

# THE *Mlea*



TX PRIMARY

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VOTE!

FEBRUARY 2020 | VOLUME 26 | NUMBER 1 // NEWSLETTER OF THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIA-

## I-Spy Neighborhood Wildlife at Grackle Green

by Flea Staff

Cherrywood’s newest green space, the Grackle Green Pocket Park coming soon to Manor Road, recently took a few baby steps and a few big ones. Volunteers and staff at the Public Works Department have done lots of planning since the project was awarded a Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP) grant by the City of Austin in 2017.

The park will have a winding path lined with fruit trees and a fenced area with a small playground, herb garden, and benches. The construction permit was approved last fall, and playground equipment is packed up and ready for delivery. A show-stopping piece of nature art has just been fabricated and will form the two gates to the park (more info below). All of the engraved donor bricks with sweet and silly messages will be delivered this month. Now we just have to hold our breath for NPP to find us a spot on the City’s construction schedule this spring. Keep your fingers crossed and an eye out for a groundbreaking crew near the corner of Dancy Street!

This park’s signature artwork, “Cherrywood I-Spy”, was commissioned through the City’s Urban Forestry Grant.

Park organizer Lindsay Olinde says the initial concept was “inspired by wanting to connect curiosity to nature, my love for the “I-Spy” picture games, magical gates in “Secret Garden” books and movies, and the two big pecan trees at the park, which resemble the Haitian-style Tree of Life when grackles and doves visit.”

Local artist Caitlin B. Alexander wove the initial design concept into a poster-scale illustration the organizers are using for fundraising. She incorporated wildlife based on 20 or so neighbor muses that let us know their favorite



Cherrywood critters. Two ecologists with the City helped identify a few local extras that are often overlooked and helped with the names.

Caitlin and Lindsay converted the illustration into a positive-negative design for the panels that will be welded onto the park’s two gates. Austin Metalworks cut the steel panels using a waterjet technique. Caitlin’s illustration will also

be part of the nature-education sign next to the gates. Five volunteers translated all the names to Spanish for the sign. So much collaboration! Can you find the leopard moth?



**February 19**  
CNA MEETING

**April 11**  
PATTERSON EASTER EGG HUNT

**April 25**  
MAPLEWOOD EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

## Land Use Code Changes Continue

by Jim Walker

Besides coyotes, the hot topic across central Austin neighborhoods is the ongoing City of Austin Land Development Code (“LDC”) rewrite. For background please refer to the August 2019 Flea article, “A Brief History of Comprehensive Planning in Austin”; for a review of where we were before the holidays, check out the November 2019 Flea article, “Land Development Code Moving Forward,” all available at [www.cherrywood.org](http://www.cherrywood.org), along with various documents mentioned below.

Over the holidays the Steering Committee used the Guiding Principles to create an alternative zoning map and started to outline some policy ideas that CNA might put forward to the City Council and staff. The policy ideas are more programmatic and are opportunities for neighborhood engagement in shaping growth, such as design review and ensuring housing affordability. These ideas can be pursued regardless of how the zoning map changes.

In January we held two special meetings in Cherrywood to share the alternative map and these policy directions. We had stellar turnout from many neighbors with diverse perspectives on the LDC rewrite overall and what specific actions Cherrywood NA should consider.

Opinions varied from a desire for increasing the amount of new housing that could be

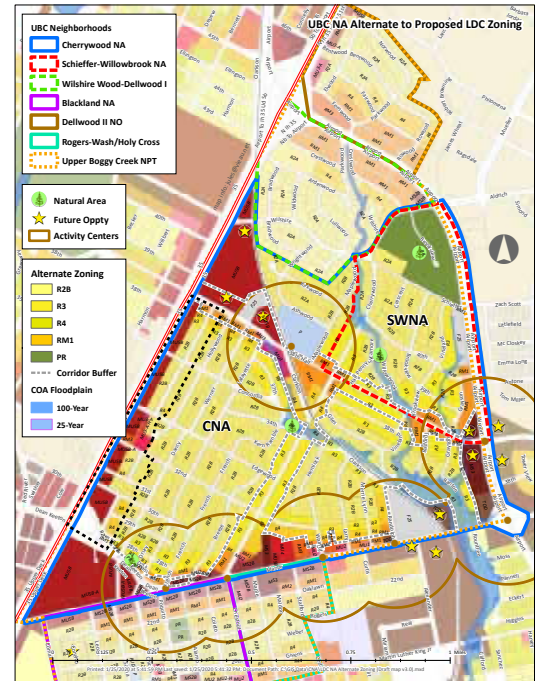
built in Cherrywood beyond what the City has proposed, to pushing back on the entire LDC process; there were different opinions on how much or little we should try to influence the design of new housing. Many people were concerned about the impact of reduced on-site parking requirements and potential demolitions of existing housing while others were excited about the potential for historic status in corners of the neighborhood.

The Steering Committee listened to the feedback and made many adjustments to the map, mostly toward further reducing the depth of the “transition zones” - how deep toward the interior of the neighborhood where up-zoning is proposed. On the flip side, we up-zoned some lots above what the City’s map proposed, including proposing Cherrywood Road as a sub-corridor within the neighborhood and Robinson St. and other properties adjacent IH-35 as a ‘future planning area’ once TXDoT’s plans are known. Check out the CNA website to see the latest alternative map.

