Cherrywood has a new listery! Join at cherrywood.groups.io





FEBRUARY 2021 | VOLUME 27 | NUMBER 1 // NEWSLETTER OF THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Bikeway Project Will Enhance Neighborhood Mobility

by Sean Griffin

fter eighteen months of design and public feedback, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Bikeways improvement project now moves to implementation, with the first phases of construction slated to begin by this spring. When complete, the improvements will enhance bicycle and pedestrian mobility through the east-west corridor from Airport Boulevard to I-35 via Schieffer Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard, providing a direct con-

nection between Cherrywood and the Hancock neighborhood and shopping center. The project also includes improvements along the north-south route on Cherrywood Road from Airport to $38\,1/2$ Street, and builds on the longstanding goal to improve mobility along the Capital Metro Red Line.

City-designated Neighborhood Bikeways are streets where vehicle traffic speeds and volumes are kept low to make it safer and more desirable to bike and walk. They connect neighborhoods to the All Ages and All Abilities Bicycle Network. The Cherrywood improvements will be funded with \$688,000 from the mobility bond passed in 2016.

Design of the project kicked off with an open house at Maplewood Elementary in September 2019, paired with a thirty-day initial public comment period and a survey that found more than 75 percent support. Comments submitted as part of the survey resulted in specific changes

to the project design, which underwent two revisions before its finalization at the beginning of this year.

Aside from new road markings, signage, and the repair, relocation, and addition of speed cushions, the most notable feature

along Cherrywood Road will be a pinch point added to the section that passes over Boggy Creek at the west entrance to Willowbrook Reach, which will slow traffic by allowing only one car through at a time. The route along Schieffer Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard will get new speed humps; the existing speed cushions will be converted to speed humps.

One of the most transformative improvements will occur at the three-way intersection at the triangle island where Schieffer,

Wilshire Blvd

Patterson
Neighborhood Park

Schieffer Ave

Scott St

Maplewood
Elementary

Fasting Aldrich St

Purport Park

Schieffer Ave

Scott St

Fasting Half St

Cherrywood, and Wilshire converge in three different intersections. Two crossing islands and improved curbs will enhance visibility and safety, especially for pedestrians. One intersection will be eliminated by closing the west portion of Schieffer to vehicle through

All Ages and Abilities

Network

Project Limits

traffic between Cherrywood and Wilshire. Continuing west along Wilshire, the north side of the street will have sidewalks all the way to I-35.

Significant improvements will enable safer, more efficient bike and pedestrian access westward, even beyond Cherrywood. A two-way bike lane will begin at the corner of Wilshire, lead west underneath the upper deck, and proceed north into the southeast corner of the Hancock neighborhood. New

sidewalks will shepherd pedestrians under the upper deck, improved curbs and ramps will help separate vehicle traffic, and push-button signals will facilitate safe crossing.

The project won't only improve mobility; it will also improve runoff. In coordination with Watershed Protection, three new rain diversion features will improve runoff and help prevent contaminants from entering the creek. These "rain gardens" collect stormwater flows and provide an area where water can seep into the ground slowly, which will reduce flooding and filter out pollutants and other sediments before the water eventually drains into local waterways. As an added bonus, rain gardens also are great for attracting birds, butterflies, and other wildlife!

While the exact timeline for the various phases of construction is still in development, Austin's Transportation Department will email project updates in advance so

that residents are aware of construction and how long to expect it.

0.25 Miles

For more information about the project, including detailed maps of the improvements and status updates, visit www.tiny.cc/bikeways.

I-35 Capital Express Project Update

by Brandy Savarese

herrywood Neighborhood Association (CNA) capped off 2020 by submitting a strong statement in response to TxDOT's first public scoping period for the I-35 Capital Express Central project. The "CapEx Project" is TxDOT's initiative to remove the upper decks and reconstruct I-35 through Austin. Cherrywood, with its 1.13-mile long western border defined by the northbound frontage road, has a considerable stake in how the new highway is designed.

In drafting the letter, CNA members and neighborhood residents coalesced around three themes: accessibility to, along, and across I-35; land use opportunities along the frontage road; and attending to the social and environmental considerations of the roadway. A key concept is how CNA can reimagine and proactively reshape land use along the frontage road to support a pedestrian and cyclist-friendly, vibrant commercial corridor accessible to Cherrywooders and that facilitates connectivity across I-35. The CNA expects the new frontage road to support commercial activity, including many of the current businesses. As stated in the letter, "CNA will concentrate much of our collaborative efforts in the coming years on the redesign and creative re-invigorating of our frontage road section (from Dean Keaton Blvd to Airport Blvd) to function as a thoughtfully designed urban commercial corridor. We view a lively and vibrant commercial area as our urban neighborhood's natural buffer from the interstate."

