

NOV 2021 | VOLUME 27 | NUMBER 4 // NEWSLETTER OF THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### Patterson Park Anniversary

uch of the land to the north and east of what is now the greater Cherrywood Neighborhood was originally platted in the 1870s (see our interim land acknowledgement on page 2, and check out Cherrywood Facebook page for additional content noted with hashtags like #CNAland). The rural and agricultural land changed hands several times but, by the 1930s, was owned primarily by two families whose names are still familiar to Cherrywood residents, Giles and Patterson.

The Giles family played a major role in Cherrywood's transition to a then-suburban neighborhood to the northeast of the young city of Austin (#Giles). However, the Pattersons are said to have been much more reticent about developing their land. But when the City needed to expand municipal flight operations at Mueller Airport in the late 1930s, it threatened to exercise its power of eminent domain to seize Nye Patterson's 2,000-tree fruit orchard. Patterson was forced to relent.

On February 28, 1941, J.M. and Nye Patterson conveyed approximately 100 acres of land for \$35,000 "cash-in-hand paid by the City of Austin" (#Nye). It is said that Nye Patterson wept as his plum and peach trees were ripped out to make way for airport expansion. Perhaps as a nod to the Nye's love of his land, a nearly twenty-acre park in our neighborhood was dedicated by the City in his honor.

James Walker's family moved into the new suburban neighborhood, and as a young child in 1951, he recalls the area prior to it being developed as a park as "rough," in particular a pond full of tires and discarded junk. While he attended Maplewood Elementary (itself built in 1951) the new Patterson Park became "the social center for a lot of local youngsters... who lived at the park and pool in the summers."

A few of those youngsters from the 1950s and sixties started a special Facebook group to organize reunions (#Pattersonreunion). Their first reunion, receiving more than 250 RSVPs, encouraged David Wingard to write an opinion piece for the Austin American Statesman in 2010 recalling the "oasis" of Patterson and in particular "those park dances, with the scent of English Leather wafting in the heavy summer air and dancing to tunes like 'Louie Louie,' 'You Really Got Me' and 'I Get Around.' It's where many of us learned the fine art of 'necking."

Regina Rogoff and her husband moved into the neighborhood in the early 1970s, into a house directly across from the park. Their daughters visited the park daily in their toddler years. Patterson "became a part of our family's connection to the neighborhood." There always seemed to be something for everyone and the nature of the park allowed everyone to feel comfortable. Now a neighborhood resident herself, her son has visited the park daily with his grandfather and has discovered his own "hidden kingdom" in the park (but he won't tell his mom where).

The free tennis courts, pool, and playground are components of the original design and many residents fondly recall just being able to

walk up and enjoy the amenities. The Pharr Tennis Center was built in the 1970s (#Pharr), making Patterson even more of a destination for Austinites. Brookview Road connected the park from Schieffer to Wilshire Boulevards until it was closed in the 1980s, leaving the cul-desac turn-around (#Brookview).

In 2002, park lovers established the Friends of Patterson Park (#FoPP) to advocate for safety improvements, organize work parties for park care, and pursue grant opportunities for new amenities and enhancements to well-worn original features. FoPP is volunteer driven and always open to more friends and families who would like to participate in park upkeep. Mark Smolen and Isabell Headrick were early FoPP leaders helping establish a culture of volunteerism (#FoPP).

Today, Jennifer Potter-Miller organizes FoPP and led the creation of a Park Plan in 2017-2018. She submits grants, amplifies work parties for the Cap City Cobras and other groups, and most recently organized the 2021 Neighborhood Night Out (see page 6). She helped the park be a site for the Roots and Wings Festival and is now looking forward to the return of Luminarias on December 12.

Patterson Park is generously supported by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the Austin Parks Foundation. It features open space, beautiful trees, a community garden, playground, swimming pool, several public art installations (#Pattersonpublicart), a popular pavilion, picnic tables, a skate ramp, volleyball and basketball courts, and a baseball diamond that is home to the Cap City Cobras sandlot

baseball team (#CapCityCobras).



