CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER MAY 2017 VOLUME 23 NUMBER 2

At the Vortex...

THE





Ocean MAY 11-21, 2017

Ebony Stewart weaves evocative poetry, brilliant storytelling, feminist aesthetic, and spiritual depth into her new work for a unique and powerful performance.

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MAPLEWOOD MARCH FOR KINDNESS PAGE 11



QUARTERLY PUBLIC MEETING MAY 17, AT 6-7:30 PM 2610 Manor Road, at in.gredients

Come grab your favorite beverage at 6:00 - 6:30 PM Join us on the patio for snacks from in.gredients and a short general meeting.

Music to follow by Ocotillo.

Bring the whole family and have dinner too! Get to know old and new faces in the neighborhood. The agenda will be posted at Cherrywood.org

> Agenda items include: NCINC2 informative presentation Standing rule vote Proposed pocket park Steering committee & FLEA updates Call for volunteers and ideas

Thank you to neighborhood businesses that contributed delicious food to our meetings last year, including Cherrywood Coffee House, El Chilito, and Haymaker.

On the cover: Maplewood Elementary March for Kindness, photo by Jennifer Potter-Miller



CNA STEERING COMMITTEE

CHAIR Jim Reed, chair@cherrywood.org VICE CHAIR Jonathan Schwartz SECRETARY Sarah Sweeny TREASURER Leyla Cohlmia MEMBERS Janine Gropp, Jules Kniolek, Ben Leffler, Emily Schwartz, and Erin Tassoulas.

Neighborhood Concerns: chair@cherrywood.org Contact Steering Committee: steering@cherrywood.org FLEA Newsletter: flea@cherrywood.org

Photo by Marilyn Fenn NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA)	cherrywood.org
Blackland Community Develop- ment Corporation	BlacklandCDC.org
Mueller Neighborhood Associ- ation	MuellerNeighborhood.org
Schieffer-Willowbrook	sites.google.com/site/swnaaustin
Austin Neighborhood Council	ANCWeb.org/neighbor- hood-groups

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS AND RESOURCES

Imagine Cherrywood	https://imaginecherrywood.org/
Friends of Austin Neighborhoods	ATXFriends.org
Neighbornet	groups.yahoo.com/group/Neigh- borNet
Duplex Nation Net	groups.yahoo.com/group/Du- plexNation
CNA on Facebook	facebook.com/cna.austin
Cherrywood 78722 on Facebook	facebook.com/cherrywood78722
Nextdoor	Nextdoor.com

RECURRING MEETINGS

2nd Mondays	6:30 pm	Friends of Willowbrook Reach and Patterson Park
4th Mondays	6:30 pm	Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Team
2nd Tuesdays	1:00 pm	Austin Neighborhood Council East Sector
	6:00 pm	Blackland Community Development Center
2nd Wednesdays	6:30 pm	CNA Steering Committee Meeting
3rd Saturdays	10:00 am	Mueller Neighborhood Association Meeting

flea@cherrywood.org

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CNA Steering Committee members are elected to staggered, two year terms and get involved in the neighborhood activities which interest them most.

TONATHAN SCHWARTZ

✓ Jonathan is a local architect and proud resident of Cherrywood since 2014. You can often find him walking his dog Oscar, biking over to Manor or Cherrywood Cafe for a bite to eat, or working on projects in nearby Mueller and around Austin. If you see him in the neighborhood, please stop and say hello!



START A GROUP! WHAT INTERESTS YOU?

The CNA Steering Committee's role includes encouraging community efforts. We believe the health of a community is related to community activity, and we want to foster engagement. We want to know what you would like to see in our community, and help you build it.

Ideas? How about a Cherrywood Writers & Listeners Group, New Mom's Group, Biking/Hiking Group, Pot Luck Gatherings, Supper Club for Foodies, Beer/Wine Making, Dog Walkers, Gardening, Back Yard Song Circles? The FLEA would love to print your group's notices!

