Committee meets monthly and not only ensures that the Flea is content-rich, printed and delivered, but also that bookkeeping, planning & zoning, traffic calming, parks & green space, security issues, etc. are addressed and acted on.

Six Steering Committee members complete their two-year terms this fall and deserve special thanks: J. Scott Chasteen, Alexandra Garcia, Girard Kinney, Rebecca Kohout, Jack Newman and Dave Westenbarger. We hope that they will continue serving but it is estimated that 5-7 new members will still be needed.

At the October CNA membership meeting, new Steering Committee members will be presented for election. This year, we will need more new members because a few first-year steering committee members have moved out of the area.

Chris Kadas and Lex Dale Owens have agreed to serve as interim members, and will be nominated at the July 20 meeting to fill the unexpired terms.

The Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers to serve on the Steering Committee.

The success of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association is proportional to the efforts contributed by its members. The strength of our association comes from helping residents and the community through concrete actions.

You can help the neighborhood by bringing ideas for improvement to the Steering Committee's attention. If you are considering helping the Steering Committee conduct its business, join us. Contact any Nominating Committee member for more details and an application. All Steering Committee members and the Nominating Committee chair are listed in the Flea and at cherrywood.org. ■

FLEA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Alex Garcia

Starting this summer we will miss three fine neighbors who are moving out of the neighborhood: Peter Ketter, Jennifer Smith, and Michael McClendon. They have been active members of the Cherrywood neighborhood and particularly helpful in delivering the Flea. Peter delivered Fleas on Giles Street, 38½ St. and Vineland St., Jennifer delivered Fleas on 38½ St. and Maplewood, and Michael delivered Fleas on two routes, around Werner, Dancy, Hollywood and Robinson streets. Thanks Michael, Jen, and Peter! We are so grateful for all your dedicated service over the years.

We are always in need of people willing to deliver the Flea when the regular deliverers are not available. Now we need also need to cover the four vacant routes. Perhaps you've thought about joining the corps of neighbors who deliver the Flea four times a year during the weeks before the quarterly neighborhood meetings: in January, April, July, and October. Delivering the Fleas door to door is a nice way to spend an hour or so while talking with neighbors. If you would like to talk more about being a Flea deliverer, please contact Alexandra Garcia at 474-7532 or send an email to her at agarcia@mail.nur.utexas.edu. Your neighbors will thank you. ■

CAMPO *continued from Page 1*

Representative Dawnna Dukes, who seconded the motion and helped behind the scenes in lobbying other board members and staff on the neighborhood's behalf. We also owe former Austin City Council Member Jackie Goodman for getting the ball rolling in the first place by persuading the city to support removal of the streets from the plan.

Thanks also to the many Cherrywood residents whose efforts to write the board and testify at the hearing made the difference, and to Bo McCarver, Ora Houston, and others in the Blackland neighborhood for their hard work in joining with us on this important objective. ■



MUELLER UPDATE

By Jed Buie

Mueller Family Day: On May 22, Catellus, the City of Austin, Seton Healthcare Network and White Construction hosted Mueller Family Day. Mueller neighbors were invited to visit the redevelopment to see all the progress up close. More than 100 people spent the afternoon next to the new Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. Representatives were on hand to provide updates and answer questions about the redevelopment.

Catellus/ProLogis Merger: In June, Catellus announced that it was merging with ProLogis, a global provider of distribution services and facilities. Under the agreement, ProLogis is acquiring all of the outstanding common stock of Catellus for a total of approximately \$4.9 billion, including assumed liabilities and transaction costs.

Greg Weaver will continue as the company's lead executive and project manager for the redevelopment of Mueller. He and the rest of the team will stay the course in redeveloping Mueller to keep with Austin's vision and plan.

"It's full steam ahead," Weaver said. "We are more excited than ever as we watch construction of new infrastructure and the new Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas get fully under way."

University of Texas System and Mueller: Working with the Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition, the University of Texas System is exploring the possibility of an academic health center in the Mueller redevelopment. During the last few months, UT System leaders have met regularly with Mueller neighbors to discuss the potential center and address concerns and issues associated with a presence in the redevelopment.

The health center would involve research and education facilities and would likely be near the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. None of this will happen, however, without serious philanthropic involvement. The next meeting with neighbors to discuss the health center will be in August.

The Jughandle: See opposite page for explanation and graphic. The Jughandle is expected to open on Saturday, Aug. 6, 2005.

Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas: Construction for the four-story Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas is on schedule. The excavation and utilities work wrapped up in May on the 32-acre site, making way for beginning the second phase – the building shell/core and exterior building skin. This second phase is estimated to be complete in April 2006. The final phase, building interior and equipment installation will take about 10 months and will get under way this fall. The new Dell Children's Medical Center will open during the summer of 2007, after a 90-day building commissioning period after all construction is finished.

Construction: Deconstruction of runways and buildings at Mueller will begin around the first of August. For construction update information and routes, as well as traffic information surrounding the project, please visit the project Web site at www.muelleraustin.com.

You may also 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. Progress photos are from the Mueller redevelopment Web site, www.muelleraustin.com.

Mueller Listserv

The Mueller Neighborhood Coalition has a listserv on Yahoo groups. Folks who subscribe can keep up with meetings and other activities relating to the development at Mueller.

To join the listserv, visit this link: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mueller_redevelopment/

UBCPT UPDATE

By Stephen Kreger

The Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team met June 21 at the Genesis Presbyterian Church. The deletion of 38½ Street and Manor Road from CAMPO's 2030 plan was a major victory for the neighborhoods as well as the UBCPT. Kudos to all of the people who worked so hard to achieve this victory.

The UBCP amendment process is proceeding somewhat slowly, but Katie Hal-laron told us that the Neighborhood

Planning will send a notice in July for a planning area-wide meeting to discuss the amendments and the amendments should reach City Council in September.

The undeveloped property on Airport Boulevard was discussed. The CNA Planning and Zoning Committee met with a representative of the owner of the property. See a report on that meeting in the P&Z article on Page 7.

The proposal to have a University of Texas Medical Branch facility at the Mueller site was discussed. Most seem to favor UTMB locating there, but there is some concern based on the past his-

tory of UT taking land without seeming to have concern for those from whom they took it. The Mueller Coalition is trying to extract promises from UTMB regarding not taking additional land, ensuring the buildings will be architecturally compatible with the existing design guidelines, and providing community services. Additional meetings were scheduled Aug. 3 at Asbury United Methodist Church and Aug. 23 or 24 at a location to be determined. See a related report on Mueller above.

The next UBCPT meeting will be Aug. 30 at a location to be named later. ■

Background

The intersection of 51st Street and Cameron Road with the northbound IH-35 access road has long been problematic — congested, confusing to drivers and occasionally hazardous.

In addition, TxDOT closed the southbound IH-35 access ramp in 2002 when it opened the IH-35/Hwy. 290 flyover. Traffic on the 51st Street overpass now backs up often.

Not wanting to make this situation worse with the extensive redevelopment at the adjoining Mueller site, the City, TxDOT and Catellus have planned changes to the intersection to accommodate additional traffic, while improving conditions on the existing roads.

How the Jughandle Will Work

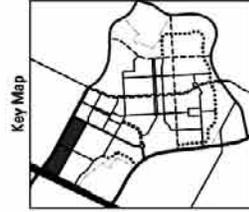
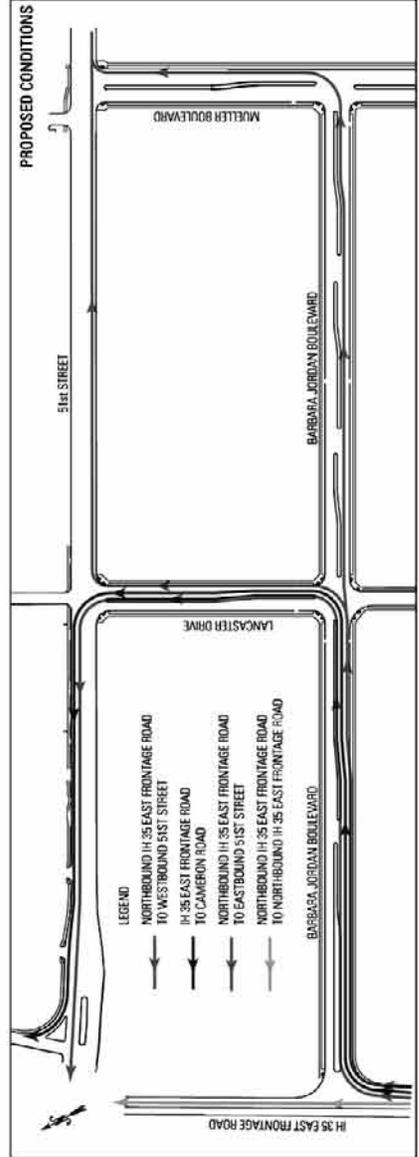
Traffic heading northbound on the IH-35 access road (past Capital Plaza) will continue as it does now. But the right-hand fork of today's access road — the piece connecting with Cameron Road — will be removed entirely.