Eighty years. Generations of families from Cherrywood and surrounding neighborhoods. Stroller walks, birthday parties, pick-up soccer games, illicit midnight swims. Patterson Park has

seen decades of a continuous balancing of "something for everyone" and "hidden kingdoms" and "quiet green getaways." It exemplifies why neighborhood parks matter and should be celebrated daily and especially on their milestone anniversaries.

Patterson Park was purchased by the city and dedicated as parkland in 1941. Friends of Patterson Park will celebrate the end of the park's 80th year with a special evening of Luminarias on Saturday, December 12.

### CNA NEWS

### Updates and Annual Meeting

he arrival of fall is still thrilling. The first few mornings of real chill, the seemingly always sudden onset of longer nights, the sense of small success having gotten through another summer. Enjoy these days however you can!

The last few months have been busy for Cherrywood NA. Since our August general meeting, we became very involved in the TxDoT plans for renovating I-35, see page 3 for a summary. The Steering Committee held a special meeting in late September to distill the feedback from the open house and a subsequent survey to all residents and submitted another comment letter to TxDoT, which is available on the cherrywood.org website.

At our October Steering Committee meeting, we recorded presentations and questions with representatives from both sides of the Proposition A ballot item on police funding - as this Flea is being printed, the results are in and it will be an interesting moment in the long conversation about improving equity in our community.

The cover article this Flea celebrates the long history of Patterson Park, which predates our neighborhood, and which has been a source of fun and reflection for generations. If you haven't strolled through Patterson lately, get on up there.

We'll return to in-person gathering for the General Meeting on Wed, Nov 17. This is also our annual meeting and Steering Committee The Cherrywood elections. Steering Committee meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesdays and is the principal representative, governing, and policy-recommending body for the Neighborhood Association, we also consider helping to fund ice-cream trucks from time to time. Our by-laws and other governance documents are online. We currently have 3 incumbents running again and 3 vacancies - if you are curious about running, or are considering nominating your neighbor but need more info - please contact anyone listed in the lower left corner! We allow (and sometimes encourage) nominations from the floor at the meeting.

Other business coming up on Nov 17 will be updates about the Capital Express I-35 renovations, a summary of research by several UT Austin graduate students on the idea of a Cherrywood land trust for housing affordability, and too-early reaction to how any Nov ballot results might impact Cherrywood.

And we still have many ways to stay in touch. The neighborhood listserv, available at cherrywood.groups.io, is our primary communication tool in between the quarterly Flea Newsletters. We try to cross-post on NextDoor as well. We also have a Facebook page and even an Instagram account. Hope to see you on any of those virtual channels or walking a new street or at the General Meeting!

The CNA SC is interested in discussing a land acknowledgement. In the interim, we are publishing here the official UT Austin land acknowledgement due to the proximity of the main campus to our neighborhood. Also see our Facebook page #CNAland.

The CNA SC would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America. Moreover, we would like to acknowledge the Alabama-Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas.



CHAIR Jim Walker VICE CHAIR Brandy Savarese SECRETARY Sharon Lynch TREASURER Allen Hah STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS Matt Harriger, Girard Kinney, Stefan Schuster, Cara Bertron, Sean Griffin, Adam Packer, Jeri Spence, Jules Vieau **Contact us: steering@cherrywood.org** 

> *FLEA* MANAGING EDITOR Jim Walker LAYOUT EDITOR Gabi Williams AD MANAGER Allen Hah Contact The *FLEA*: flea@cherrywood.org

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#### Wednesday, November 17, 6:30 pm in person at Cherrywood Coffeehouse!