Focus on land use will not diminish CNA's attention to social and environmental issues. We recognize that much of the feedback we received in response to the early December survey expressed concerns about the negative environmental impacts of the interstate as it exists currently, during construction, and post-construction. We will amplify residents' environmental concerns at every opportunity. We are also keenly aware that in recent years the TxDOT right-of-way has become a refuge of last resort for persons experiencing homelessness. Our letter expresses support for recent City of Austin efforts to find humane, permanent approaches to homelessness and invites the opportunity to examine how those approaches might unfold in Cherrywood.

Cherrywood Neighborhood Association is a founding and active member of the North Central I-35 Neighborhood Coalition (NCINC). We will continue to collaborate proactively and creatively with NCINC to explore ways to make I-35 a better neighbor for our residents. We hope you'll continue to engage with us in upcoming I-35 scoping periods. Although we will likely continue to meet virtually in coming months, we look forward to holding in-person meetings and workshops as soon as it is safe for us to gather. In the meantime, keep your eyes on *The Flea* and cherrywood.groups.io for updates.





VICE CHAIR vacant
SECRETARY Sharon Lynch
TREASURER Allen Hah
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Matt Harriger, Girard Kinney, Cara Bertron, Sean Griffin, Adam Packer, Jeri Spence, Brandy Savarese, Jules Vieau Contact us: steering@cherrywood.org

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



Meetings



Cherrywood Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 6:30 pm Zoom meeting ID 254 172 8972

Agenda

- I-35 updates
- Bikeways project
- Hancock Golf Course
- Hancock HEB expansion

Stay Connected

CNA WEBSITE www.cherrywood.org
NEIGHBORNET groups.io/g/cherrywood/topics
FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/cherrywood78722
UBC WEBSITE upperboggycreek.com

GREEN SPACES

Updates by Lindsay Olinde, Girard Kinney, & Jennifer Potter-Miller

Grackle Green

The gates of Grackle Green swung open last summer. Much to the delight of high energy kiddos and their grown-ups, the playground finally opened in November. Small pods, picnic goers, and walkers have been exploring the space from morning to dusk. Tag, sidewalk chalk, and jumping contests are classic pastimes thriving here. Occasional shouts of joy from the park have brought smiles to nearby neighbors in quieter-than-usual pandemic times.

Kudos to everyone for being mindful of social distancing and the pack-it-in-pack-it-out policy—the park is looking good! Remembering its unique origin story, please share park rules with visiting friends— especially that parking should be on the street rather than in the alley (those spots are for alley neighbors) and that dogs are not allowed in the fenced area. Thank you again to Caitlin B. Alexander, an artist in the neighborhood who helped with the signs.

Community opportunities: Superhero kids and their grown-ups can rescue the surfacing under the playground from villains of sharp objects like sticks and rocks. Bigger sticks can go in a pile on the pecan tree by the Chrysocolla boulders. Want to help with planting trees or butterfly shrubs? Volunteers will organize a couple staggered, contactless planting events this spring-- for more info, email: gracklegreenatx@gmail.com Grackle Green also needs a handful of neighbors to sign up for a couple weekends of mowing and watering. Thank you!



Photos by L. Olinde

Cherrywood Green

Fall tree planting included a replacement oak along 34th. So far it

has survived with frequent watering. The volunteer herb plantings are thriving in the herb garden. Friends of Cherrywood Green is working on a grant application for Austin Park Foundation to fund construction of stairs and a handrail down to the creek. Future fundraising opportunities for restoration of the drinking fountain and herb garden sprinkler system are also being evaluated. The Green needs donated limbs, tree trunks, and/or utility poles to span between existing live trees along the north side of the trail to halt erosion into the creek.

Patterson Park

Friends of Patterson park received a \$5,000 ACL Music Festival Grant from the Austin Parks Foundation this winter to replace the baseball field backstop. We will pay the balance with funds raised during Amplify Austin 2020. Allied Fencing is scheduled to install the new backstop in the first week of February.

After a pause in activity, the Neighborhood Partnering Project is scheduled to review our 2019 grant application in April. If approved, this grant would fund park benches and limestone seating behind the baseball field backstop and along the nearby trail, a shade structure and new baskets at the basketball court, and updated trash receptacles in the eastern end of the park.



