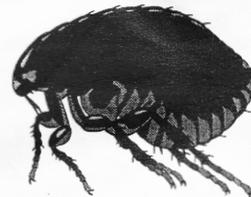


# The Flea

The Newsletter of the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association  
Vol. 5, No. 3



April 2000

Dear Neighbor,

City Council elections are on Saturday, May 6. Campaign spending limits and a popular mayor have made this a very quiet election which will probably see a low turnout, but **every eligible Cherrywood voter should vote**. Cherrywood has traditionally had higher turnout than the city as a whole. This means that elected officials know we are watching them. This in turn persuades them to pay attention to us. With Mueller redevelopment and I-35 expansion looming, Cherrywood will be dealing with public officials regularly. If we want to have real influence and shape our destiny, we must vote in large numbers. So on Saturday, May 6, before you go to the lake, have that picnic, or lie down for that nap, vote for your favorite candidates, and in doing so, vote for Cherrywood's future.

## CNA recommends site for electrical substation

*by Jim Walker*

On March 25 and 29 the CNA held two Emergency Meetings to ask the membership to recommend a site for the proposed Austin Energy electrical substation. While the Steering Committee acknowledges that the last several months of negotiations with Austin Energy have been rocky, I believe the end result is a good one.

A quorum of CNA members attending the Emergency Meetings voted in favor of the following motion: "The CNA Steering Committee recommends to the General Membership of the CNA that a proposed Fiesta/Delwood site (approximately between Pinky's Pagers and Blockbuster Video) be favored for the proposed new Austin Energy substation, given the information received to date. Should the Fiesta/Delwood site become unfeasible for any reason, the CNA Steering Committee shall recommend alternatives to Austin Energy. Mitigation and improvements to be provided by Austin Energy to the CNA shall be negotiated."

The Steering Committee considered several sites before favoring the one near Fiesta. The other proposed sites were deemed more damaging to the neighborhood in terms of large

power poles, residents in close proximity, etc. Photos of the other proposed sites and their projected impacts will be available at the general meeting. Few people want a new substation in our area, but we are the people who will benefit from it.

Austin Energy has already begun negotiations with the owners of the Fiesta site. If for any reason this site becomes untenable or our understanding with Austin Energy changes, the Steering Committee will start over with Austin Energy to identify suitable sites.

Perhaps the silver lining is that Austin Energy will fund improvements to the neighborhood immediately around the proposed site [see Mike Damal's related article]. This process will unfold over the next several months. If you want to get involved in the mitigation negotiations, call Mike at 478-9622.

**Next CNA meeting:  
Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 pm  
Maplewood Elementary**

**Steering Committee meetings have  
been scheduled for Monday, May 15,  
and Monday, June 19, at 7 pm, at  
Asbury United Methodist Church.**

## Cherrywood Neighborhood Association

<http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/nhome.htm>

### Steering Committee

#### Officers:

Chair	Jim Walker 499-0526
Vice-Chair	Jules Vieau 495-9569
Secretary	vacant
Treasurer	Rebecca Kohout 477-9560

#### Members-at-Large:

Sarah Bird 472-6542	Mike Damal 478-9622
Gale Greenleaf 474-6245	Kathy Jones 472-1921
Mell Lawrence 476-8714	Mark Lind 708-1458
Chay Rees 708-0476	Blake Stephenson 476-1955

### The Flea

Editor	Bennett Donovan 322-9059
Layout	Mike Conner 474-7012
Advertising	Rebecca Kohout 477-9560

