



NOV 2022 | VOLUME 31 | NUMBER 4 // NEWSLETTER OF THE CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Get Out the Vote

by Jim Walker

As we are all likely well aware by now, Tuesday, Nov 8 is another Election Day. With our busy lives, we can sometimes feel like our vote doesn't have much impact, especially compared to other responsibilities. But nothing could be further from the truth. November's outcomes will affect everything from health-care to education to our judiciary.

Regardless of your political affiliation or stance on national issues, a high voter turnout (meaning the percentage of eligible voters in an area who actually cast a ballot) at the neighborhood level can positively affect our influence with state representatives and on City Hall.

All of Cherrywood will vote in the open mayoral race from among six (six!) candidates. Most of Cherrywood is in Austin City Council District 9, which is crowded with eight (eight!) candidates on the ballot. Several streets just north of Manor Rd, west of Cherrywood Rd are now in District 1 and have four candidates to choose from. Check out the Aug 2022 Flea newsletter (www.cherrywood.org/newsletter) for more background on neighborhood redistricting.

Also, with the mayoral and District 9 races being crowded, there's a good chance one or both races will end up in a run-off between the top two vote earners. Voter turnout at the neighborhood level is massively important in

local run-off elections. Circle your calendar now for the likely Dec 13 City of Austin Run-off Election Day.

Over the last several years, Cherrywood has well out-paced the city-wide turnout in general and in mid-term elections:

- 2020 – 72.5% City-wide – 66.7%
- 2018 – 71.4% City-wide – 61.5%
- 2016 – 70.6% City-wide – 64.6%
- 2014 – 55.2% City-wide – 40.4%

In-person early voting is the most convenient way to vote, and runs from Oct. 24 to Nov. 4. You can vote at any of the early voting locations across Travis County Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. On Saturday, Oct. 29, and Friday, Nov. 4, five voting "megacenters" will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. – check out this web page for locations, a handy app that shows wait times at different locations, and a sample ballot for our area—www.votetravis.com.

The closest early voting locations to Cherrywood are:

- Austin Energy Headquarters at 4815 Mueller Blvd
- LBJ School of Public Affairs at 2315 Red River St
- Millennium Youth Complex at 1156 Hargrave St (megacenter)
- Carver Branch Library at 1161 Angelina St

On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov 8, the closest polling location will be Genesis Presbyterian Church at 1507 Wilshire Blvd adjacent to Patterson Park – walking distance for most of Cherrywood!

Statewide races include: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Railroad Commissioner, Agriculture Commissioner, and three Texas Supreme Court Justices.

City races include: Mayor (a city-wide position), City Council members (by district), and several large bond proposals for local entities and initiatives (including Austin Independent School Board, City of Austin affordable housing, and Austin Community College).

The League of Women Voters' Vote 411 guide (www.vote411.org) is a great place to start to quickly get information on candidates and their positions. Enter your address and a list of candidates and propositions will pop up, along with high-level info. From there visit the candidates' web pages to drill down more detail. Reach out to their offices and ask them questions. They need to hear from you!

Once you've got your notes, print out a personalized ballot at www.votetravis.com and take it with you to the polls.

Visit votetexas.gov, where you can see if you're registered to vote and find details about voting with disabilities.

VOTE!

Falling for Election Season

As we pull together another Flea, the first honest cool weather has arrived. Seems later than usual, but many things feel overdue these days – except the suddenly earlier sunsets. We’ll be back in-person for our next General Meeting, which is also our Annual Meeting when we elect new Steering Committee members (see page six) and thank those who are rolling off. Please come out, whatever the weather!

We cancelled the August General Meeting, so it’s been a while since we last met in early June! In support of ongoing advocacy for a better future I-35 design on our western edge to the City of Austin and Texas Dept of Transportation, we’ll be restarting our Land Use/Transportation Committee meetings on the first Wed of every month to focus on I-35 and other issues (see the recap of Steering Committee discussion with Anna Martin of the Austin Transportation Department on page 3). Tune in to the Cherrywood NA listserv for more details.