The Pharr Tennis Center is scheduled for a major renovation this year, with \$4 million dollars allocated from the 2018 PARD bond. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid 2021. The project includes a new piece of art for the tennis center, and Art in Public Places has selected the team Rakhee Jain and Melissa Knight to create one. They are working on a design and will be organizing community meetings this spring to gather feedback. Details will be shared with the neighborhood when they are finalized.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Of Love and Pruning

FEBRUARY IS A GREAT TIME TO CLEAR OUT THE CLUTTER

by Lee Clippard

hen I returned to Austin in 2005, I had so many questions about how to garden in Central Texas. That year, I visited a coworker's lovely garden on the Eastside, and she shared with me a bit of wisdom passed along from

her grandmother: "Valentine's Day is pruning day." I love the simplicity of this rule, and I've stuck with it since

Pruning perennials (plants that grow back from their roots each year) and grasses is good for removing old growth, keeping the plants in shape, and stimulating blooming in coming seasons. Sure, you could cut back your perennials in early winter, but here's why waiting until February is good.

First, what might look dead, scraggly, and brown to you is food and shelter for wildlife. Birds, like gold-finches and sparrows, love the seed heads of coneflowers and sunflowers in particular. Beyond sustenance, plants left standing through the winter provide hiding places for the birds as they skitter about our yards. Look for wrens, chickadees, and cardinals moving through the understory. The vegetation also creates

protective microclimates in which insects overwinter. And that brings us back around to birds: they love hunting around in the plants for little

insect snacks.

The second reason you might wait until February to pull out theshears is that well chosen and well placed perennials and grasses are often beautiful in winter. It's soothing to watch inland sea oats jangle in a cool breeze as they catch the low rays of the winter sun. The black,

spiked seed heads of purple coneflowers strike an architectural pose against backdrops of gulf muhly grass or Mexican feathergrass. The textures, tans, rusts, and golds of these plants left through February will transform your experience of winter in the garden.

Valentine's Day (or thereabouts) is also a good target date for pruning because it's just prior to the time when many native perennials, such as Gregg's salvia, Gregg's mistflower, and Turk's cap, begin putting on new growth. (Those three natives are also great pollinator plants.) Cut them back in mid-February and they will grow back beautifully in the spring. Grasses, like the inland sea oats, won't mind being cut back during this time, too. After the mid-February cut, there will be a wonderful simplicity to the garden—a faux blank slate where perennials flourish quietly below the surface of the soil before exploding on the scene in spring.

So remember: Valentine's Day is for love, roses, & the garden shears.



Cement TV Cancelled

SANITATION CREW DUMPS CHERRYWOOD SCULPTURE IN LANDFILL

by Steve Wilson

n a literal manifestation of the adage, "one person's treasure is another's trash," Austin garbage collectors absconded with the beloved cast-cement TV sculpture that had sat near the edge of Jeff Jamail's front lawn for more than a quarter century.

In December 2020, Austin Resource Recovery employees apparently mistook the artwork for just another hunk of junk they were tasked with hauling from curbs during the pre-holiday 2020 Bulk Trash Collection. Until then, the TV had whiled away the years in unmolested peace on 34th Street, an icon of Cherrywood's long standing reputation for low-key funkiness.

Video footage captured by the security door cam of neighbor Beau Davis shows an ARR grapple truck hefting the weighty console with an industrial-strength claw and lowering it into the bin. Before the video surfaced, an ARR spokesperson told The Flea via email that "ARR crews do not collect any cement items during our bulk collection." However, the video's timestamp shows the cement TV was plucked from its well-established perch at 12:13 p.m. on December 16, a Wednesday afternoon—as opposed to the area's regular Friday morning garbage run. That date also fell within the neighborhood's scheduled Bulk Trash Collection period.

After seeing the video footage, the spokesperson said that Jamail may file a P-roperty Damage/Loss Service Request with the city. When asked why a bulk trash crew would take a piece of concrete art after decades of passing it by on other collection runs, the spokesperson had no comment.

A spokesperson at TDS Landfill, which receives Austin's bulk collections, explained that the sculpture would have been buried under piles of trash on arrival, making its retrieval nigh impossible.

For Tamsie Ringler, the artist who crafted the TV in 1991 for her final MFA project at UT-Austin, the only real surprise is that her work survived for this long. "Thirty years is pretty good, considering I just dropped it off in a yard before moving away." That yard belonged to her friend, Cherrywooder Marcus Brown, who passed the TV on to Jamail down the street a few years later before his death.