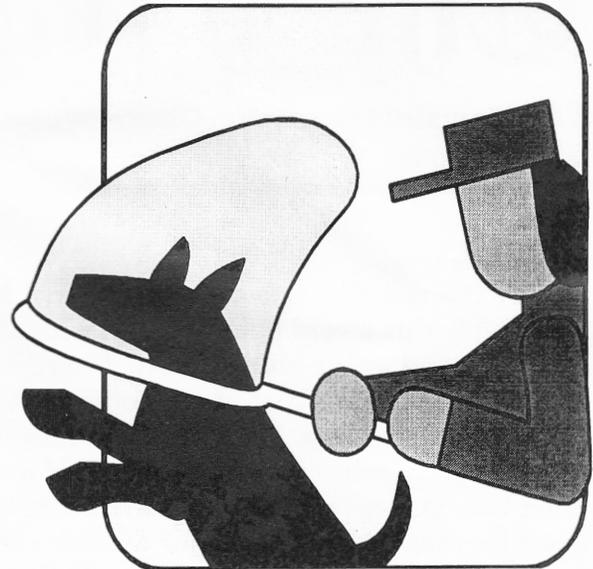
### Committees

Crime, APD	Kathy Jones 472-1921
Nominating	Sarah Bird 472-6542
Parks	Girard Kinney 478-5042
Traffic	Helen Kent-Davis 474-9751 Mark Lind 708-1458
Planning&Zoning	Mike Damal 478-9622

### Projects

Beautification	Mike Damal 478-9622
Maplewood, AISD	Jules Vieau 495-9569
Marshall Bruni 476-6404	Jack Newman 476-6616
History & Scrapbook	Sharon Edmonson 473-2337
Tree Planting	Mike Damal 478-9622
Mueller Redevelopment	Jim Walker 499-0526
Cat-In-Hood	Sharon Edmonson 473-2337
Email and Webpage	Gordon Bennett 477-7195

[gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:gordonb@uts.cc.utexas.edu)



## Letter to the Editor

Though we have tried to remedy it, there is still a major problem in this neighborhood with loose dogs. They may not be the dangerous ones that we have confronted recently, but to some of us they are a comparable nuisance. I know that some people like to let their dogs run free. I am sure that the dogs enjoy it, too. But I do not want to be accosted by strange dogs when I am trying to enjoy an afternoon walk.

I wouldn't complain if it were just one or two dogs and only happened occasionally. But every single time I walk my dogs, I am chased, followed, or accosted by someone's loose dog. I can't conceive that it is so difficult to keep one's dog in one's own backyard or on a leash. I hope that we can renew our efforts to keep loose dogs out of the neighborhood.

And to the people who let their dogs run free, I am talking to YOU. I don't care if your dog is friendly. No one wants to have to fend off your dog's amorous advances. Don't make me call you to tell you that your dog is in my backyard. Don't make me call the dog catcher when I see your dog loose, which I will do every time and which I hope everyone else will do as well. Keep your dog on a leash or in your backyard!

*Anonymous*

## Form letter to owners of delinquent dogs now on CNA website

The Steering Committee is planning to make form letters on a variety of neighborhood issues available. The first letter regards the responsibilities of pet owners, especially those of nuisance dogs. If your neighbor is not controlling his or her dog, you can download this letter from the CNA website, print it, and deliver it to your neighbor. The letter will inform your neighbor of legal responsibilities. Hopefully, the letter will convince your neighbor to be more considerate, but if you have to call animal control later, at least you will have given fair warning.

To access the letter, navigate CNA Home | Projects | Pets | More, or jump directly to [http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/\\_cwd/letter-dog.htm](http://asnic.utexas.edu/~bennett/_cwd/letter-dog.htm). If you do not have Web access, call Jim Walker at 499-0526 to get a copy.

## Cherrywood email digest now available

Overwhelmed by the number of messages you get in your email through the Cherrywood listserv? Now you can condense Cherrywood email into convenient daily "digests." Instead of getting multiple messages each day, you will get a single message containing all the day's mail. You can open it immediately, save it for later, or delete the whole thing at once.

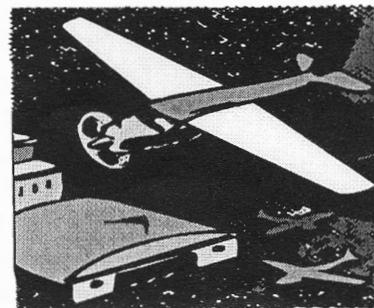
To switch to "digest" mode, send an email with no subject to [listserv@lists.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:listserv@lists.cc.utexas.edu). The text of your email should read "SET Cherrywood MAIL DIGEST." Before you know it, you should be getting all your neighborhood messages in individual daily packets.