Instead, northbound traffic connecting to 51st Street or Cameron Road will turn right into the Mueller site along the new Barbara Jordan Boulevard, and then left to continue north along the new Lancaster Drive, which intersects 51st Street one block east of Cameron Road, opposite the existing Lancaster Court. (Or, of course, traffic can continue along Barbara Jordan Blvd. into the heart of the Mueller site.)



THE JUGHANDLE IH 35 FRONTAGE RD TRAFFIC CIRCULATION THROUGH RIMMA SITE

From there, drivers can turn right to head east along 51st Street or left to head west along 51st Street. Or they can turn left, and then right, to head north along Cameron Road. Traffic engineers will be keeping an eye on the Lancaster/51st intersection to see if additional improvements are needed to best handle the traffic flow.



Notification

Two weeks prior to the Jughandle taking effect, a flashing sign indicating the change will be located between Barbara Jordan and 51st along IH-35. In addition, a postcard will be mailed to the homes in the area.



TRAFFIC CALMING

From City of Austin Traffic Division

Project Director Gordon Derr says the wheels are starting to turn. The city is almost ready for bidding to begin.

Clarkson at 38½ took some work. The city proposes extending out the southwest corner to make a better crosswalk to the school and make it easier for pedestrians and motorists to see each other. The plan will require eastbound drivers on 38½ to slow down more before making the turn to Clarkson. The extension will be surrounded by a curb and gutter, with new handicapped ramps on both sides of 38½. The plan has speed cushions both east and west on 38½ and at about the mid-point along Clarkson toward Cherrywood.

The city follows a process. As Derr explained in mid-June, "We are proceeding with the preparation of the engineering plans and specifications to put the entire Cherrywood Plan out for bid. We will have some alternate items for the speed cushion locations discussed with the committee. Those should be completed in the next 2 to 3 weeks. We then will go into the

bidding process, which will be about 5 weeks, with reviews and multiple weeks of advertisements. Once the bids are open and found to be compliant, we will prepare the Request for Council Action to award the contract and begin construction. The schedule is to turn in the Council Request a month before the Council meeting. Based on that we are talking about a Council Action in September."

Derr adds, "The governor signed HB 87 into law in May. This allows municipalities to decide that on some streets that are 35 feet wide or less, and where parking is not restricted, that a 30-mph speed limit is unreasonable or unsafe, and they can then post a 25-mph speed limit. This could be applied to all the streets in the neighborhood, except Cherrywood south of 38½, and 38½ west of Cherrywood. We have asked the city attorney's office for guidance on how this could be implemented."

He would like recommended changes of speed limits in Cherrywood, if any, to be posted at the same the calming devices are installed. With luck all should be finished by December 2005. ■

SAFETY COMMITTEE

By Lex Dale Owens

Some Cherrywood residents have been on edge after unusual reports of crime recently. The Austin Police Department reported an arrest May 15 after 22 home invasions between April 4 and May 13. Windows in a dozen vehicles parked on the street were smashed the weekend of June 10-13. Small items were taken.

The Safety Committee is working with APD District Representative Officer Sheldon Salisbury to address the increase in crime. Efforts include installation of approximately 15 new Neighborhood Watch signs. Many block parties have been organized as part of National Night Out Aug. 2, Plans are under way for the 4th annual Safety Fair, and regular Safety Committee patrols have been organized in the neighborhood.

Citizens on Patrol: Safety committee members have been driving streets during the day and late evenings on weekends. More Citizens on Patrol volunteers are needed to be trained and issued cell phones by APD. Contact Officer Salisbury to volunteer for Citizens On Patrol training. Volunteers use their own cars and receive daily reports from police on items to watch for. They call a special police operator to report suspicious activity. We would like to have patrols from 9am to 4pm weekdays and 11am to 2pm Friday and Saturday nights.