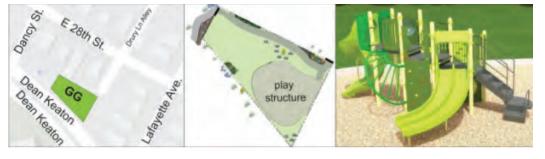


MATT HARRIGER

I moved to Austin in 1998 to attend UT, where I met my wife, Elise. Except for the year we lived in Oxford, England, we have made Austin our home. We moved to Cherrywood in 2011 and hope to never move. In 2015, we added two new Cherrywood residents with the birth of our twins, Eva and Wiley.

GRACKLE GREEN PLAYGROUND By Lindsay Olinde

Want to mosey to a quaint little pocket playground in Cherrywood? Good news! Several neighborhood families are proposing such a park (the Grackle Green) via the City's



Neighborhood Partnering Program. Features include a play structure with slides and climbing walls, nature focused (jasmine fences, garden beds, boulder seats, hummingbird (cross vine) pole, "secret garden" gates, a picnic table, leave-a-toy-take-a-toy area, and ADA sidewalks. Increasing our neighborhood's walkability score, this micropark would be a space to truly mosey to since there's no parking nearby on weekday days. Surveys of nearby families indicate that use would be primarily between end of work and dinnertime during weekdays, and on the weekends. The existing walk through path from Drury to the Dean Keaton sidewalk will remain. For the playground to break ground, we need to match 30% of the project costs. Our neighborhood match can be met through cash fundraising, volunteers' manual labor for install and the first 2 yrs, maintenance costs, materials (mulch, fencing, etc.), and professional services (landscaping, architecture, etc.). If you are interested in this community project, please contact us at gracklegreenatx@gmail.com. The families are currently discussing layout options with the adjacent property residents and owners, and will present to the May 17 neighborhood meeting for a vote.



Jennifer Potter-Miller at the Austin Marathon 5K

FRIENDS OF PATTERSON PARK (FOPP) NEWS AND EVENTS By Jennifer Potter-Miller

PARKS & RECREATION CARRIES OUT EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) has been hard at work at Patterson all spring. After installing the new picnic tables for the pavilion that Friends of Patterson Park purchased with a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation, they kept working on a long series of improvements that have given the park a much-appreciated overall update. To date these include installing new picnic tables, benches, trash cans, pet

waste dispensers, signage, and bollards; repainting cement tables; rebuilding the small pavilion near the basketball court; and repairs to the toddler playscape. The playground has been closed for the last month to replace the damaged flooring with wood chips. It is expected to reopen in early May. FoPP is deeply grateful for the attention and resources PARD has devoted to our neighborhood park. It has made a tremendous difference and Patterson is looking fantastic! We encourage everyone to take a walk around to see all the improvements sometime soon.

EVENTS GALORE AT THE PARK

There is a new monthly Family Yoga in the Park class at Patterson, hosted by the Austin Parks Foundation and The Little Yoga House. It will meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month through November 2017, under the oaks near the community garden. See austinparks.org/fitness for the full schedule.

We've hosted two volunteer work days at the park this spring. Austin Parks Foundation's It's My Park Day was on March 4, and volunteers including neighbors from all the around the park, AmeriCorps, and Girl Scouts from the Maplewood Elementary troop spread 20 cubic yards of mulch around 102 trees in the southeastern corner of the park. We had breakfast courtesy of Mi Madre's and Thunderbird, and are thankful for our neighborhood businesses' support for park.



Yoga in the Park, Photo by J Potter-Miller



Photo by J Potter-Miller

The 3rd Patterson Park Easter egg hunt was a blast! Since the playground is closed for repairs, we held the hunt at the east end of the park. The wide open spaces turned out to be perfect for the hunt, and dozens of kids from the neighborhoods around the park searched for almost 2,000 eggs. We spent the rest of the morning enjoying a potluck brunch, playing at the skate park, and exploring the community garden. FoPP is grateful to Servant Church for partnering with us for another unforgettable community event.

Coming up later this spring is the ribbon cutting celebration for Dance of the Cosmos, which is coming to Patterson Park in May. The kinetic sculpture by Jennifer Chenoweth of Fisterra Studio was inspired by Robert Putchiks Emotional Windows study and a Tibetan lotus mandala. It is part of the XYZ Atlas, a Hedonic Map of Austin, an interactive public art about our collective experiences. The party will be on Saturday, May 27, 10 a.m.–noon, and will include ice cream, a moonwalk, and live music by neighborhood musicians. Many thanks to all the neighborhoods surround the park, the City of Austin Cultural Arts Division, Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Austin Parks Foundation, and PSW Real Estate for their support for this project.