## Historic Mueller hangar recalls WWII shortages

by Sharon Edmonson

An interesting bit of neighborhood history stands silently behind barricaded gates across Airport Boulevard from Patterson Park. Mueller Airport's wooden aircraft hangar, the airport's second hangar, was built in 1943. Its significance is primarily architectural. Due to wartime shortages of metal, it was constructed of 1x10 yellow pine planks, laminated onsite, laboriously crafted, and then hoisted into place. Such World War II-era wooden hangars are extremely rare. Researchers at the state and local levels are currently investigating how many were built and how many remain. Our hangar may quite possibly be worthy of a listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

It is noteworthy that the latest development plan for the Mueller site calls for preserving the hangar at its present location, the only onsite structure so designated. However, some city staffers favor its demolition or relocation to another site, possibly Bergstrom. If you strongly favor, as I do, onsite preservation of this vestige of the seventy year-old institution that literally put our neighborhood on the map, please make your opinion known to neighborhood leaders or contact the City Council by mail, phone, or over the internet at <http://www.ciaustintx.us/council/officials/htm>.



## Neighborhood History Day set for May 6

The Old North Central East (ONCE) Austin History Club will host a "Neighborhood History Day" on Saturday, May 6 (Spring Election Day), 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at Asbury United Methodist Church. Plan to take a little extra time after voting to peruse the exhibits, view photos from last May's "Photo Heritage Day," and pick up some new literature (focusing this time on property research). There is no charge, and everyone interested in the history of our area is welcome.

## Neighbors can do something to make Cherrywood safer

by Gordon Bennett

Summer is approaching, and that can often mean a seasonal increase in crime. But every CNA resident can take actions to keep Cherrywood as safe as it can be.

To begin with, do not hesitate to communicate all your safety concerns to our district representative Carlos Casas (phone 926-9932, fax 933-9010). Officer Casas is the APD liaison for Charlie Sector in which Cherrywood falls. He can arrange for officers to investigate criminal activity in the neighborhood; he also transmits neighborhood concerns to his commanding officers which can result in increased patrols and overall police presence.

The CNA Steering Committee also has a crime liaison who keeps track of security issues. Kathy Jones is currently serving in this position and would welcome your thoughts and suggestions. She can be reached at 472-1921 or

[kjones@tmail.tea.state.tx.us](mailto:kjones@tmail.tea.state.tx.us).

The intimidation of neighbors by oddly-behaving men [see Kathy Jones's article] cannot go on, and regardless of how busy we all are, there are certain things which everyone should do if they observe strange or threatening behavior:

(1) **Report** every incident, no matter how ambiguous it may seem. No file means no APD attention. Tell any 911 operator who might downplay the urgency of your call that your "District Officer told me to report this sort of thing, so please take this report."

(2) **Record** everything that you can remember about the incident. This would include descriptions of the person, dress, vehicle, time, place, and any words that were exchanged. Write things down immediately while details are still fresh in your memory. Give Kathy Jones a photocopy of your report.

(3) **Post** a summary account of the incident on the CNA listserv if possible; encourage

neighbors who have had incidents to do the same.

(4) **Log** everyone's response to your report. This includes 911 operators, APD officers, and CNA members. With whom did you speak, when, and what was said?

Such fastidious record-keeping is the only thing that will cause APD to take real organizational action. APD will simply never respond to vague verbal reports as well as they do to careful written ones. Moreover, a paper trail will help CNA get results. Officers know that we will take our records to Chief Knee if necessary.

We can end to the intimidating behavior of criminals, drug addicts, and threatening individuals in our neighborhood, but we all have to take our responsibilities seriously.