Ringler went on to make several other well-regarded sculptures in the Midwest, but she isn't precious about any of her work or the fate that ultimatelly befalls them. "These things happen," she says. "Some things carry on and some things change and that's how it goes."



- NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Catching up with Hoover Alexander

by Jim Walker

oover's Cooking opened on Manor Rd in 1998 and has been a solid cornerstone of the neighborhood ever since. The pandemic and resulting economic stress on small businesses and family households made 2020 one of the toughest years ever for locally owned restaurants.

In response the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association launched a fundraising drive just before the holidays focused on supporting Hoover's Cooking through the purchase of gift cards to be distributed equally to the families and teachers of Maplewood Elementary and Campbell Elementary. Forty residents gave \$2,000, which was matched with \$400 from the Steering Committee.

We caught up with Hoover (masks on!) on a cloudy Wednesday

with the Inauguration unfolding on a TV in the background and staff busily getting ready for the early lunch orders.

Hoover Alexander is a native East Austinite and fifth-generation Texan. As a child in the 1960's he recalls the Cherrywood neighborhood integrating in diversity, but Manor Rd was still a dividing line through East Austin. He remembers the Royal East Grocery and MiniMax that used to occupy 2002 Manor Rd (originally built in 1951).

Thirty years later, after learning the restaurant business at the old-Austin Night

Hawk, he and a partner made a hand-shake deal to open their own restaurant. Soon after the space at 2002 Manor Rd became available. The serendipity of landing back in this corner of East Austin seemed like

fate, or rather, Hoover credits it to the Divine Stirring of the Pudding.

Hoover's is well known for a big, varied menu, generous portions, hosting a cross section of all Austin, and a family atmosphere. While they still offer reduced inside seating, as their typical catering receipts evaporated (they are operating at just over 50% typical revenue) they innovated Hoover's in a Hurry out of the restaurant.

Hoover's also sees positive collaborations coming from the new realities created by the pandemic, especially among small, independent food producers. For example, he is bringing some special flavors to Amy's Ice Cream and sharing recipes with Texas Sausage Company on 12th St. and the Earl Campbell Sausage. For Hoover this is just more evidence of the Divine Stirring of the Pudding.

But every conversation with Hoover quickly circles back to his

gratitude for being able to share food with the community and to engage others in creative ways. His current passion project is called Maui Meals, inspired by a recent collaboration with the UT Austin men's basketball team.

The mission of Maui Meals is to share food with the needy, particularly groups and individuals pushed to the edge by the pandemic and economic downturn. If you are interested in helping out with distribution of food from Hoover's to people in need, email buddysystem@cherrywood.org, and we'll gather a group of people for a distribution event in late spring

a group of people for a distribution event in late spring.

Hoover enjoys cooking and bringing people together through quality food. Even more, he enjoys being in and building up community, his own way of adding to the Divine Stirring of the Pudding.



HEB Plans to Grow

by Girard Kinney

egency, the owner of Hancock Center, has applied for a building permit to expand the HEB store at Hancock. Planned improvements include 1) expanding the store's footprint to the east, subsuming the existing north/south corridor through the shopping center and adjacent retail venues, and to the south into the existing sidewalk space. A new north/south covered corridor will be constructed using a portion of the former Sears store. 2) Creating a new restaurant adjacent the relocated pedestrian passageway but preserving a portion of the existing green space. 3) Off-site improvements to be paid for by the developer include a pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) at the intersection of East 45th and Bennett Avenue, and a shared use ped/bike connection on both sides of I-35, for which the LUT Committee has advocated for many years.

CNA's Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC) will be watching for news about what will happen to the former Sears store and other installations on the site, but at present neither the City nor Kimley-Horn (engineer of record for the project) say they are aware of plans beyond the HEB expansion.

The LUTC is exploring possible future improvements that might include an improved east/west connection from Wilshire Wood/Cherrywood to Park Avenue in the Hancock Neighborhood, through Hancock Center, with a community gathering place at the HEB restaurant green. We will also explore land use possibilities along I-35 from Dean Keaton to the railroad crossing south of Airport Boulevard as TxDOT moves forward with its plans for I-35 improvements along Cherrywood's western border.

Our committee meets monthly on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:15pm. Although we are currently meeting via Zoom, we hope to return soon to in-person meetings.

HAPPENINGS

MARDI GRAS COMES TO CHERRYWOOD

Neighbors on Drury Lane decorated their alley with lights for the holidays, delighting visitors out for evening strolls. They're now decking it out for Mardi Gras. Stop by for a smile and some beads!