On April 8, a group of neighbors and members of Texas Theta Chi spent the morning mulching the heritage oak trees at the west end of the park. We used 20 yards of mulch from the City of Austin and tools from the Austin Parks Foundation to nourish and protect 43 of the most beloved trees at Patterson.

WHAT'S NEXT IN PATTERSON PARK?

Friends of Patterson Park (FoPP) is pleased to announce that we have just been awarded a Neighborhood Grant from the Austin Parks Foundation to replace the furnishings at the Patterson pool. The grant has been used to purchase two new picnic tables, six benches and a trash can to replace the existing ones, which are in severe disrepair. PARD has generously offered to install them before the start of swim season, and we look forward to enjoying a more comfortable pool area this summer.

SPRING FUNDRAISING A HUGE SUCCESS

A team of FoPP worked together during Amplify Austin, and raised a total of \$4,519. We brought together five business sponsors to provide matching funds, six individual fundraisers, and 71 neighbors and friends who supported our campaign. The total raised was three times the amount raised last year. We are filled with joy and gratitude at the generous outpouring of support!

A team of three neighbors also participated in the Austin Marathon races and raised \$948 as part of Team Austin Parks Foundation. APF generously offered to move all funds raised directly to the Patterson account. It was a really fun experience (the short race – marathons don't look fun at all!). We'd love to get a team of kids to run the 5K and raise funds for the park together next year.

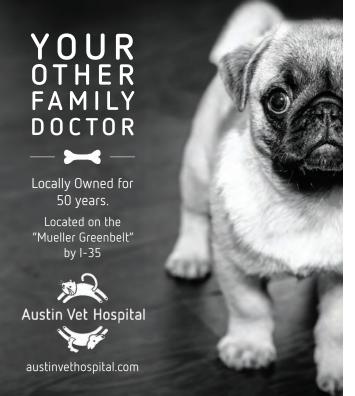




Photo by J Potter-Miller



Javier Java Team, Photo by J Potter-Miller

CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER



EDITOR, JANINE GROPP LAYOUT, JANINE GROPP THEATRE PAGES, MIKE SULLIVAN REPORTER (S), VACANT (YOU?) ADVERTISING, SARAH SWEENY & LEYLA COHLMIA

DISTRIBUTION, LAUREN YODER, TRAVIS POWER, AND THE FLEA FLICKERS

Contact@Cherrywood.org

During the past year, I have provided interviews to introduce readers of the Flea to the theatres across the street from the Cherrywood neighborhood. Past issues have spotlighted the Vortex Theatre (on Manor), the City Theatre (across Airport Blvd.), and the now-closed Salvage Vanguard Theatre.

My plan for this issue was to add to the profiles with an interview with Different Stages producer Norman Blumensaadt and director Bob Tolaro about the upcoming production of *The Dresser* at the Vortex (June 23 through July 15). I had hoped to catch them and Ann Marie Gordon, the resident set designer for the Vortex, for an interview at Thunderbird Coffeehouse about the upcoming production and how independent theatre companies with no space of their own use existing theatre spaces. -- *Mike Sullivan*

I've known both Bob and Norman since the early 1980's. I first met Bob when we performed together at the long-closed Country Dinner Playhouse. In 1980, having completed his MFA from UT, Norman, along with Lucy Lister and Angero Holt, formed the Small Potato Theatrical Company, which morphed into Different Stages in 1984. I have seen many of the over 130 productions Different Stages has presented over the years. Different Stages is one of the many independent Austinbased theatre companies that rent space. The collaboration is beneficial for both parties. Independents have space to produce, and the theaters benefit from the rent and the fleshing out of their own seasons. When asked, Norman stated that Different Stages has never had a theatre building. Recent history shows Different Stages renting space from the Santa Cruz Theatre (Mrs. Mannerly), City Theatre (The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia), and Trinity Street Theatre (Il Campiello). Norman has had



At the Vorterx, producer Norman Blumensaadt identifies the placement of a wall as Ann Marie Gordon points out height limitations and director Bob Tolaro looks on.