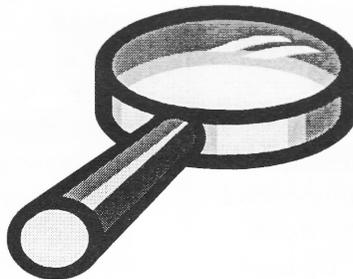
## Cherrywood Crime Watch

by Kathy Jones

There have been a number of burglaries in the neighborhood in recent months, including one break-in which occurred while the residents were at home sleeping. We are still also experiencing car break-ins. APD District Representative Carlos Casas has asked everyone to be on the lookout for suspicious

individuals and vehicles. Make note of the license plate numbers of any cars that are driving slowly and seem to be casing homes. I will collect any information at 472-1921 or by email at [kjones@tmail.tea.state.tx.us](mailto:kjones@tmail.tea.state.tx.us) and forward it to Officer Casas. This includes requests for more street lighting.

One particular area of concern recently has been the Boggy Creek Greenbelt. This is the sweet little greenbelt that starts at Cherrywood Road and continues eastward bordered by 40th Street on the north and Sycamore on the south. On April 4, a man behaved in a disturbing manner toward a mother and her three children. He persistently stared at them in a "weird" way. Each time they tried to walk in a different direction, he would pull his car in front of them, get out,



# Cherrywood



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AUSTIN, TEXAS 78762-6454



# Albert STOWELL

for  
AISD Board of Trustees, Dist. 5

Property values are going through the roof in our neighborhood! If you're considering selling or buying, give me a call for a Free Market Analysis -- Rebecca

## REBECCA'S HOME OWNER'S UPDATE

### Spring Gardening Tips

Spring 2000

#### Rub Out Pests

Houseplants bothered by pests? Rub them out with rubbing alcohol. Gardener Dominique Inge of Granbury, Texas, finds this recipe effective against mealybugs, whiteflies, red spider mites, aphids, fungus gnats, and scale. She cautions that it may cause leaf burn on some plants and doesn't recommend it for African violets.

#### Ingredients and Supplies

½-1 cup rubbing alcohol  
1 quart water  
Pump spray bottle

#### Directions

1. Mix ingredients in a pump spray bottle.
2. Test spray on a leaf to check for burning.
3. Wait 1 day and check for damage before treating the entire plant.
4. Treat at 3-day intervals for 10 days or as needed. Don't use this in the heat of the day.

**Yield:** 4½-5 cups of alcohol spray

#### A Cherrywood Resident Since 1972

If you're planning a move to a larger home, need to relocate, or know someone on the move--call me--**Rebecca Kohout at Henry S. Miller, REALTORS**, 925 Westbank Dr., Austin, Texas 78746.

For the  
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Rebecca Kohout



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Home: (512) 477-9560  
Fax: (512) 327-2831  
Mobile: (512) 415-9876

### SPRING NOTES!!

- 11 Austin Newcomers Club Monthly Luncheon
- 20 UT Commencement
- 23 Last Day of School (AISD, DS, RR)
- 27 Willie Nelson & Family, UT Performing Arts Center
- 29 Memorial Day, Observed
  
- 1-3 The Ben Willie Darrell East Austin Youth Classic Golf Tournament
- 19 Emancipation Day
- 22 Last Day of School (AISD Year Round School)
- 24 Elisabet Ney Museum Children's Hour at the Ney Fairy Tale Costume Party
  
- 4 Independence Day
- 12 Austin Symphony Children's Day Art Park at Symphony Square
- 15-16 Austin Pond Society 6th Annual Tour of Ponds

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### PRESENTS

#### DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Win a \$25.00 Gift Certificate to Calabash Caribbean  
Restaurant  
by answering the following question:

**Current events: Where have the city and the Cherrywood  
Neighborhood Association agreed to try to locate the new  
electric power substation?**

Call your answer in to Jack at 476-6616, or fax it to 478-3512,  
or e-mail to: [jjnewman@prismnet.com](mailto:jjnewman@prismnet.com)

Be sure to include your name and phone number, so you can  
be notified if you win!

*One winning entry will be drawn from all correct entries.*

Entry deadline: May 31, 2000.



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### JANUARY ISSUE NEIGHBORHOOD QUESTION:

What is an address of any home in the Cherrywood  
Neighborhood Association area that was built before 1930?