Agenda

- Annual Steering Commitee elections
- Update on TxDOT CapEx Central
- Open Forum and discussion
- Discussion of affordability

#### **Stay Connected**

CNA WEBSITE www.cherrywood.org NEIGHBORHOOD LISTSERV Cherrywood at https://groups.io FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/cherrywood78722 UPPER BOGGY GREEK PLANNING TEAM WEBSITE upperboggycreek.com

# DEVELOPMENT WATCH

#### Cherrywood Responds to TxDOT's Cap-Ex Proposals

Cherrywood residents were busy leading up to the September 24 close of the third public comment period for the TxDOT CapEx Central Project. Reconnect Austin, along with other advocates, held a well attended "I-35: Stop Dividing Our City" press conference on September 1 at Stars Cafe on the frontage road. City Council representatives, including Katie Tovo, Natasha Harper Madison, and Greg Casar, were in attendance. Mayor Pro-Tem Harper Madison's comments in particular galvanized those in attendance and kicked off a month of important conversations around I-35 improvements.

CNA hosted an (in-person!) I-35 Open House at Cherrywood Coffeehouse on September 8. State Senator Sarah Eckhardt and State Representative Sheryl Cole kicked off the event with a tough message for TxDOT and encouraging words for residents. Goals for the open house were to share information, educate neighbors about the TxDOT alternatives, and to assess opinions on specific highway and land-use issues relevant to the neighborhood. We had great conversations, met new neighbors, and educated many. Thanks to those of you who came out! If you missed the open house, TxDOT roll plots of Cherrywood's section of the highway are still hanging on the wall at Cherrywood Coffeehouse.

Our TxDoT activity wrapped up on September 24 with CNA submitting its formal response to TxDOT on the Cap-Ex alternatives (tinyurl.com/CNAletter). In a nutshell, the message is that residents are displeased with the current alternatives, which have an undue negative effect on the neighborhood's western edge and we insist TxDOT investigate more creative solutions for urbancore neighborhoods like Cherrywood.

#### **Cherrywood Bikeways Project**

Phase 1 was completed over the summer and is mainly known by the appearance of the white 'flex posts' and restriping at several points on Cherrywood Road.

Phase 2 later this year is supposed to focus on a safer crossing under I-35 from Wilshire Blvd (at Nature's Treasures) to Hancock Center, but we're guessing this may be on hold as TxDoT finalizes their plans for renovating I-35.

Phase 3 will begin in 2022 in collaboration with Austin Water to install rain gardens and additional traffic controls. The rain gardens will be at the new 'pinch point' on Cherrywood Rd where it crosses the creek near East 40th St., and at the intersection of Wilshire Blvd and Schieffer Ave. The latter project will also permanently close the direct connection between Schieffer and Wilshire, but drivers will still be able to access Wilshire from Cherrywood Rd.







Photos by J. Potter-Miller

#### **Affordability Study**

In the August edition of the Flea we mentioned ongoing efforts to discuss how Cherrywood could encourage more housing affordability in the neighborhood - not just for those currently here, but also to demonstrate that systems of exclusion in housing access can be undone. A small group of UT Austin Community and Regional Planning graduate students have been working this fall semester to research examples and challenges in creating a neighborhood land trust in an established neighborhood like Cherrywood.

They will present initial findings at the Cherrywood Steering Committee the evening of Wed, Nov 10. We'll summarize their work at the General Meeting on Nov 17. Cherrywooders are also invited to attend their final UT presentation after Thanksgiving - if interested in attending, email chair@cherrywood.org

# GREEN SPACES

### Willowbrook Reach

fter celebrating its ten year anniversary this past spring, Willowbrook Reach was accidentally severely mowed in September by a new City contractor unaware of the creekside "Grow Zone" mowing restrictions (which is limited to small mowed bands along the path and along the road). To help replenish the plants and wildlife lost, a reseeding effort and creek cleanup is planned for Nov 13 at 9:30 am. Meet at 3907 Cherrywood Rd (corner of Cherrywood and Sycamore) to pick up provided seed and materials to gather trash from the creek. Come early at 8:30 am for breakfast tacos and coffee hour! If you are interested in helping out and/or joining the Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach (FLWR), please email AdamESparks@gmail.com.

