



NOVEMBER 2019 | VOLUME 25 | NUMBER 4 // NEWSLETTER OF THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIA-

New Land Development Code Moving Forward

y the time you read this, the Land Development Code Revision (the sequel to the ill-fated CodeNEXT effort), will have completed the initial round of public meetings ahead of a first Public Hearing at City Council in mid-November (we'll post details on NeighborNet) and possible Council action in December. Final action will likely happen in the spring of 2020. While it may seem like it's happening fast at the moment, this process has roots in the Imagine Austin comprehensive plan which was adopted by City Council in 2012, https://www.austintexas.gov/imagineaus-

See the last version of the Flea had a great article, "A Brief History of Comprehensive Planning in Austin" by Dave Westenbarger, that explains the Imagine Austin process leading to this effort to overhaul the actual zoning and building regulations that are intended to help the City shape growth toward the future vision of our city framed in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

The header for the City of Austin website, www.austintexas.gov/LDC, states "The Land Development Code determines how land can be used throughout the city, including what can be built, where it can be built, and how much can (or cannot) be built."

Everyone agrees the land use code is long overdue for a rewrite. There are numerous articles in the Statesman, Austin Chronicle, Austin Monitor and Community Impact print media. We encourage you to read multiple sources to get a full view of the issues and questions.

For neighborhoods in the urban core, like Cherrywood, the LDC means fairly significant increases in what can be built on the "corridors" through our neighborhood - E. 38 D St. and Manor Rd. in particular. This website has maps showing the proposed impacts city-wide: https://www.austintexas.

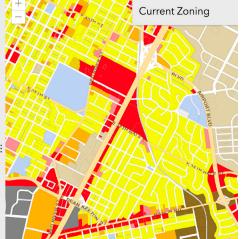
gov/ldc-participate, and you can even look up the area around your own residence in a side by side comparison of current zoning with the proposed new zoning. Scroll down to the "District 9" link and check out the changes on Cherrywood that are split across the first and second page.

From one perspective, the city has very justifiable goals it's trying to achieve to

US city, need to avoid the paralysis lurking in conflict and decide a direction to go in how we shape the change in our neighborhoods and thereby shape the future of the city.

We'll discuss this at our regular CNA meeting and will announce other opportunities for you to get involved a voice your opinion on NeighborNet.





make housing abundant to increase affordability, and complete the vision established by Imagine Austin. This is easier to achieve with a city-wide rewrite of the code to allow for increased development than to go project by project, lot by lot.

From another perspective, the rate of Austin growth is already changing the character of traditional neighborhoods too fast, which might affect property tax as well as create emotional burdens for long-time residents. Yes, the code needs a rewrite, but neighborhoods should retain a strong influence in shaping growth incrementally.

Change is inevitable. This is one of those classic no-right-answer moments where we, collectively, as a neighborhood and a top-10

November 16 & 17, 23 & 24 EAST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR November 20 **CNA MEETING** December 7 & 8 CHERRYWOOD ART FAIR

CITY WATCH

Maplewood School Closure Decision Deferred Until Spring 2020

by Jim Walker and Dusty Harschman

n early September, the Austin Independent School District (AISD) released a draft set of proposals entitled "School Changes 2019" (austinisd. org/schoolchanges/scenarios), intended to reimagine, reinvest, and reinvent Austin ISD. The document opens, "Schools are often the heart of the community where people learn, play, meet, share ideas and access resources. That's why it's so important we do everything we can to strengthen our campus communities to best serve our students and families."

"School Changes 2019" contains many districtwide proposals designed to serve all AISD students and families. These include extending care and educational opportunities outside the traditional school day, enhancing multicultural studies in the classrooms, incorporating cultural proficiency and inclusionary practices among all district staff, working toward affordable housing options for teachers and staff, and re-aligning K-12 feeder patterns.