We also heard a lot of support for a more proactive neighborhood approach to affordability - to preserve existing affordable housing units and their

residents, both owners and renters, as well as ensuring new housing includes as much affordability as possible.

City Council is likely to finalize the LDC over the next couple of months. Come to the CNA meeting on Feb. 19 to learn more!



ACTING CHAIR Jim Walker  
 VICE CHAIR Jeremy Klitzman  
 SECRETARY Sharon Lynch  
 TREASURER Allen Hah  
 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
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CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# Meetings



## Cherrywood Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 6:30 pm, at Servant Church



### Agenda

- Update on LDC process, maps and policies
- Steering Committee Election
- Neighborhood Committee Updates
- Coyote presentation February 24th

### Stay Connected

CNA WEBSITE [www.cherrywood.org](http://www.cherrywood.org)  
 NEIGHBORNET [groups.yahoo.com/group/NeighborNet](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NeighborNet)  
 FACEBOOK [www.facebook.com/cherrywood78722](http://www.facebook.com/cherrywood78722)  
 UPPER BOGGY GREEK PLANNING TEAM WEBSITE [upperboggycreek.com](http://upperboggycreek.com)



## Stars Café Reboot

In the vast ecosystem of Austin eateries, the Stars Café (formerly Star Seeds Café) has carved out a niche – 24-hour diner food with an “Age of Aquarius” ambiance. The exterior’s quirky color scheme is augmented by planetary-themed metal mobiles that sway gently in the breeze from vehicle traffic on the adjacent IH-35 service road.

Inside, the decor is lime green and various shades of purple, accented by fluorescent lighting. A mishmash of art – from a print of Edward Hopper’s iconic 1942 “Nighthawks” painting to a mural of the solar system – accompany vinyl-covered booths and counter stools. And then there’s the entryway’s statement piece of furniture – a wonderfully ostentatious high-backed loveseat upholstered in deep purple crushed velvet.

This 1980s favorite is under new ownership and has been spruced up inside and out. The new owners are Shannon Sedwick and Michael Shelton according to the Austin Business Journal. The pair also own Esther’s Follies downtown. The menu has been updated but still features the basic staples that have sated the after-hours appetites of hungry customers for decades – thick burgers, chicken fried steak and fries, sandwiches, and round-the-clock breakfast offerings (omelettes, pancakes and breakfast tacos).

On a recent weekend visit, we found ourselves among a diverse clientele – university students, a couple with their young child, middle-aged women, and a trio of briefcase-toting men in dark suits and ties. Service was prompt, and our meals arrived quickly. As for the food – what can you say? Fads come and go but the basics of a good cup of hot coffee, a solid eggs-and-bacon platter, or a cheeseburger with crispy fries, will endure forever. Just like, as its fans hope, this place will.

*Location: 3101 N. IH-35 Frontage Rd., Austin*



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## CHERRYWOOD CALENDAR of CULTURAL EVENTS

### CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE

February 23, 10am  
*Stacy Gray Kids Show*

March 14, 6pm  
*Local Man Dies*

March 18-21, 1pm  
*SXSW Day Show*

### HAYMAKER

February 22  
*National Margarita Day*  
March 17  
*St. Patrick’s Day*  
March 28, 2pm  
*Crawfish Boil*

### AUSTIN FILM SOCIETY

February 18, 7pm  
*Casablanca*  
February 22, 7pm  
*Miss Congeniality*  
February 29-March 5  
*Portrait of a Woman on Fire*

### VORTEX REPERTORY CO.

February 19-23  
*OUTsider Fest*  
March 14, 2pm  
*Butterfly Garden Party*  
April 1-4  
*Selfie!*

### NATURE’S TREASURES

March 14-22  
*Spring Showcase - Tucson Trunk Show*  
April 4, 10am  
*Spiritual Life Fair*

### MAPLEWOOD ELEMENTARY

March 12-13  
*Mustang Olympics*  
April 15-18  
*Scholastic Book Fair*  
April 25  
*Spring Fling Community Picnic*

### PATTERSON PARK

February 25, 4-6pm  
*Mardi Gras Celebration*  
March 5, 4-6pm  
*Amplify Patterson Ice Cream Party*  
March 7, 9am-noon  
*It’s My Park Day*  
April 11, 10am  
*Easter Egg Hunt*

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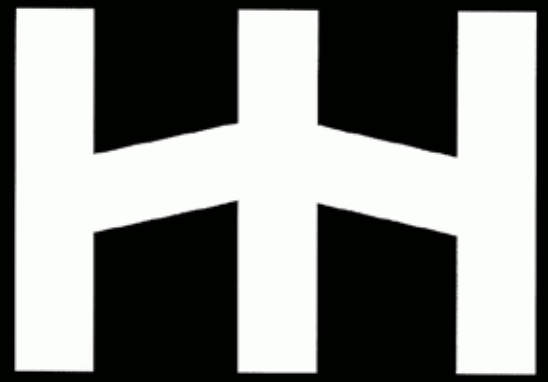
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