Ev Lunning (as Shakespearean actor, Sir) and Norman Blumensaat (as his longtime dresser) rehearse for the Different Stages production of The Dresser at the Vortex Theatre June 23 through July 15. (Photograph by Bret Brookshire)

> a long-standing relationship with the Vortex and its artistic director Bonnie Cullum, including the recent productions of *John Gabriel Borkman* and *Fahrenheit 451*. In addition to the space rental, Norman points out that the company still has to budget money for sets, costumes, props, lighting and crew, as well as provide storage space for reuasble

items. The planned interview never materialized. Instead, I found myself the observer of the first production meeting of producer, director and set designer for the show, The Dresser. Ann Marie began, "So, what do we need here?" Producer Blumensaadt and director Tolaro identified the needed elements for the set and for props and effects specified in the script. The main set for the play is the dressing room of a 1940's wardamaged British theatre where the dresser prepares the old actor Sir for his 227^{th} performance of Lear. Norman notes that finding a great white beard is necessary, as is Lear's

crown. The set must also include a corridor, the stage itself as seen from the rear and a backstage space for the win, rain, thunder and sound effects, which must be seen by the audience. The three discuss the need to rent or borrow a timpani, which the character of the dresser plays in the backstage area during the performance. With the basic set requirements in mind, they invite me to cross Manor Road to the Vortex for a continuation of the discussion in the actual space. I expect to see a set for the current production, but the current show is a Toni Bravo dance performance requiring no set. We walk into an essentially empty theatre. As an old theatre junkie I love being in an empty theatre space, a tabula rasa for theatrical magic. I observe as producer

and director move around the space, specifying the elements dictated by the script, and Ann Marie beginning to create verbally the set, and including the need for practical concerns such as audience sightlines and moveable seating units. The working relationship between independent theatre company and resident designer is solid; these three have worked together on many other successful productions. As we leave the Vortex, there is one question: where can we find a timpani?



Teatro Vivo is dedicated to producing quality bilingual theater accessible to all theater audiences and artists. Teatro Vivo reflects the heart and soul of the Latino reality by opening a unique window for all to share in this experience.

Schedule of performances mid-May through mid-August not available at press time. Contact TeatroVivo for coming productions at tearovivo.org



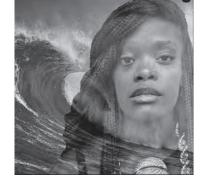


May 11-21, 2017 *Ocean*

Written and performed by Ebony Stewart

Weaving her evocative poetry, brilliant storytelling, feminist aesthetic, and spiritual depth, Ebony Stewart brings this new work to life with her unique and powerful performance. 2307 Manor Road Austin, TX 78722 BOX OFFICE 512-478-5282

http://www.vorrep.org



June 23 -July 15, 2017 *The Dresser* by Ronald Harwood Directed by Bob Tolaro

In war-torn Britain, aging actor/manager, 'Sir', is struggles to keep a grip on his sanity and complete his 227th performance of King Lear Ensuring that the show must go on is Norman, Sir's devoted dresser, who for sixteen years has fixed his wig, massaged his ego, reminded him of his opening lines and provided sound effects in the storm scene.

June 02-17, 2017 **Scheherazade** |pfesented by GenEnCo Directed by kt shorb

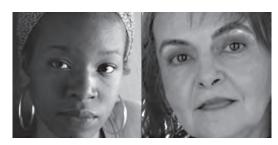
Amparo Garcia-Crow

The VORTEX Summer Youth program is a FREE award-winning, fun and educational summer theatre program for teenagers at The VOR-TEX. Participants are selected without regard to gender, color, ethnicity, economic status, disability, or ability. Theatrical experience is not required. Must make and keep a professional commitment. Rehearsals occur evenings and weekends in June and July. Auditions begin May 15. Call 512-478-5282 for audition appointments.