To fund a portion of these School Changes, the district has proposed closing and consolidating several campuses. Northeast Austin would face a significant number of school closures, with September's Version 1.0 closing four elementary schools. Of most interest to Cherrywooders is the scenario titled



MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER AISD SCHOOL CHANGES MEETING

CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

AISD has

been vetting

all the over-

all proposal

a variety of

meetings in

September, October, and

November

district,

Maplewood

parents and

Cherrywood

residents

actively

participated

Maplewood

meetings. Τ h

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"Maplewood/Campbell Consolidation and PTA also hosted a large community meeting on September 25, summarized at www. maplewoodelementary.com and is not choosing to take an organizational position regarding Maplewood since there is varying opinions within the school community. When it

Blackshear School for Digital Media and Performing Arts" which would effectively close Maplewood ES and consolidate students with Campbell ES by as early as 2023 (tinyurl. com/y6nbkrfv).



ACTING CHAIR Jim Walker VICE CHAIR Jeremy Klitzman SECRETARY Sharon Lvnch TREASURER Allen Hah STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS Matt Harriger, Girard Kinney, Evie Kling, Stefan Schuster, Jonathan Schwartz Jules Vieau, Jim Walker Contact us: steering@cherrywood.org

FLEA MANAGING EDITOR & PHOTOGRAPHER Jennifer Potter-Miller FLEA CONTENT EDITOR Jim Walker FLEA AD MANAGER Allen Hah Contact The FLEA: flea@cherrywood.org



Wednesday, Nov. 20, 6:30 pm, at Servant Church



- Land Development Code Rewrite
- Maplewood School Changes
- Neighborhood Committee Updates
- Steering Committee Elections ACTION

Stay Connected

CNA WEBSITE www.cherrywood.org **NEIGHBORNET** groups.yahoo.com/group/NeighborNet FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/cna.austin and www.facebook.com/cherrywood78722 UBC WEBSITE upperboggycreek.com

CITY WATCH

Maplewood School Closure contd.

comes to specifically the Maplewood/Campbell consolidation they are encouraging parents, graduates of Maplewood and community supporters to get involved and take leadership roles to pursue action as they see fit – including the www.weheartmaplewood.org site.

On November 1st, AISD released Version 2 of School Changes 2019, delaying decisions on several scenarios until Spring 2020, including Maplewood's, "to continue planning with the community to advance the scenario, or to withdraw the scenario". The key considerations for the delay are:

The district understands how critical Campbell's digital media program and Maplewood's two-way dual language program are to their communities.

Although both Maplewood and Campbell have arts-rich programming, the district needs additional time to continue conversations with the communities about how the unique characteristics of each school

could be merged.

The district would need to plan the timing of the closure strategically as the Campbell campus cannot currently accommodate all students from the two campuses.

If you wish to communicate directly with the district, you may also reach out to the AISD superintendent Paul Cruz (superintendent@austinisd.org) and the AISD Board of Trustees (trustees@austinisd.org).

The Maplewood PTA would like to remind Cherrywooders that they can continue to help the Maplewood community now by volunteering for the school, doing something special for ftttteee special for teachers and administration and donating funds. You can learn more about how to help now by going to the support page on Maplewood Elementary website.



CHERRYWOOD CALENDAR of CULTURAL EVENTS

CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE

August 23

Oi Nomas with Luis Cavazos

October 6, 10:30 am
Oh Antonio Kids Show

January 4 & February 1 Neal Mehta

BATCH BEER & KOLACHES

Last Monday of the month, 8 pm

Classical Jam, open chamber music reading night

December 14

Austin Flea Pop-Up Flea Market

1st and 3rd Fridays

Full Sass Trivia

AUSTIN FILM SOCIETY

November 23

Goodfellas

November 30

The Dark Crystal

VORTEX REPERTORY CO.

November 17

Austin Witches Market

November 22-December 14

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein

December 19-January 9
The Muttcracker (SWEET!)