### Patterson Park

After taking 2020 off, Friends of Patterson Park hosted a National Night Out picnic at Patterson Park on October 5th, cosponsored by CNA (see page 6 for more). The weather was gorgeous, and people were thrilled to see friends and meet new neighbors, including lots of babies born during the pandemic. Zora Schuyler-Brown, age 5, said "everyone is here!" and it truly felt like it. Travis-County Constable Tonya Nixon, JP One Judge Williams, Austin EMS, and APD officers visited for over an hour, kids ran around the park on a scavenger hunt, and ice cream from the Mr. Softee truck ended the evening on a sweet note.

By the time this issue goes to print the Fall Festival at the Patterson Park Community Garden will have wrapped up. The garden is participating in the city's annual celebration of Arbor Day and Monarch Appreciation Day, and is an official Roots and Wings Pop Up site. Planned activities include a beekeeping demonstration, pumpkin patch, live music, seed giveaway and much more. Mark your calendars for Luminarias on Sat, December 12. The fall growing season is here! Email the Patterson Park Community Garden at info@pattersonparkcommunitygarden.com about how to join.

### Cherrywood Green

Thank you to the non-profit The Other Ones Foundation for helping clean the creek between Cherrywood Green and E. 38 Đ St. We totally support your mission to assist our neighbors experiencing homelessness! www.toofound.org

With the recent rains, additional mowers/gardeners are needed to help out with Cherrywood Green through the winter months. If you are interested, or want to know more, or are just ready to get mowing, contact michael.damal@gmail.com

### Grackle Green

Grackle Green (GG) is officially dedicated as City parkland! The GG subcommittee has been working hard on this final step. Many thanks to our Council Member Kathie Tovo for sponsoring the dedication. While a bit bureaucratic, the exciting effect of this milestone is that Grackle Green can now be sponsored by Austin Parks Foundation as our non-profit umbrella. Perks of this new partnership range from account management, assistance with grants, and organizing events. To the right are a few before/after pictures to remember the transformation that this little nook has undergone. Neighborhood volunteers continue caring for the space— please reach out to join our network, email gracklegreenatx@gmail.com or follow us in social media @gracklegreenatx





# FUN FRESH NEWS

### Maplewood Elementary No-Hassle Fundraiser

e love Maplewood Elementary! (Actually, who doesn't??) Since this year the Maplewood PTA is unable to do their Fall Festival, they have opted to do a no-fuss / no-hassle fundraiser through November 30th. The Maplewood PTA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization so donations are tax-deductible. The goal is \$15,000. We encourage you to donate whatever works for your budget. ANY AMOUNT will help! Funds will help the PTA with a lot of needs! Below is a list of where funds will be distributed.

- F Teacher & Staff Appreciation Meals and Events
- 🖙 Learning Enrichment Programs like Story Wranglers and guest authors and performers
- 🖙 Social-Emotional Learning and Family needs like the food pantry and emergency needs
- 🖙 Essentials and Grade Level Requests- up to \$1,000 per grade level/essential
- 🖙 Outdoor Learning Needs Picnic table & gardening



The PTA appreciates each and every supporter! You can donate by going to www.maplewoodelementary.com/support/donate/ or you can write a check made out to "Maplewood PTA" or leave cash in an envelope with the front office. Just make sure it says, "PTA' on the envelope and the memo line.

### Cherrywood Hotbed for Rare, Official State Mushroom

by Mark Stewart

The age of our neighborhood, our trees and soil, and our location on a dripping edge of the aquifer all conspire to make Cherrywood a perfect environment for the newly-designated Texas State Mushroom. Chorioactis geaster aka 'Texas star' is an extremely rare mushroom that grows in abundance in the Cherrywood area. It only grows along a narrow band of Central Texas and a small area of Japan.

This mushroom is super weird, y'all! In fact, most people would not recognize it as a mushroom at all! This strange species resembles a cigar butt when it first appears, suggesting another nickname: 'devil's cigar'. Later, the mushrooms open -- sometimes bursting with an audible pop! The sides of the 'cigar' peel back and reveal themselves to be the petals of a large, tan-colored flower! Eventually, the 'flower' releases a pure white cloud of spores, which hangs on the ground like a fog.