Neighborhood Watch: Approximately 25 Neighborhood Watch Signs have been installed, and we want to put up 15 more. Safety Committee member Jim Walker has tried to coordinate rehabilitation of sign posts being trashed at the Mueller site. If this is not successful, we will buy signs post, concrete, nuts, bolts, brackets and signs. An installation party will be planned. We will need trucks, post-hole diggers, tools and

hours of labor to fill the blanks of the remaining entrances into the neighborhood.

One Neighborhood Watch member recently saw two men dressed in identical uniforms loading electronic equipment into an unmarked pickup from a home on East 40th around noon. He dialed 9-1-1 and provided descriptions. The suspects were arrested on Airport Boulevard. It all happened in less than four minutes. Two TVs, a microwave, stereo system, speakers, phones, computer and other appliances were recovered. Two arrests were made.

Safety Fair: APD has offered to consider co-sponsoring our Fourth Annual Cherrywood Safety Fair in October. Safety Committee member Maxwell McDaniel is spearheading efforts to improve this event to include vendor demonstrations of home safety devices by APD, Home Depot, Cothran's locksmith and additional vendors.

Our goal is to bring more than 200 neighbors to the safety fair. We are trying to bring all the neighborhood associations in the Upper Boggy Creek Planning Team together to sponsor this event. Please let Maxwell know if you would like to volunteer or participate as a vendor.

Safety Tips: Criminals look for opportunity. Lights, locks, Neighborhood Watch and barking dogs combined will offer more deterrents to stop crime. Officer Salisbury advises don't leave purses, wallets, cell phones, money, gifts, tools, jewelry and other valuables in view in vehicles. Roll up all windows and lock the vehicles. Park in well-lit, easily observed locations. The Safety Committee recommends locking your vehicle in your garage or parking in your driveway with a motion detector spotlight. ■

Lex Dale Owens, Chairman Safety Committee, P O Box 4206, Austin, TX 78765, lexdale@hotmail.com, 512 750-8296.

PLANNING AND ZONING

By Girard Kinney, Chair,
CNA Planning and Zoning Committee

Airport Boulevard Property: In a nutshell, the very strict deed restrictions that were imposed in the '80s when a group wanted to build an office complex on a tract along Airport Boulevard south of Schieffer are still in place and will be unless a "supermajority" (6 of the 7) of the City Council votes to overturn them.

When we resolved not to pursue a zoning change as a part of the current amendments to the Upper Boggy Creek Plan, we decided to revisit the issue. This process began at the last Planning and Zoning Committee meeting, attended by many Vineland residents and by the son of the new property owner. We learned that the current owner is not likely to develop the property and will probably sell it.

The Vineland residents, who want to avoid further negative impacts on their quality of life and property values, graciously agreed to support a process

whereby the neighborhood would develop a vision for the property. That vision would list undesirable impacts to be avoided and examples of the kinds of uses and safeguards that would be acceptable to the community. The idea is that we will not pursue a zoning change immediately but rather will publicize the vision, inviting developers to come forward who would agree to use the property in a way that is consistent with our vision. Then, when an appropriate amount of trust and preliminary planning are complete, we would go forward with a zoning change with appropriate safeguards in place. A visioning session is tentatively planned for Wednesday, August 31, 6:30pm, at a location to be announced.

Planning Tools: The UBCP amendments expected to go to the City Council in September or October (See UBCPT article Page 4) would limit impervious cover to 40 percent of front yards in Cherrywood, require that new garages and carports be farther from the street than the front facades of houses and allow front porches extending to within 15 feet of front property lines.

Llama on Kern Ramble: The Steering

Committee has asked the Planning and Zoning Committee to try to reach a peaceful resolution to a situation on Kern Ramble where the back yards of two properties have been connected to contain a variety of animals, including rabbits, goats, chickens and a llama (although with the addition of the goats and the llama, the chickens seem to have suffered the same fate as all of the greenery in these yards). Neighborhood reactions have been interesting, with support from folks who are not close enough to have their quality of life or property values negatively affected, to rather hostile reactions from some folks along the street and backing up to the property.

Parks: Thanks to Chad Hamilton for spearheading the spring mowing at Willowbrook Reach and working to protect areas for wildflowers and to limit mowing to the area outside the trail. The less aggressive cutting of the creekside plants will help with erosion control and provide habitat for birds and animals.

See separate articles on Cherrywood Green/Concordia Triangle and Patterson Park on Page 9. ■

EAT, TALK, SHAPE

By Gordon Bennett

This is about "Building Community," formerly Asbury/Cherrywood Initiative.