MUELLER FARMERS MARKET

Wednesdays, 5-8 pm Sundays, 10 am-2 pm

NATURE'S TREASURES

November 23-24

Customer Appreciation Sale

February 1

Spring Jewelry Bazaar

CHERRYWOOD

November 16-17, 23-24

East Austin Studio Tour

MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

December 4-6

Book People In-School Book Fair Library Fundraiser

December 7-8

Cherrywood Art Fair

December 20-January 6
Winter Break

Fridays in January
Parent Tours

PATTERSON PARK

December 27, 6 pm

Luminarias at the Park



GREEN SPACES

Patterson Park News

Neighbors gathered at Patterson Park for a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration of the two projects completed this year at the park. District 9 Council Member Kathie Tovo, Parks and Recreation Director, the CEO of the Austin Parks Foundation and Program Manager for Public Works' Neighborhood Partnering Program were there for the ribbon cutting ceremony. There was free face painting and snowcones, and it was a beautiful morning with our park community.



COLIN WALLS (APF), TRACY HO AND MARCUS PRIMM (NPP), J. POTTER-MILLER (FOPP), COUNCIL MEMBER KATHIE TOVO AND KIMBERLY MCNEELEY (PARD) AT SEPT. 9 RIBBON CUTTING

If you haven't been to the park recently, stop by to swing on the monkey bars, rest in the shade on one of the new benches, see

how far you've walked on the new cedar trail markers, and look for the other new furnishings, including nine new recycling bins (halleluvah!).

In October, the Parks and Recreation Department repaired and repainted the basketball court, a project many many years overdue. It looks great and has already gotten lots of use. FoPP submitted an application for grant funds for additional to make improvements to the park's basketball court and baseball field, including a shade canopy over the court. We hope to hear whether it was approved in the new year. For more information on this and other projects, visit friendsofpattersonpark.org.



ILLUSTRATED MAP BY CAITLIN B. ALEXANDER

23rd Annual Neighborhood Tree Planting

The annual Cherrywood fall tree planting was held Saturday Nov. 2nd. Volunteers planted five trees and delivered 19, bringing the grand total planted under this program to 723! This year was more of an 'Uber tree delivery' giving neighbors door delivery service and instructions for planting their trees. A special thanks to Girard Kinney and Dave Westenbarger for helping with the plantings.

The most popular tree was the Anacacho Orchid, with nine deliveries. This is a small tree that grows to 8-12 feet tall, has white orchid-like flowers in the spring, and is suited for full or part sun areas. The most important thing about planting new trees is watering them. Putting a tree in the ground without watering it gives it little chance of survival. Since our summers are very hot and rain is unpredictable, a tree needs to be watered for its first few years to get established. You can use Treegators, a five gallon bucket with a hole in it, or a slow dripping hose to give trees a deep watering with 10-15 gallons a week.

As an added bonus to expanding the urban forest, the tree planting raised \$475 for Cherrywood Green. These donations are deposited in the Friends of Cherrywood Green account at the Austin Parks Foundation for future park improvement projects. If you have any general questions on trees or wish to take part in future projects, please feel free to email michael.damal@gmail.com.

High School Seniors Clean Up Willowbrook Creek

A group of 25 high school seniors gathered at 1717 E. 40th St. early on Sunday, September 8, to collect trash stabbers and gloves before heading to Wilshire Wood's neighborhood creek. Organized by Thana McLain, the young adults divided into teams and cleared the creek and surrounding area of all debris - from plastic bags to rusted metal - to create a better environment for birds, bugs, and neighbors to walk their dogs. When asked why he organized the creek clean up, 17-year-old McLain replied. "I'm tired of hearing the whining about everything not getting done. I didn't think a lot about it. I just did it."



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Flea Completes 25th Year

by Vivienne Heines

n a Cherrywood long, long ago, feral cats roamed freely, the future of the as-yet-unknown Mueller subdivision was hotly debated, and the thriving green space that is Willowbrook Reach was just a glimmer in a tree-hugging neighbor's eye.