**ANSWERS:** No one found a pre-1930's Cherrywood  
Neighborhood Association home, so we drew from several  
neighbors who identified houses built in 1930. The envelope,  
please...**the winner of the \$25.00 gift certificate to East  
Side Cafe is Rick Carlson! Congratulations!**

Below are some pre-1930 neighborhood homes and their dates  
of construction. Check them out!

2806 La Fayette.....	1912
2315 La Fayette.....	1920
3008 Cherrywood.....	1921
2804 La Fayette.....	1922
2802 La Fayette.....	1925
2803 La Fayette.....	1925
2907 La Fayette.....	1925
3209 Cherrywood.....	1925
2808 La Fayette.....	1929

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mon-fri: 7a-midnight  
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from the desk of : *Kyle Ranne* at 3402 Werner Avenue

Dear friends,

As your French Place neighbor, I want to say how great I see our neighborhood becoming. The transition I have seen & been a part of the last nine years is truly remarkable. Is it too vain for us all to pat each other on the back in a collective effort to show our appreciation for each other? I think not! I have been busy recently keeping a neighbor's house from burning down (a tree caught fire in their backyard from power lines), tracking dogs on killing sprees and keeping very close tabs on the real estate market, especially as our neighborhood is affected by it.

Below, you can review the activity in our neighborhood since November 1, 1999

If you do not want a flag in your yard on July 4th, please call me & let me know.

**For professional real estate guidance including property management, I'm only a few blocks or a phone call away!**

Warm Regards,

*Kyle Ranne*  
Kyle Ranne, Certified Residential Specialist

## Residential Listings

### Search Criteria

Status: Active <OR> Contingent Contract <OR> Pending <OR> Pending-Taking Backups <OR> Sold

Zip Code: 78722

Area: 3

Sold Date: 11/01/99+

#	St	Street Address	Lp	Liv	Beds	Fb	Hb	Sqft1	Yrblt	Cd	Sp
1	A	3707 ROBINSON AV	97500	1	2	1.0	0	644	1946		
2	A	1724 GILES ST	109900	2	3	1.0	0	1322	1947		
3	A	3314 HEMLOCK AV	125000	2	3	1.7	0	1148	1951		
4	A	1707 E 38 1/2 ST	129950	1	2	2.0	0	0	1947		
5	A	4602 ELWOOD RD	159000	2	3	3.0	0	2020	1949		
6	A	3511 ROBINSON AV	159000	1	2	1.0	0		1938		
7	A	3904 SYCAMORE DR	180000	2	3	1.0	1	1508	1961		
8	A	4330 AIRPORT BLVD	189900	2	3	2.0	0		1947		
9	A	3107 ROBINSON AV	389000	2	5	4.0	1	2954	1996		
10	P	3303 HOLLYWOOD AV	159000	1	2	1.0	0	720	1947		
11	PB	2905 BREEZE TE	119500	2	3	2.0	0	1433	1948		
12	PB	2902 DANCY ST	139900	1	2	1.0	0	1038	1937		
13	PB	3813 WILLOWBROOK DR	155000	2	3	2.0	0	1597	1951		
14	PB	3103 DANCY ST	170000	1	2	2.0	0	1352	1951		
15	PB	3105 LAFAYETTE AV	182500	2	2	1.0	0	1518	1940		
16	PB	3 KERN RAMBLE	189000	1	3	1.0	0	0	1948		
17	S	1304 E 29TH ST	116500	1	3	1.0	0	1280	1938	11/24/99	116500
18	S	1802 E 38 1/2 ST	129900	1	2	1.0	0	1014	1990	11/19/99	124900
19	S	1602 WILSHIRE BL	135000	2	2	1.0	1	1202	1946	12/31/99	135000
20	S	3711 WERNER AV	139876	1	3	1.0	0	954	1975	11/19/99	139000
21	S	1806 E 39TH ST	142000	2	2	2.0	0	1504	1954	12/10/99	115000
22	S	1727 GILES ST	144000	1	3	1.0	1	1096	1953	12/30/99	144000
23	S	1405 CONCORDIA AV	149500	2	2	1.0	0	1270	1956	01/02/00	150000
24	S	2905 ROBINSON AV	149900	1	3	2.0	0	1225	1952	12/10/99	143000
25	S	3306 CHERRYWOOD RD	150000	3	3	2.0	0	1434	1950	12/15/99	150000
26	S	3401 HOLLYWOOD AV	159900	1	2	1.0	0	1179	1938	11/29/99	161000
27	S	1713 E 40TH ST	189900	1	3	1.0	1	1644	1950	12/23/99	189900
28	S	1407 WILSHIRE BL	255000	3	3	2.0	1	1892	1950	12/15/99	247500