Saturday, May 20 at 4 PM - 9 PM Works Progress Austin: May 2017 Edition

4pm - *Amendments* by Taji Senior examines the pursuit of creating personhood for oneself after existing only as property. From a classroom in Chicago to a town hall meeting in Philadelphia, characters both real and imagined, implore one thing: a nation that considers their humanity too precious to be left as an afterthought or AMENDMENT. Directed by Matrex Kilgore.



Ebony Stewart

Susanna Dickinson Museum 411 E 5th St, Austin, Texas 7870 Hosted by Salvage Vanguard Theater Tickets: FREE at the door or online at salvagevanguard.org

> 7pm - *STRIP* by Ampara Garcia-Crow is an epic telling of the lives of the famous stripper Candy Barr, foul mouthed comedian Lenny Bruce, and entertainer extraordinaire Josephine Baker. A cautionary tale about the cost of "telling the truth." What each of these characters have in common is the burlesque world where each originated their famous acts. How Lenny, Candy, and Josephine intertwine and "bear it all" –is STRIP.



CITY THEATRE 3823 Airport Blvd. Suite D Austin, TX 78722 BOX OFFICE 512-524-2870 info@citytheatreaustin.org

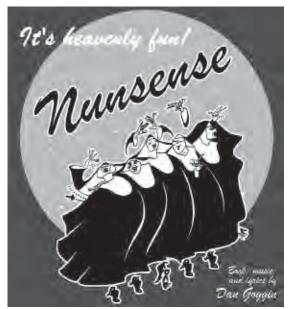
May 5 - 28 Nunsense

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Dan Goggin

Get thee to a nunnery with the hit musical comedy filled with so much sisterly love and good cheer that it has audiences around the world rolling in the aisles. An award-winning, laugh out loud show filled with songs, surprises, and good old fashioned comedy.

Bottom line – its heavenly fun!

Contact@Cherrywood.org



June 2 - 25 *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's most famous comedy battle of the sexes! The summer heats up with the popular rollicking comedy that pits the strong-willed Kate against the wily Petruchio in a battle of wits that makes the audience wonder just who is taming whom?

July 21 – August 13 *August: Osage County* by Tracy Letts

2008 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award Winner. A vanished father. A pill-popping mother. Three sisters harboring shady little secrets. On the Oklahoma plains, home is where the heartbreak is in this dark, unstoppable show that the New York Times calls ""the most exciting new American play Broadway has seen in years."

FRONT YARD GARDENING

By Joe Lenz

Growing vegetables in the front yard is one of the latest trends in sustainable living. Imagine how many square feet of unproductive space are right in front of your house. Now, imagine how you can turn this area into produce to put on your table every night.... produce that is delicious, organic, and homegrown. New or found materials (such as fence posts, used bricks, railroad ties, limestone, old lumber and even cinder blocks) can be used for construction of a front yard garden. Just be creative! Perennial and annual flowers can even be incorporated in your garden design for a splash of color and to bring inside your home for arrangements.

According to front yard gardeners, benefits include things other than fresh vegetables. For dog owners, front yard gardening allows separation of pets and produce. For neighbors, socialization can occur while you work in your garden. You will also find you are more apt to share produce with your neighbors which fosters community and connectivity. The key is to be creative, have fun, connect with people, and learn something new!

Cherrywooder Joe Lenz is a Landscape Designer and Owner of Lenz Landworks, LenzLandworks.com



DID YOU KNOW... YOU CAN USE VINEGAR INSTEAD OF ROUND UP!

According to award wining food, garden and lifestyle guru Kevin Lee Jacobs (AGardenForTheHouse.com), the weeds at left below, were photographed minutes before they were sprayed with store-brand, white vinegar and the next day, the weeds were gone. Use vinegar on gravel paths, brick walkways, and stone patios for an effective, eco-friendly alternative to Roundup. See Jacobs' site for the full article, the source of the following photos!



Photos by Joe Lenz





BEFORE VINEGAR



THE NEXT DAY



PUMP-SPRAYER

flea@cherrywood.org



Selmer's Arch draws on the influences of gypsy jazz, early swing music, Latin jazz, and acoustic folk. Anne-Marie Smart and Jim Foster formed Selmer's Arch in 2014 after playing together in various early jazz ensembles in Austin. Inspired by their love of both vintage jazz and contemporary music, they attempt to synthesize the most beautiful qualities of the old with the new. You can find them around town playing private events, local clubs, and festivals. They are working on a full length album to be released in 2017. Check them out at www.selmersarch.com.