THE NEW NEWSLETTER OF THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION Vol. I, No.

That "long, long ago" was actually a mere 25 years. Here is a quick and highly subjective look at some of the significant changes that have occurred since The Flea began its quarterly chronicles of Cherrywood neighborhood life and lifestyles.

The Flea, "the new newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association" (CNA), was born in September 1995. Volume I, Issue 1 looked very much like a typewritten letter with basic information but little attention to design. However, the issues of the day still seem relevant now, such as how to increase participation in the Cherrywood

Neighborhood Association, complaints about cars speeding through the neighborhood and illegal parking, and concerns about increasing property taxes. A few months later, the CNA conducted a survey and found the following to be the top issues:

- Neighborhood beautification
- Sidewalks and zoning
- The Mueller airport redevelopment
- Neighborhood ecology
- Capitol Metro issues (hike and bike trail)
- Neighborhood security

An ever-increasing number of real estate ads in The Flea reflect the demand for homes in the neighborhood. At the same time, there appeared to be a similarly increasing feral cat population that was causing concern. The April 1998 issue describes the creation of a "Cat in the Hood" volunteer spaying effort intended to reduce the wild feline population.

The April 1999 issue includes an announcement for a "wake" to be held in honor of the demise the Robert Mueller Airport, which closed May 2.

From cats to dogs - by April 2000, the issue was loose dogs, some of which may have contributed to the reduction in the visibility of feral felines?

The newsletter's "entomologically correct" logo, known as Bitus the Flea, was apparently challenged by a few readers. So the October 2001 issue challenged readers to come up with a "more suitable" mascot. Stay tuned ...

Apparently, "the lack of response was deafening" so Bitus it remained. And still is to this day.

In April 2002, the Friends of Patterson Park was formed and launched its efforts for beautification and improvements of the park, activities which continue to this day.

Biting dogs, increased traffic and shrubbery that blocks intersections were among the issues in 2003 and 2004. Pet owners were reminded about local leash laws, scooping your pup's poop, and dealing with lost pets. The consensus seemed to be that neighbors could talk through these issues, rather than report the perpetrator and pups!

Jumping ahead 10 years - The Flea had doubled in size, vastly improved its design and layout, and created some mighty clever h e a d l i n e s "French Place Turns into Hellscape" described the annual children's Halloween parade in February 2014; and "Mulch to Think About" was a feature about the mulching of Patterson Park in May 2014.

Forty-two new trees were planted at the newly created Willowbook

Reach, according to the August 2014 issue! The creative spirit of the neighborhood also blossomed in the newspaper at this time, with the addition of some lovely original poetry: "One Song at a Time" by Limi and, in the next issue, "Ode to the Sun" by a fifth grader named Ellie Greene.

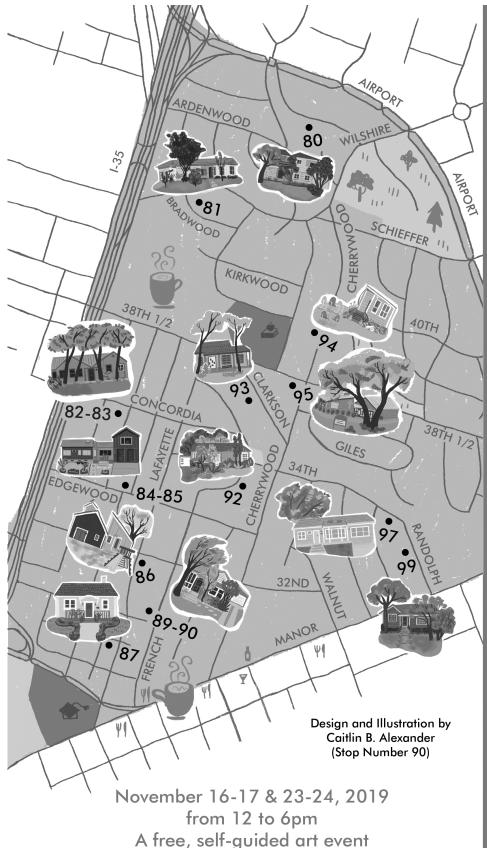
The tendency to provocative and head-turning headlines continued, with an article titled "Gangs, Hookers, Blood and Tacos," that detailed the history of Mi Madres Restaurant in February 2015. A few months later, the newsletter came in at a whopping 16 pages - seven of which were real estate advertisements!