and stand near the creek so that they would have to pass him. When they changed direction to avoid him, he would do the same thing again. This happened three or four times before he finally disappeared. He is a tall, thin black man probably in his thirties and without facial hair. He was smoking a cigarette, and his pickup truck was a black or dark gray Nissan.

I myself encountered a similarly threatening individual on the greenbelt just two days later on April 6. He seemed to be high on drugs and casing homes; he harassed a neighbor walking her dog. We called 911. This individual was an African-American male seemingly in his early 20s, about 6 ft., with a red knit cap, white t-shirt, and new-looking blue jeans.

Although nothing "happened" in either of these two encounters, observation and intuition said they were dangerous situations. We all need to be alert and aware of our surroundings at all times.

## Mueller master plan gradually taking shape

*by Bennett Donovan*

The ROMA Design Group of San Francisco is working toward a final master plan for the former Mueller Airport and says that it should complete its work some time in May.

As of now, the draft of the plan includes 1,765 single-family homes and townhouses, 3,315 apartments, condominiums, and stacked flats, 320,000 square feet of retail space around a town center, 2 million square feet of office and manufacturing space, a 12-acre lake surrounded by walking trails, and other sites for a school, parks, greenbelts, and an Austin/Travis County Emergency Command Center. The draft plan preserves the WWII-era wooden hangar near Airport Boulevard [see article by Sharon Edmonson].

One of the ROMA's most controversial suggestions is to hand development over to a private master developer who would theoretically implement the master plan. The Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition (MNC) has traditionally favored a publicly run development corpo-

ration to oversee redevelopment. Such a public corporation would presumably be more responsive to neighborhood pressure to obey the plan as drafted by ROMA. One fear is that future city councils might allow a private developer to deviate from the master plan.

The City Council plans to vote on the master plan in June, assuming that all deadlines are met on time. MNC will continue to lobby for ROMA's master plan for this huge area next to Cherrywood. See Jim Walker's related article on page 8 which explains the MNC's current position.

## New Maplewood sign serves community

*by Jules Vieau*

Have you seen Maplewood Elementary's spiffy new sign? It serves not only as a beacon for our neighborhood school, but as a potential message board for CNA activities. Many thanks to Maplewood and Jean Arbuckle for assisting CNA with the recent notices for our emergency meetings and candidate forum.

This seems a good time to point out the importance of Maplewood as a focal point in our neighborhood. As AISD begins the budgeting process, our school may once more come under attack. Superintendent Forgione has suggested that some "low-enrollment schools" might be consolidated with larger schools. There have also been suggestions for more cut-backs for physical education and the arts. I don't mean to sound alarmist, but if we don't continue to speak in support of our school, we may lose something of great value. I urge you to let the AISD administration know that we support Maplewood.



## Planning and Zoning Committee Update

by Mike Damal

The CNA Planning and Zoning Committee has been busy with neighborhood issues. In particular, we are addressing the following:

**(1) Improvements to accompany substation.** Austin Energy has said it will help Cherrywood with physical improvements to compensate for the substation to be built in our neighborhood [see related article by Jim Walker].

Some of the preliminary ideas for improvements which the P&Z Committee has "brainstormed" include (1) moving the bus stop at 38½ St. and Robinson to the other side of the street so that shoppers don't have to cross 38½ St., where they frequently leave their carts and other trash, (2) better landscaping along 38½ St., (3) electrifying the new Maplewood School sign, (4) purchasing entrance signs to Cherrywood, (5) burying utility lines on 38½ St. to improve its appearance, (6) building a "garage-sized" community meeting room next to the substation, (7) purchasing new greenspace to offset the loss in pervious cover due to the substation, and (8) improving sidewalks on 38½ St. and other adjacent streets.