Selmer's Arch is available for private events, weddings, and conferences. For booking inquiries email anne_marie.smart@utexas.edu.



Jim Foster

SUPPORT LOCAL MUSICIANS BY CONTRIBUTING TO HAAM

The Health Alliance for Austin Musicians (myhaam.org) has helped over 4,000 musicians access over 52,000 healthcare appointments valued at over \$30 million dollars since they began in 2005. These include routine dental work, doctor visits and prescriptions, psychiatric counseling sessions, eye exams, out-patient procedures, specialist referrals, hearing screenings and more.





Anne-Marie Smart with Kris Wade on bass.



MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS

By Dolly Ensey

B irds, cats, and a turtle or two ... when you find their babies what do you do? Be it a backyard bunny or a blotched water snake hatchling, experts are ready to help!

In general, wildlife offspring have little parental supervision so they might 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. The wrong food, or food fed incorrectly, greatly decreases survival. If an animal is so starved or dehydrated that it can't stay alive during the short time it takes

to reach a rehabilitator, sadly it's more than likely going to succumb regardless.

Take any injured wildlife or known orphans - including reptiles and amphibians -- to Wildlife Rescue of Austin (www.austinwildliferescue.org) in a warm, quiet, dark box, lined with tissue for baby birds and with soft fleecy material for small mammals. The same works for hosting babies overnight. Call ahead to notify WRA so they can begin prepping for the best care possible.

What's that bug clinging to the screendoor? Consult Austin Nature and Science Center: www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-nature-and-science-center

What new neighbors might you see? Cherrywood's Willowbrook Reach is home or travel destination for a variety of species: eastern screech owl, red shouldered hawk, Cooper's Hawk, great blue heron, yellow crowned night heron, snapping turtle, and two non-poisonous snakes The snakes are the blotched water snake and the Texas rat snake, as identified by Lee Clippard, a founder of Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach (FLWR): flwr. blogspot.com



 $A \circ u \circ s \circ t \circ i \circ n$ Nature & Science Center

Because even very young skunks can spray, skip bathing or using tomato juice on your dog. Instead quickly mix a quart of regular 3% hyrdrogen peroxide with 1/4 cup baking soda, add tsp of liquid soap, then wet the fur thoroughly, sponging the mixture around the face; avoid getting in eyes or nose. After every trace of the stinky thiol substance is gone, then rinse.



Faint meows from a shed or vehicle likely means you'll discover a kindle of kittens nestled or situated in a small space. If wedged in the undercarriage of a car or truck, contact Animal Protection (formerly known as Animal Control) to assist in careful extraction. Do the tiny mew makers look healthy but younger than 6 weeks (see below), leave them alone? Mother cats often



leave to search for food for several hours before returning to their kittens. Six to 12 weeks olds can be brought to the shelter where they can be spayed/

neutered and returned or kept for adoption -- depending on age, overall health and whether friendly or feral.

http://www.austintexas.gov/page/community-cats

www.austinwildliferescue.org -- 512.472.9453



We need your help keeping Austin No Kill!

MUSTANGS MARCH FOR KINDNESS THROUGH PATTERSON PARK By Jennifer Potter-Miller

On Friday, March 10, the last day before Spring Break, the entire student body marched from campus to Patterson Park in the first Maplewood March for Kindness. Teachers, parents and staff joined them, as did members of the McCallum marching band and cheerleading squad. The band led the way down Maplewood Ave., and younger students walked hand in hand with students from older grades. Parent volunteers were stationed along the road to keep traffic away.

The theme of the march was "No Place for Hate," and there were



songs, chants and guest speakers after everyone gathered at the park. Officer Kelly from Austin Police Department spoke to the students about being a No Place for Hate school and had all students recite our Resolution of Respect together. Jared Lindauer, Maplewood parent and board member of the Anti-Defamation

Photo by J. Potter-Miller

League (Austin) talked to them about the importance and power of spreading kindness at every opportunity, and Lauren Rizzo from the Refugee Services of Texas spoke about how our values as a No Place for Hate school make ours a welcoming community for ALL families!