So many topics in the February 2016 issues volunteer opportunities, the Cherrywood Chess Club, Cherrywood Coffeehouse, Digital Billboards, Mueller updates, travel, businesses, musicians, and Maplewood Elementary School, Skipping ahead to 2019n - new restaurants come and go, property taxes keep rising and the flourishing wild (and wildish) animal population now includes coyotes. Maybe that's what happened to the feral cats. Stay tuned!



He described a thin, 60-ish woman whose dog slipped free of its collar, rushed at him and chomped his left hand down to the bone. The

---- NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



- 80 Derek Bishop 1407 Crestwood Rd. Apt B
- 81 Charles Heppner 4001 Bradwood Rd. in the garage
- **82** Jennie Tudor Gray 3414 Hollywood Ave. back apartment
- 83 Kathleen Burnside 3414 Hollywood Ave. back apartment
- 84 SXD Jewelry 1304 Edgewood Ave. in the garage
- 85 Nikki Alexander Atkinson 1304 Edgewood Ave. in the garage
- 86 Jennifer Balkan3109 Lafayette Ave. in the back
- 87 Greg Rainford 2808 Lafayette Ave.
- 89 Karen Alexander 2806 French Pl. in the back
- 90 Caitlin B. Alexander 2806 French Pl. in the back
- 92 David Hay 13 Kern Ramble St.
- 93 T.R. Rodriquez
- 94 Karen Maness 3902 Cherrywood Rd. in the back
- 95 Servant Church Austin 1605 E. 38 1/2 St. Servant Church
- 97 Janet Bernson 3400 Clarkson Ave.
- 99 "The Eureka Room" Mike Stefanik 3312 Randolph Rd.

EAST AUSTIN STUDIO TOUR

CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD BIKEWAYS

The Austin Department of Transportation (ADT) held an open house at Maplewood on Sept. 24 to share a proposal for neighborhood bikeways on Cherrywood Ave, Wilshire Blvd, and Schieffer Ave. According to ADT, "neighborhood bikeways are local streets where motor vehicle traffic speeds and volumes are kept low to make it safer and more comfortable to bicycle, walk, and play. Neighborhood bikeways enhance local streets by adding pavement markings ("sharrows") and wayfinding signage, managing vehicle speeds and volumes, and improving crossings of major streets."

A preliminary design was available at the open house and online for public comment until Oct. 27. ADT will now consider feedback received and finalize the plan. Implementation is planned for 2020. This project would be funded by the 2016 Mobility Bond.



Halloween Parade on French Place

Photos by Susan Potter





I live in the neighborhood. I work in the neighborhood.

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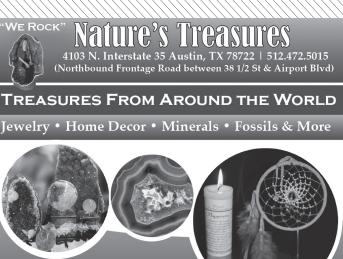




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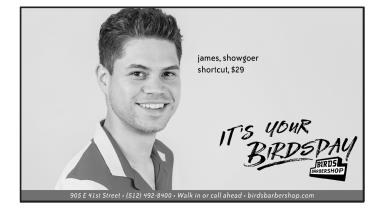
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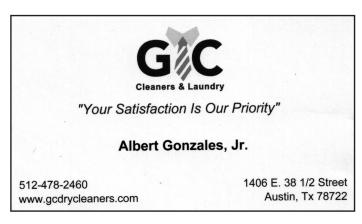
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