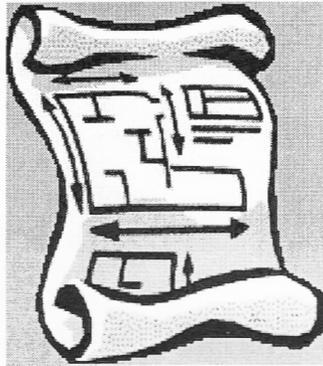
If you have an idea for improvements, please call me at 478-9622.

**(2) Expansion of Children's Advocacy Center.** The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is planning to add an upper story to its garage outbuilding adjacent to the Avalon Apartments on 32nd St. Since the CAC property is zoned "neighborhood office - historic", it is required to go through the city's Landmark Commission for any exterior modifications. According to Barbara Stocklin of the Landmark Commission, the CAC is applying for federal funds that if used would prevent the building from ever being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Barbara said that she would look more deeply into this, but that she didn't think that the Landmark Commis-

sion would have any problems with the second story or the lead paint abatement that is planned. The P&Z Committee will notify residents of the CAC's appearance before the Landmark Commission via email/website as soon as it has been scheduled. If you don't have Internet access, call me at 478-9622 for details.

**(3) Future of Value Sky Park.** The P&Z Committee is also researching the land at the Value Sky Park on Manor Road. This land has various restrictions on its development, and we are looking into how these restrictions could affect future development and surrounding neighbors. Austin is in a building boom, and this land will be developed, probably sooner than later. We feel it is better to be proactive rather than reactive to a proposed development.

The P&Z Committee meets about once a month and notices are posted via the Cherrywood email listserv. If you want phone notification of meetings, please call 478-9622.



## I-35 Update

by Girard Kinney

TxDOT long-range planning for the future of I-35 continues, although no new information has been released for several months. A coalition of neighborhoods abutting the east side of I-35 is currently being organized by the CNA Traffic Committee. This coalition will ultimately provide information and recommendations to the Steering Committee about how to influence the expansion process most effectively.

All three of the schemes currently under serious consideration would take 60 feet to 100 feet of additional Right of Way along the entire portion of I-35 abutting Cherrywood. The scheme that least impacts our neighborhood in terms of property takings, visual impact, and noise abatement would depress the main lanes of the freeway (the same as proposed downtown), leave the west upper deck open for High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, and remove the east upper deck completely.

## City plans to dig up Lafayette this summer

City crews are scheduled to perform water main and street construction on Lafayette between 26th/Dean Keeton and Edgewood some time this summer. Disruption should only affect the street itself, but crews are supposed to repair any damage they do to front yards. The city will first replace the water line; then it will do street repair. A survey in preparation for this work was completed last summer (remember the stakes and pink ribbons?). Final construction plans were approved in January, and the job is on the list - of course, so are many others.

## Traffic calming petition exceeds expectations

by Mark Lind

Thanks to many CNA volunteers, our traffic calming petition received 550 signatures, exceeding our initial goal of 400 signatures.

The petition itself, was presented to the City Council on March 2 as a 60-foot-long scroll. We also sent copies of the petition with a cover letter outlining our concerns to Traffic-calming Program Manager Joan Hudson, City Manager Jesus Garza, and State Representative Dawnna Dukes. News 8 Austin interviewed Helen Kent-Davis and several other neighbors about our traffic problems, giving the issue TV coverage.

We remain cautiously optimistic that all our work will result in traffic calming for the neighborhood this year. We are now trying to determine which neighborhoods will be selected. The Traffic Committee will report as necessary.

Selection as a traffic-calming neighborhood is only a preliminary step. Cherrywood neighbors have to approve the city's proposals before any concrete is poured. Neighbors will work hand-in-hand with the city to determine which traffic controls are appropriate; then residents of the affected area will vote on the plans.