ROCKING THE BLUES AGAIN

Kathy Murray was nominated for a Blues Music Award (BMA), along with two others, for Frank Bey's recording of their song, "All My Dues Are Paid." The song is also the title cut on Frank's posthumous album, which has been nominated for "Best Traditional Blues Album" in the upcoming 63rd Grammy Awards. She's thrilled to see the great Frank Bey receiving this much deserved acclaim!



MOVIE MAGIC ON THE STAGE

The Bass Concert Hall will turn its stage into an exhibition space for 12 hand-painted film backdrops when "Behind the Scenes: The Art of the Hollywood Backdrop" opens on Feb. 11. The show is curated by Karen Maness, neighbor and faculty member. She writes "created in the guarded secrecy of MGM's studio system and designed to transport audiences to far off locations while filming on soundstages in Culver City, these backdrops have never been accessible for public viewing."

DONUT DELIGHTS

Mmmm donuts! I am a huge donut fan, but some are definitely better than others. Lola's Donuts was opened in October by the owner of Sugar Mama's, which closed during the pandemic. Lola is the owner's grandmother, and the shop is very popular.

Lola's has great donuts. For example, I ate the Sopapilla Brioche and LOVED it. The donut was very juicy, and there was just a tiny bit of crunch that was very nice. Also the flavor of the sopapilla came out, which I enjoyed. The Cran-Cherry Orange filled brioche was also delicious. The flavors of the filling tasted like the fruits of fall, and

the donut was spongy and fresh. The Butter Sea Salt was also delicious. I really liked the buttery-ness of the donut, and it had a good balance of sweet and salty. The decor on the outside of the shop is eye catching and inviting.

The schedule is tight for pre-orders and orders. You can only pre-order for Saturday on Wednesday and for Sunday on Thursday. After you order, you receive an order number that you use to pick up the donuts. There is a very window before the donuts run out. Lola's donuts is an amaz-



ing donut shop with many delicious and scrumptious donuts. If you have never seen or heard of it, then check it out lolasdonutsatx.com - it's worth it!

Salim Kapasi, Kealing Middle School

BALLOON JOY

A rainbow emoji pyramid, a surfing santa and an alien riding a rainbow unicorn are just some of the amazing balloon sculptures seen in front of Gerry Whittemore's home on Lafayette Ave. Gerry Whittemore, aka Zippy the Clown, is a retired AISD teacher that has been bringing smiles and laughter to many over the years. Before the pandemic, you may have seen Zippy at children's birthday parties, library shows, ACL fest, the Capitol 10K, or at the Zilker Park Playscape (his favorite hangout). Nowadays, with the pandemic slowing down the entertainment industry, he has been helping neighbors smile with his creative balloon sculptures. We are lucky to have Gerry brighten our day with his ever changing balloon art. You can see some of his past work or order your own at facebook.com/zippyissilly Monica Cervantes







NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Snow day 2021!

THE BIGGEST SNOWFALL IN YEARS BROUGHT EVERYONE OUTDOORS ON JAN. 10

















Photo credit: (clockwise) agave by J. loving, snow family by S. Luck, Elsa singing by J. Davies, tiny snowball by M. Vakili, snowy Bouvier by J. Gentry, snow angels by E. Dooner, truck by V. Loving, flip flps jumps by K. Houlihan, puppy diva by S.Potter



I live in the neighborhood I work in the neighborhood

JADE CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING & REMODELING

SABINA (512) 554-4380

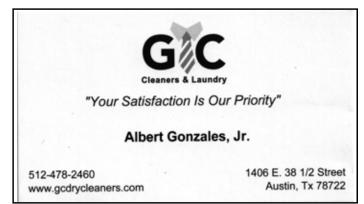
Additions and building from the ground up since 1998

















40
BEERS
ON TAP
130
BOTTLED
BEERS



20 HI-DEF TV'S

POUTINE

BIG, FRESH, FORK & KNIFE

ALL-NATURAL SANDWICHES

AVAILABLE FOR

PRIVATE PARTIES

2310 MANOR ROAD AUSTIN, TEXAS 78722 512.243.6702

WWW.HAYMAKERAUSTIN.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/HAYMAKERAUSTIN

TWITTER.COM/HAYMAKERAUSTIN



2409 MANOR RD (512) 474-2010

HELLO NEIGHBORS! COME IN & DISCOVER

AUSTIN'S Best selection of Hemp, CBD Imported Cigarettes, Pipes, Papers Vaporizers, Incense, Posters, & more...