"Eating" means neighborhood potluck suppers. We've had three now. They're fun. Folks bring a dish or salad. We socialize for awhile then entertain group conversation. Come if you enjoy this sort of thing. Many do. Announcements will be posted on NeighborNet (at Cherrywood.org).

"Talking" means finding out what's high on our collective mind. The Austin school district (AISD)? Crime? Homeless? Politics? Taxes? Youth? Core concerns will gradually but surely emerge.

"Shaping" maybe will be the most fun of all. It means discovering what sort of community we would like Cherrywood to be. Private? Passive? Free? Social? Active? Responsible? All have good points. But we can't be everything. If we like to be left alone and leave public affairs to others, then we take what they give us. Once we decide to have a voice, we give up some time to ourselves. We must choose.

Potluck #3 was interesting. About 30 attended, half from Asbury, half from Cherrywood. The food was delicious. Congregation provided silverware, iced tea, apple juice and wine. Rug rats ran about and created blackboard art. Our guest was Rebecca McIlwain, community organizer with Austin Interfaith. She took a moment to introduce that group then lit a fire by inquiring why we all had come.

AISD, it turned out. Rebecca had uncovered a nest of parents dismayed at the drift toward 3Rs curriculum, standardized testing and disciplining of schools that failed to generate high TAKS scores. "Accountability" seems to sound good on the campaign trail. There was interest in "alliance schools," one of which is Maplewood. These are negotiating with AISD to allow more teacher control and parental involvement. But the initiative needs more community support to slow the standardization juggernaut.

Expect to hear more about this as it spreads to parents of future Maplewood students and the community at large. Before we broke up, we resolved to do it again in a few weeks. It was fun.

More details at Cherrywood.org. ■

MAPLEWOOD NOTES



Your Neighborhood School
3808 Maplewood Ave., 414-4402

"Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education to our democratic society. It is required in the performance of our most basic public responsibilities. ... It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today, it is a principal instrument in awakening the child to cultural values..." — Supreme Court of the United States, *Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954.

These wise words from our nation's highest court remind us of the awesome responsibility of public schools and educators. Our neighborhood is fortunate to have within its oak-lined hills a gem of a public school.

At the core of this school are the talented, dedicated teachers and committed families that make up our Maplewood community. Seems as if word of "the East Side's best kept secret," Maplewood Elementary, is spreading.

Ours is Number 7 in the list of the Austin school district's top 10 transfer destination schools. Out of that list of 10, Maplewood serves the most diverse student body in terms of ethnicity, economic status and learning differences.

Two classrooms will be added this fall — one second-grade and one third-grade. This growth for a second year in a row is due in part to neighborhood folks with school-age children choosing to invest in their community.

We had the pleasure of meeting some of these families at the well-attended Kindergarten Roundup on May 2. Students and parents from nearby preschools Growing Tree, Open Door and St. George's attended to meet their future teachers and tour the school. If you happened to miss this event, or your child will be new to Maplewood in a different grade, please stop by or call our office (414-4402). The sooner you and your family become familiar with the school and staff (and us with you), the smoother the transition will be for your child.

A new literacy awareness program at Maplewood, the 1,000-Book Project, will involve neighborhood children ages 3 to 5. One hundred bags of 10 books on appropriate reading level will be organized and housed at Maplewood for families to check out. The goal is for families to have read 1,000 books to their child before he/she enters first grade. Fundraising and organizing will begin in August, and kickoff for the program is planned for spring '06.

More good news — This past year Maplewood earned more than \$300 by recycling HEB plastic bags and turning in Box Tops for Education. Please save these items at your home or business and drop them off at the Maplewood office.

As always, all types of community involvement are welcomed — guest readers, mentors, or just visits from our neighbors. Thank you, Cherrywood neighbors and Maplewood Mustang families, for continued support of your local public school. ■

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

9TH ANNUAL CHERRYWOOD TREE PLANTING

By Mike Damal

In the past eight years, 219 trees have been planted during Cherrywood's fall tree plantings.

Some of the early trees are rather large now. We have beautiful established red buds on Robinson, a burr oak on Clarkson, and a Chinese pistache on Edgewood. I'm proud that our neighborhood with its volunteers has been able to do this.