Our local, fungal freaks of nature are not well understood yet, but we know that they only grow on the roots and stumps of dead cedar elms. Lucky for us, our corner of Austin is thick with these lovely trees. The geasters appear October - January, usually popping up overnight after heavy rains. They are NOT edible and ARE safe to handle with care, but please DON'T. They need to reproduce!

A very good example of the distinctive cedar elm stump lies in Patterson Park: at the corner of Wilshire Blvd and Wilshire Parkway, right by the speed bump: and further down the sidewalk on the



western edge of the church property. You can find photos and more info at mushroomexpert.com or iNaturalist.com.

Share your stars! You can make a report of your geaster finds on iNaturalist, but please send me a message at markstewart10000@ gmail.com! I would love to talk with you about the life cycle of this and other mushrooms.

#### **Cherrywood Word Search**

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Bobo's	Monarch
Cherrywood Green	Fiesta
Thunderbird	Patterson
Willowbrook	Manor
Maplewood	Giles

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Wilshire Haymaker Stars Cafe Delwood Two Amy's Ice Creams

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### Neighborhood Night Out Success

n ice-cream truck has a way of attracting a crowd. We had a great turnout for the annual Neighborhood Night Out event at Patterson Park on Tue, Oct 5. Families brought blankets, kids enjoyed a scavenger hunt throughout the park, and people enjoyed catching up in-person with people again. Travis County Constable Tonya Nixon and many of her officers attended and stayed awhile, engaging in many conversations with residents.







### Annual Tree Planting

The 25th annual "silver anniversary" Cherrywood tree planting took place on Saturday Oct 9th. A total of 40 trees were delivered or planted this year, bringing our grand total to 797 trees! This program has made a great difference to our neighborhood, many of the early trees planted are now full grown and providing shade. This year we had the most volunteers ever, with 12 people planting 13 trees. Breeze Terrace had the most trees delivered/planted with 7 trees -2Anacacho orchids, 2 Monterey Oaks, 2 Burr Oaks, and 1 Mountain Laurel. We also raised a total of \$531 for Cherrywood Green. Fall is the best time to plant trees in Austin, so if you did not take part in this program check out your local nurseries and consider planting more trees in Cherrywood!



### Be A Flea

Shout-out to Brandy Savarese who has been the Layout Editor for years! Thank you for working through the many extended deadlines, tight deadlines, too-short articles and too-many photos. And welcome Gabi Williams as our new Layout Editor!

There's always room for more in the Flea Family and on the CNA Communications Committee! For more information on the time commitment, please email flea@cherrywood.org. And if you have ever dreamed of seeing your name in print on a Flea article (c'mon admit it), email us your story or content idea!

# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

### Texas State Senator Sarah Eckhardt



Really Small Museum

SMALL can be BIG. @reallysmallmuseum\_atx is a 12-month art installation in sister East Austin neighborhoods and dedicated to the idea of fun, creativity, arts & community—because when crafting life, SMALL doses of any of those things can be BIG. From Nov 2021 - Nov 2022 local artists Marianne Newsom and Juliet Whitsett's Really Small Museum installation will be showcasing different artists at two site-specific mini-galleries:

From The Banton Road Art Museum (the Banton): 3509 Banton Road in Cherrywood

The 14th Corner Contemporary (the 14th): 1311 Harvey Street in McKinney Heights

The ribbon cutting will be November 20th at 2:00 pm at the Banton site, during Big Medium's annual studio tour. For the inaugural opening, both sites will be featuring local artist Gabel Karsten Kokinda. Check out their instagram at @reallysmallmuseum\_atx and look for different artists to take up residency each month through November 2022.



## Sue Taylor

#### February 1, 1943 – September 27, 2021

Susan (Sue) Gail Taylor was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma and moved to Austin in the 1970s and was a long-time Cherrywood / Scheiffer-Willowbrook resident.