This past August provided a Fifth Sunday (and Mon through Wed!) and several informal gatherings were held around the neighborhood. Halloween weekend is also a Fifth Sunday – the next opportunity comes in January. Check out the August 2022 Flea newsletter for a bit more on this neighborhood connection idea.

In September we held a forum at Cherrywood Center for candidates running for the open District 9 seat, as well as for the open mayoral seat. We had a great turnout, with about 50 residents at the peak. Four of the D9 candidates spoke or submitted answers to questions – Linda Guerrero, Ben Leffler (a Cherrywood resident!), Greg Smith, Joah Spearman, Zo Qadri, and Tom Wald (also a Cherrywood resident!). We also had the two leading mayoral candidates: Celia Israel and Kirk Watson. We weren’t able to get to all the questions residents wanted to ask, but thank you for the great turnout!

This Flea is being timed to arrive before Election Day on Tue, Nov. 8. The cover story outlines why it’s important to get out to vote, the

closest most convenient locations for voting, and other key information for Election Day. Those Cherrywooders on the southern edge of the neighborhood have been redistricted from District 9 to District 1 for Austin City Council districts. Please see the August Flea online for more background on this change.

At our November meeting we’ll be electing new Steering Committee members; see page six for more. We’ll also review City election results and what they may mean for neighborhood agency and issues, updates on the I-35 project, and the third annual Cherrywood holiday fundraising campaign - this year to benefit both Maplewood and Campbell Elementary Schools; see page seven for more. We’re also trying to secure an Austin Police Department representative to share any information on the spate of gunshots heard over several days in early October in the Manor Rd, Banton to Walnut area.

And I want to give a special thank you to Brandy Savarese, who is rolling off the Steering Committee and moving to a cooler locale. She brought a high energy and insight to the neighborhood’s approach to the I-35 project, and we’ll miss her! We look forward to inviting her back to help open the North Central Deck park in a few years ...

We hope to see you at Cherrywood Coffeehouse! As always, check out cherrywood.org for past Flea newsletters and previous communications on a range of issues. And join the Cherrywood listserv!



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CHERRYWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

General Meeting

Wednesday, Nov 16 @ 6:00 pm
in-person at Cherrywood Coffeehouse!

Agenda

- Steering Committee Elections, I-35 Updates, Fundraiser

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

So Much Transportation!

by Jim Walker

Anna Martin with the Austin Transportation Department joined the Cherrywood Steering Committee (SC) in October to share updates on a long list of projects in and around Cherrywood.

Intersection of Manor/Cherrywood – recently completed. ATD acknowledges the pre-project notification and engagement with several affected neighborhoods could have been better, but that the improvements were made and seem to be effective. SC members expressed some concerns about how the shared use paths (shared by pedestrians and cyclists) come together too quickly, and about the turning radius for large vehicles. ATD will be using crash data to evaluate the effectiveness of the changes.

Airport Blvd Corridor Project – in design through 2023. This 2016 bond project began implementation at the northern end of Airport but is nearing our area (a section from 45th St. to MLK Blvd). The right-of-way is not expected to be widened. Major changes being considered are to convert the outside lane of Airport Blvd into a bike lane and to address stormwater draining issues between Aldrich and Manor. This would have the added safety benefits of reducing

speeds and shortening the pedestrian crossing distances from the neighborhoods over to Mueller. Additional improvements are being considered at Parkwood/Crestwood (in the Wilshire Wood NA) and installation of a pedestrian-hybrid-beacon at Parkwood and 40th St. The pedestrian crossing at 40th St. will begin construction later this year. SC members also encouraged ATD to review the “longhorn” in the middle of the Wilshire Blvd/Airport Blvd/Aldrich St intersection.

Cherrywood Bikeways Project – last phase anticipated in late 2023, early 2024. The restriping and installation of white “pop-sicle sticks” on Cherrywood Rd and a new bike crossing under I-35 at Nature’s Treasures were only the first phase. The final phase includes rain gardens at the “bottleneck” striped areas on Cherrywood Rd where it crosses over creeks, and a major change to the Cherrywood/Scheiffer/Wilshire Blvd intersection. The final phase is waiting for an Austin Water Utility project to begin and finish so that Cherrywood Rd will only be disturbed once.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons at Manor Rd/Walnut – unknown timeline. A PHB has been supported by the neighborhood and

“warranted” (aka justified) by ATD but is still waiting on available city funding before being installed. The Manor/Alexander intersection will have a traffic signal installed.