OPEN TIL MIDNIGHT 7 DAYS A WEEK



WHY CHOOSE PRIMELENDING AS YOUR LENDER?

WE'RE THE MORTGAGE-ONLY EXPERT THAT TREATS YOU LIKE A NEIGHBOR, NOT A NUMBER.

WE OFFER:

- A VARIETY OF HOME LOANS FOR A RANGE OF CREDIT SCORES
- STEP-BY-STEP PERSONALIZED GUIDANCE
- FAST UNDERWRITING AND LOAN CLOSINGS
- COMPETITIVE FINANCE RATES AND FEES

CALL FOR A COMPLEMENTARY CONSULTATION.



Bill Holleman Sr. Mortgage Originator NMLS:184040

bholleman@primelending.com
www.billholleman.com

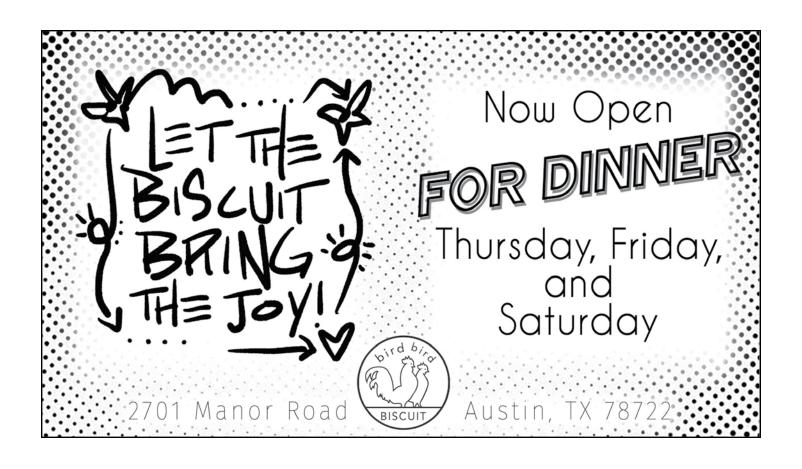
512-381-4782 (Direct) 866-563-0717 (Toll Free) 866-217-2405 (E-Fax)

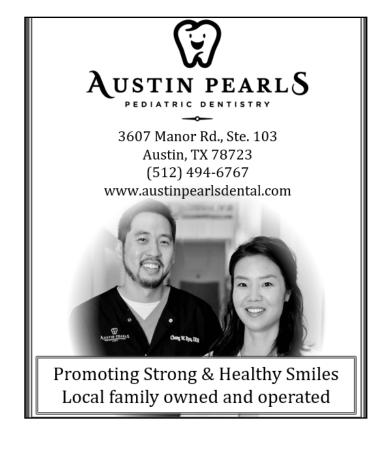
1717 W. 6th Street, Ste 340, Austin, TX 78703

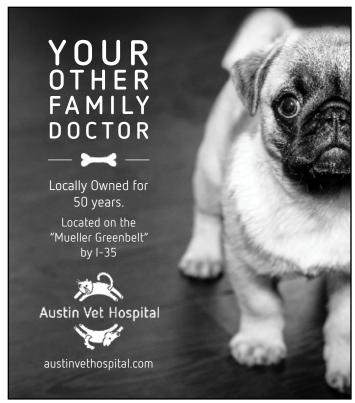
Home Loans Made Simple...

All loans subject to credit approval. Rates and fixes subject to change. Mortgage financing provided by PrimeLending, a PlainsCapital Company, Equal flouring Lender. @ 2015 PrimeLending, a PlainsCapital Company PrimeLending, a PlainsCapital Company (NMLS: 13649) is a wholly owned subsidiary of a state-chartened back and is an exemple floorier in ZV 197.013.











CHERRYWOODCOFFEEHOUSE.COM

OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM - MIDNIGHT HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 3PM - 7PM



VOTED BEST NEIGHBORHOOD GROCERY

LET US COOK FOR YOU

EVERY THURSDAY 10AM - 9PM

Scatch-made entrée with a rotating selection of fresh, deli-made sides for just \$5. Take it to go!



Temporary Hours: 10AM - 9PM

WE NOW OFFER SENIOR & HIGH RISK SHOPPING HOURS TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 9AM - 10AM

www.wheatsville.com

instacart DELIVERY or PICK -UP



3101 GUADALUPE | 4001 SOUTH LAMAR 512-478-2667 512-814-2888