Lloyd Doggett.

he Cherrywood neighborhood is represented in the Texas Legislature by Representative Sheryl Cole (a resident of Wilshire

Woods) and Senator Sarah Eckhardt. Sen. Eckhardt held a fundraiser at Cherrywood Coffeehouse on Oct 14th which was well attended, including by U.S. Congressman

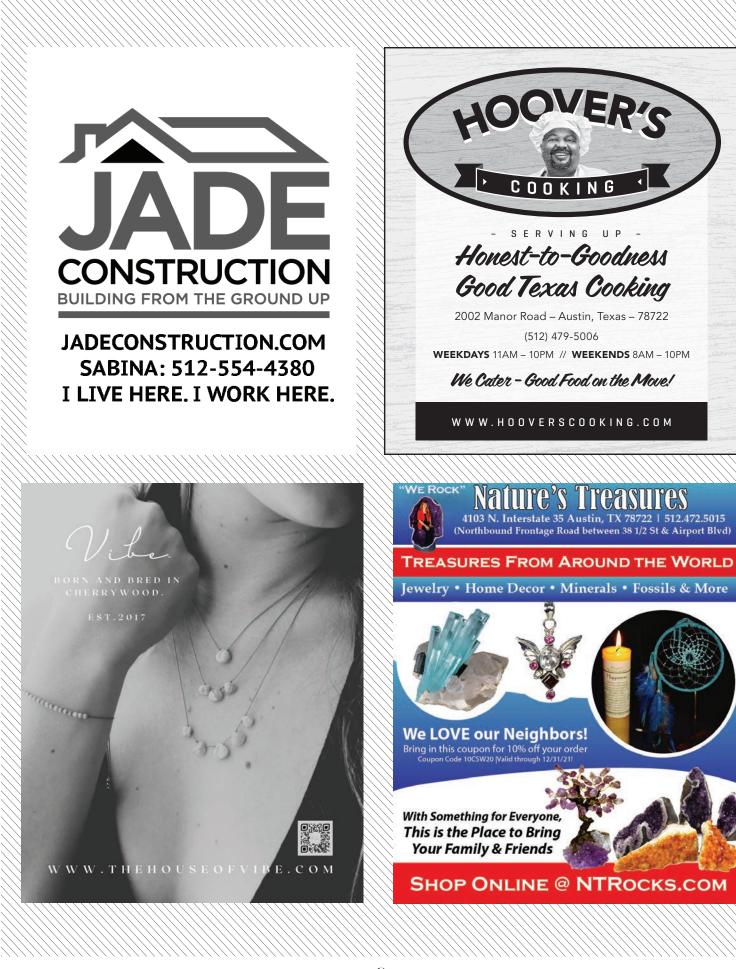
Sarah was previously Travis County Judge from 2015-2020 before being elected

to the Texas Senate in July 2020.

Sue spent her professional life as a journalist. She worked for United Press International in Chicago and often recalled her experiences covering Martin Luther King and the Chicago Campaign in 1966. She held numerous roles at the Austin American-Statesman and retired in the late 1990s.

She volunteered as the Flea editor from 2003-2006 and became known as "fair, inclusive, accurate and reliable" in that role. Sue was an avid walker and was often encountered with her dog Gracie, and is remembered as "a generous and talented person who applied her expertise and energy in many ways to support Cherrywood."





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40 BEERS ON TAP 130 BOTTLED BEERS



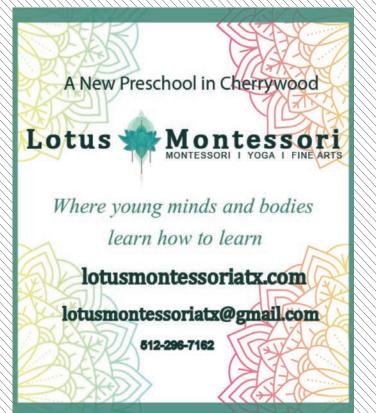
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