REFRESHING OUR CAMPUS

The Maplewood Gardening and Landscaping Committee has big dreams for our campus! We held a work day on March 23 to refresh our school's vegetable garden boxes for the spring 2017 growing season, do some general cleanup of the grounds, and plant four trees. There are also plans in progress to build an outdoor classroom deck in the school's courtyard, and we have solicited a proposal from Delwood 2 artist and Maplewood parent Chris Levack to create a sculpture for the school. Plans for next year include applying for funds to install a demonstration food forest at the entrance to the school, and continuing to beautify the campus with native plants. If you are interested in helping with classroom gardens, please email periwinkledove@me.com.

MUSTANGS STAMPEDE AROUND MUELLER LAKE

The annual Mustang Stampede was held at Mueller on April 1st, and over 240 students participated in the fun run. They raised a whopping \$26,852 for the PE department and toward our BIG Goal of providing a 1:1 ratio of Chromebooks for kids in Grades 3-6, a computing lab for grades Pre-k-2 and a 3:1 ratio of Mobile devices for all kids. There was also a rock climbing wall, bouncy houses, a special performance by the Maplewood Teacher Band and the annual teacher experience raffle.



March for Kindness, Photo by J. Potter-Miller

GREEN TEAM IN ACTION! By Amanda Braziel

The Maplewood Green Team, in conjunction with Friends of Cherryowood Green, participated in the Keep Austin Beautiful Clean Sweep on April 8. It was a lovely, cool, mosquito-free morning. About 13 volunteers, including several students from Maplewood and folks from the surrounding community showed up to clean Upper Boggy Creek between Cherrywood Green and Lafayette Avenue. We filled several bags of trash and recycling and pulled out a couple of bulky items, including box springs and a massive tangle of wires that had evidently been left behind by utility crews. The most interesting piece of litter we recovered was a love note! We moved some rocks and natural debris, as well as algae overgrowths to improve the flow of water in the creek. We even saw fish upstream from the Green! Unfortunately, we also discovered a HUGE deposit of singleuse styrofoam and plastic water bottles that we did not have enough bags or volunteers to completely remove that day. We really need to get back in there to remove all of that pollution soon.

Sunshine and Emily Mathon led a group of volunteers in a KAB cleanup of Willowbrook Reach, and they picked up 5 bags' worth of trash from creek. If you are interested in assisting with future Green Team-sponsored clean ups, please email me at ABraziel@austinisd.org.



Maplewood Green Team, Photo by William Holleman





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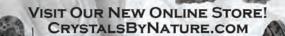
TREASURES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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ANYWAYS By Kate Carmichael

Last Tuesday, I was running on Cherrywood Road, and I kicked something. It felt like a branch or twig but, upon closer inspection, it was a snake recoiled

and ready to bite! I narrowly escaped catastrophe. I was so relieved not to be on the ground screaming and snake bitten that it made me think of one of the most important components of happiness: gratitude. Had my dull, average Tuesday been derailed by a venomous monster, the rest of the week would have looked very different. Oh, how we take boring, old Tuesdays for granted. I believe it was Colette who said, "What a wonderful life I've had! I only wished I realized it sooner".

And so it is, a cruel twist that we are wired to notice and fixate on the things that could go better rather than relish all that is to be enjoyed now. I have the incredible privilege of working with teens in our community as a Child and Family Therapist, and I often think - this is it - this is your childhood, your memories, your first love, your first car, your first date, your first kiss, to be with teenagers as they experience so many firsts is both exciting and full of hope. At yet, naturally, all they want is to be older. Sometimes this is how life operates, pushing us to want something more, something better, or something else. It is a sensation that is part of the universal human experience. But to be content with all we have is a gift that turns dull Tuesdays into a lovely day, a cup of coffee into a morning ritual, a changing season into a chance to watch as the Earth reinvents itself once again. I'm convinced cultivating this practice is what makes life so sweet. So, my fellow Cherrywooders, let us enjoy this Spring Day and all it has to offer. Life is waiting for us to realize how wonderful it can be. Also, as an important Public Service Announcement, watch out for snakes!

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