We will continue the tradition this year in October or early November. Anyone interested in trees please e-mail (preferred) at mdamal@peoplepc.com or call me at 478-9622. The cost per tree runs from \$15 to \$20. We usually have a selection of Chinese pistache, burr oak, red oak, live oak, cedar elm, crepe myrtle, or red buds. These trees range in height from 6 to 10 feet, and if you want larger trees I can pick them up on request.

We have neighborhood volunteers to plant the trees, and we have people experienced in the best places to plant them, so all you have to do is sign up. For the price of a pizza you can help the environment and beautify Cherrywood.

If you are interested in volunteering to help plant the trees, we will do it on a Saturday morning. This is not hard work and it is a lot of fun. Please e-mail or call me if you wish to volunteer.

Another reminder for those who have newly planted trees (within the last two years) — it is imperative to water them during the hot summer months. Let a garden hose trickle at the base of the tree for a few hours—the surrounding soil should be "mushy." Do this twice a month—a good deep watering will ensure deep root growth, and will give newly planted trees a good start for some healthy growth in coming years. ■

PATTERSON PARK

By Isabelle Headrick

Those who use the park regularly may notice as I do that Patterson seems to assume a different shape in the summer. On weekends the grounds swell with picnickers; the playground shrinks and the pool expands to the very horizon. Of course, each of us uses the park in different ways, and the park that we experience is a reflection of our favorite activities or hangouts, and the friends we expect to see there. The park is also all of ours to preserve: Please help to save our precious post oaks and lawns by refraining from driving onto the park and calling 311 if you see others doing so.

Friends of Patterson Park is continuing to focus on construction of the trail. The main complicating factor is the need to begin the trail on the easement of Genesis Presbyterian Church—property that is not within the purview of the grant we received. This section also requires curb and gutter work. We are working with members of the church and PARD to come up with the best solution. Looking beyond the trail, FoPP is considering options for developing of the stretch of the park along Schieffer and south of the tennis center along Airport all while emphasizing the connection to future parkland at Mueller.

On May 23, I testified before the Zoning and Platting Commission against the expansion of the South Austin Tennis Center. As with the proposed expansion on our home turf, this has become a heated situation. Testifying gave us as FoPP members an opportunity to revisit some of our core beliefs regarding the placement of large-scale facilities:

- (1) Neighborhood input should be solicited and considered when a major park alteration is planned.
- (2) The process of determining the location and nature of major projects must be transparent.
- (3) PARD should take a strategic, global approach to determining the sites of large-scale facilities, taking into account the nature and location of the demand and the impact on the rest of the park and surrounding community.

It also gave me a chance to appreciate that in the three years of FoPP's existence, Patterson has truly become a model for what can happen when a strong parks group and a responsive parks department collaborate to enact a community's vision. PARD staff has worked hard to help us get better facilities, and working with our group has actually enriched since we have secured resources for the park that PARD could not have on its own.

In other news, FoPP is moving its monthly meetings to the second Tuesday of the month and to Vivo's Restaurant on Manor Road. We begin at 7:30 July 12 and Aug. 9. Look for us on the patio.

For more information on FoPP, call Isabelle at 499-0621 or e-mail isanews@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, TX 78701. ■

CHERRYWOOD GREEN, CONCORDIA TRIANGLE GET GRANTS

By Mike Damal

Keep Austin Beautiful has awarded grants totaling \$1,088 for improvements to Cherrywood Green and Concordia Triangle.

At Concordia Triangle the money will be used for a native tree planting. A large cedar at this location fell, and the grant will help pay for planting native species in this area. This event will be coordinated with the fall tree planting (See Page 8), since autumn is the best time to plant trees in Austin.

The project at Cherrywood Green is construction of a water drinking fountain. Plans are to have an original design with limestone and iron elements built by Cherrywood craftsmen/artists Eric Haglund and Ken Casey. This will be an outstanding addition to the Green. We have received pledges for an additional \$600 matching funds for the water fountain.

On June 21, we met at Cherrywood Green to discuss the fountain. We expect a preliminary design from Ken and Eric in late July, when we will solicit comments from the neighborhood. Our goal is to have the fountain installed by October. This is an ambitious goal, but with the positive response received, it is achievable. We will need volunteers to help organize and build.

Those who subscribe to NeighborNet have been following the details of the water fountain. Anyone without Internet access who wants to help can call Mike Damal at 478-9622, or e-mail mdamal@peoplepc.com.