Again, thanks to all of you who pounded the pavement gathering signatures, signed the petition, or contacted Joan Hudson with traffic concerns. A big thanks to Helen Kent-Davis who spearheaded this tremendous effort.

If you have not yet called Joan Hudson about your specific traffic concerns, it's not too late. Please call the city transportation department at 499-7012. Your voice might be the one that puts us over the top and ensures traffic calming this year.

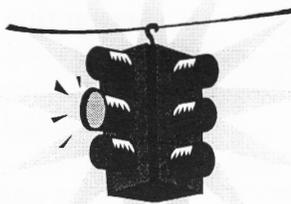
## Longhorn Railway gets the boot

by Bennett Donovan

A few years ago I wanted to do a piece in *The Flea* to educate neighbors about the railroad that runs through our neighborhood. I called Don Cheatham, the owner of Longhorn Railway, to ask him some questions on how the railroad right-of-way was maintained. Instead of cooperating, he told me angrily that the tracks were there before I was and threatened to call his lawyer. I remember thinking that I was glad that I didn't have to deal with this man in my everyday life. Well, it looks like Capital Metro, which owns the tracks, has come to the same conclusion.

According to a March 9 article in the *Austin American-Statesman*, the Capital Metro board has canceled Longhorn Railway's contract to use the tracks, because Longhorn has allegedly not maintained them properly (remember the derailments a few months ago?). Cheatham, who has already sued Capital Metro board member Daryl Slusher for preventing him from making a living, blames Capital Metro for the maintenance problem and vows not to give up without a fight. For the meantime, however, another rail company has been brought in to finish the six months remaining on Longhorn's contract. After that, Capital Metro will assess the situation.

Is it possible we may have a freight company willing to respect the neighborhood instead of disdaining it? Things at least look better than they did a few weeks ago.



## Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Meeting Agenda for April 26, 2000

### Featured Topic: Mueller Airport Redevelopment

6:30	Welcome and mingle; refreshments will be available, children welcome
7:00	Officer reports
7:15	Committee reports with discussion/action Items
	Planning & Zoning    Austin Energy update (action if needed) Children's Advocacy Center update Valu SkyPark
	Traffic                    Traffic petition follow-up (action if needed) I-35 update
	Crime                    Crack house update (action if needed) Suspicious persons and burglaries
	Nominating            Steering Committee vacancy
	Other                    CNA donation to Maplewood Elementary Pets, especially dangerous dogs Mueller redevelopment Neighborhood Planning in the fall City mowing wildflowers in Willowbrook Greenbelt
8:30	Adjourn

## CNA alerted to rumored Mueller land swap

by Jim Walker

Local media have reported a possible land swap involving development rights at Mueller for land over the aquifer owned by Stratus Properties (formerly FM Properties). For several months, as the city negotiated the Bradley Settlement over the aquifer, it became apparent that soon after that deal was done other developers such as Stratus would come to the City looking for similar settlements.

The Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition (MNC), comprised of 14 separate neighborhood associations around the old airport, has held that any negotiations involving the Mueller property must meet the following conditions:

- the ROMA masterplan is adopted and the site rezoned accordingly;
- a development corporation or similar oversight entity is created and appointed with appropriate neighborhood representation;
- an open, public process of selecting a major

financial partner, such as a master developer, to implement the Mueller redevelopment masterplan.

The MNC sent the following two-point statement to city councilmembers two weeks ago on this issue:

"Amidst persistent and disturbing rumors of a deal being negotiated between the City of Austin and Stratus Properties/Tom Hicks involving the Mueller site and land over the aquifer and/or a cash swap, we must make two statements:

1. Any and all negotiations with any party regarding development rights to Mueller must be halted immediately.

2. If a master developer strategy is chosen as the method of land disposition for Mueller, then an open and public process must be used to select the master developer."

Residents of the neighborhoods around Mueller, including CNA, may need to appear en masse at a City Council meeting in early May. We'll know more on April 26, or call Jim Walker, Girard Kinney, or Gordon Bennett.