On another note, National Night Out will have an event at the Green Aug. 2. Details will be announced on NeighborNet. ■



ASBURY FOOD DRIVE

By Jack Newman

Our monthly food drive started well but is in need of long-term CNA support. The same folks whom we helped feed last month, and others, all need to eat again this month, and next. Please remember that each second Sunday of the month, Asbury Methodist Church at Cherrywood & 38 1/2 Street collects canned foods and other preserved edibles from 10 a.m. to noon. Look for a reminder in the NeighborNet or just mark your calendar. ■

ARTISTS, VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR 4TH CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR

By Priscilla Boston

The fourth annual Cherrywood Art Fair promises to be cooler than ever. It will be a two-day event this year, Saturday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec 11. Thanks to the generosity of Principal Luis Lazaro, the fair again will be at Maplewood Elementary School. Neighbor-owned Blue Shoe Marketing has agreed to handle our publicity, so we expect to attract even more of a city-wide crowd.

Artist booths will line the hallways of Maplewood and fill the gym. In the cafeteria we'll serve fabulous food by the great guys who run GoGo Gourmet, which you can enjoy while visiting with neighbors and listening to live music. We'll have a fun art activity for the kids.

With almost 50 artists selling paintings, sculpture, jewelry, purses and more, you can take care of holiday shopping while supporting local artists and the art education program at Maplewood. Last year's fair raised \$2,147.44 for the Maplewood art program and Maplewood PTA.

Now the search is on for artists in the 'hood who would like to exhibit and sell. If you participated last year, let us know if you'd like to come again. If you, your neighbors, your friends down the block, or folks you chat with at Quack's are art-

ists, we want you to apply and join the fun. All media are welcome. No imported stuff, kits, or the like—but all original art is invited. We will limit the number of artists in each medium if necessary to balance the show and provide a good mix to see and buy.

As in years past, our little art-fair-that-could needs your help. Each year, it is a very hard decision for the organizers and founders to recommit to putting on the fair—it really takes a lot of help to pull off. We simply can't do it without you but we know we can count on our fabulous neighbors to help make this happen. So what do we need right now? We need business support. We need volunteers. We need artists. We need good ideas . . .

We're soliciting sponsors to support the fair's operations, so if you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution please get in touch soon. Your business will get some great advertising on our hip, award-winning Web site at www.cherrywoodartfair.org. The sooner you donate, the more money we'll have for advertising and the more exposure your business will get.

Please email me at pebos-ton@grandecom.net or call 478-1867 to explore the opportunities. ■



Patti and Joe at 4007 Crescent take the prize for their landscaping.

WINNING YARD

By Mike Damal

This quarter's yard of fame award goes to Patti Everitt and Joe Mills at 4007 Crescent. This lovely yard has a nice balance of sun and shade, with large live oak and pecan trees and a sunny area in the center, allowing for a beautiful perennial garden. The garden features varied flowers and herbs, including rosemary, basil and thyme, mixing beauty and practicality. Joe planted a burr oak in the center of the garden about eight years ago, and it is growing nicely but still allows sufficient sun for the flowers. Native Texas mountain laurels and hollyhocks add interest to the landscape.

Joe modestly told me that he felt they deserved more of a "most improved" award than a "best" award. After a major remodeling job a year and a half ago, their front yard was mainly dirt. But you would have no idea looking at it today. Patti views the garden as a "work in progress" and experiments with varieties of flowers. A large front porch provides an excellent view to enjoy the fruits of their labors at the end of the day.

Patti and Joe will receive a \$25 gift certificate from our sponsor, Big Red Sun nursery, just east of I-35 on Cesar Chavez. I invite everyone to check out Patti's and Joe's lovely garden. ■

ASBURY WANTS NON-PROFIT TENANT

By Jack Newman

The Asbury congregation finds itself with a wonderful but empty two-bedroom house on East 38½ Street, just west of the church. The house was long a venue for Scout meetings, art camps for kids and at one time a residence for assistant pastors, and the congregation leaders have decided to seek a suitable long-term non-profit occupant for the conveniently located house, which has hard-wood floors.

The house has parking in front and possible additional spaces in the church lot in back. The church is willing to make updates and alterations for the right organization, and will be reasonable about rent. Anyone associated with a non-profit or who knows of such a group that might find this location attractive, please contact the pastor, George Holcombe, at 477-8122, or e-mail at geowanda@earthlink.net for additional information or for a look at the space. ■