Sidewalk coordination – unknown timeline. The SC expressed frustration at the lack of coordination across city departments about how some sidewalks not in the Cherrywood Sidewalk Plan (available online at cherrywood.org) were installed, while others are not being installed. There are upcoming opportunities for input on planned projects through ATX Walk Bike Roll and the 2023 Mobility Annual Plan.

I-35 Capital Express Project – could start late 2025. The SC shared key concerns about business relocations being handled fairly and openly, notification to neighborhoods about construction phase detour routes, and the North Central Deck concept principle of TxDOT redesigning the piers and structure of the renovated freeway to support a full deck at some point in the future. ATD was receptive but could not be committal. These issues will be further discussed at the first Wed monthly meetings!

Candidate Forum

On Wed., Sep 21, about 50 Cherrywood residents attended the 2022 Candidate Forum at Cherrywood Center (aka Servant Church). There was a great presentation on the three major bond proposals on the ballot by Adam Packer (email steering@cherrywood.org for copies of the handouts). We hosted four of the candidates for the open District 9 seat: Ben Leffler (Cherrywood resident!), Joah Spearman, Zo Qadri, and Tom Wald (Cherrywood resident!). Linda Guerrero was ill that evening but submitted written responses to questions. We also hosted two of the candidates for the open Mayor seat: Celia Israel and Kirk Watson.



Patterson Park

by Jennifer Potter-Miller

It's been a great fall at the park. There have been several fun community gatherings, including a field day with the Cap City Cobra softball team, a National Night Out picnic co-hosted by the Cherrywood NA, and the Fall Festival at the community garden.

The Fall Festival was part of the Roots & Wings Festival happening around the city, and included a sensory scavenger hunt in the garden, butterflies, bats, bee keeping, composting and tree planting demonstrations, live music, and pumpkin decorating. Fall in Central Texas is magical, and this has become a favorite annual event at the park.

Two big news items are that the Pharr Tennis Center renovation is underway and moving faster than expected. Melissa Knight and Rakhee Jain, the artists creating a piece that will be part of the project, think they might be installing it later this winter. Also, as the first part of the Neighborhood Partnering Program grant, the new youth baskets and backboards at the basketball court are in. New benches, limestone seating, and trash and recycling receptacles will be installed before the end of the year. The final piece of the grant, the shade structure over the basketball court, is still in the design phase. We can't wait to see how the park looks by the time spring rolls around!



Fall Fest, Field Day, and Ntnl. Night Out, by J. Potter-Miller.



Willowbrook Reach

by Adam Sparks

Fourteen volunteers from the neighborhood and the Friends and Lovers of Willowbrook Reach (FLWR) showed up on September 11th to collect trash from the creek after the strong rains. Ten giant trash bags of litter were removed from the creek, including two rugs, a suitcase, a bike wheel, and a very fashionable Ken doll. Volunteers also cleared the path of low hanging branches and brambles.

To be alerted when the winter creek cleanup is scheduled, please email Adam Sparks of FLWR to be put on the listserv at AdamESparks@Gmail.com.



Cap City Cobra Field Day at Patterson Park, 9/24, 2022

Thanks to all the neighbors who came out to a fun field day last weekend with the Cap City Cobras and to enjoy a picnic together on Tuesday at National Night Out!

We are grateful to the Cobras for showing neighborhood families such a fun time, and to the Neighborhood Association for cosponsoring and helping to bring the Mr. Softee ice cream truck back-it was a hit!

Save the date for the Patterson Park Community Garden Fall Festival, a Roots & Wings Festival event, on Saturday, October 22, and It's My Park Day on Saturday, Nov. 5!

Artist Takeover

Muralist and visual artist Zuzu Perkal and a group of 35+ artists are doing an artist takeover of a soon-to-be demolished duplex site off Manor Rd.(near the old EastSide Café/new Este) that will be open to the public for the East Austin Studio Tour in November.

"HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW" is an artist-run collaborative visual journey that speculates on the cycle of beauty, destruction, and rebirth. This interactive art exhibit features 35+ creative visionaries of diverse disciplines.

The installation is designed as a model to revitalize otherwise unused spaces in the interim period prior to being demolished and rebuilt. The project consists of eight various size rooms that are divided into two separate units of the duplex with exterior facade and yard. Each room will be curated and transformed by different creative groups and individual artists. Selected artists have no creative limitations and are encouraged to use a variety of mediums to create an immersive art space.

Cherrywood resident Ryan Steglich, who is helping bring this project to life says, "We were inspired by this idea of transforming a soon-to-be demolished building into a playground for artists to do their big crazy ideas, push themselves, and have complete artistic freedom. The artists are excited to be able to work together in a way and on a scale they rarely get to do, and have what they create shared with the community during EAST in a way that invites the community to connect with their own creative energy."

There will be event programming throughout the duration of the project. It will be open to the public in November during EAST (Nov 12-13, 19-20), and the artists are hoping it can serve as a center of grav-

ity and help activate Manor Rd. restaurants and businesses.

The entire duplex will be demolished at the end of 2022, with plans of a new housing project that will include a public mural, sculptural installation and one unit dedicated to affordable housing for the Blackland neighborhood.

This project supports Austin artists and creatives and aims to educate about Blackland CDC, who have been at the forefront of social equality, artistic expression and affordable housing in East Austin since 1983.

More information on events, participating artists and visiting hours can be found at: www.publiccanvas.org
Zuzu Perkal - www.ihavepinkhair.com
Blackland CDC - www.blacklandcdc.org
Austin Studio Tour - www.bigmedium.org/austinstudiotour



Cherrywood resident and participating artist Monica Bushong at the installation @mindsDup

John Aielli's Record-Breaking Estate Sale

by Gabi Williams

We woke up early to walk around the block and get in the steadily growing line. Closer to the opening of the sale, we learned we were 25th in line – the last of the first group in! I have lived on this block my whole life, and I never had the pleasure of conversing with Mr. Aielli, but stepping into his house was like looking into his brain. He had hundreds of framed pictures, including fine art and nude models, stained glass, cargo pants, classical sheet music, CDs, and more. There were dozens of crystals in the bathroom, and a surprising number of James Patterson novels. I made out with a large framed print of the *Birth of Venus*, a huge vintage camo t-shirt, and a rusty spanner. The turnout was absolutely unbelievable, and I am lucky to have a few pieces from John's lifelong treasure collection.



Everything but the kitchen sink.

Spooky Mist

by Julio Carreon Reyes

There is only residual stickiness left but let us remember the wave of honeydew that blanketed our neighborhood a short few weeks back. We can readily recall those mornings waking up to a thin, syrup film / mist settling on every outdoor, and eventually indoor, surface. Sap? Murmuring in the street points to this all being aphid poo, the result of an aphid population explosion brought on by our most recent drought. The lack of rain both

hindered aphid predators (ladybugs and lacewings) and allowed the aphids to colonize our plants and trees uninterrupted. Reading the lists of aphid species in Central Texas (Crape Myrtle Aphid, Black Pecan Aphid, Oleander Aphid), it is little wonder our neighborhood suffered so heavily. These little buggers suck sugar-rich / nutrient-poor juice from the plant's phloem and issue forth a clear digest that I'm told ants love. I caution any neigh-

bor that is looking to rally a vigilante mob to combat the tree lice that such efforts are not necessary as the little guys are bound to succumb to the changing weather and a rebound in the numbers of their natural enemies. If you are so motivated, consider releasing a counter strike of ladybugs in your yard during the golden hour. If nothing else it will be magical to see the day's last light shining through their wings, reflecting off the elytra.

Apply to join the CNA Steering Committee!

Want to find out what's going on in the neighborhood, meet people from across Cherrywood, and have a reasonable amount of fun?

Consider joining the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee! The Steering Committee is the principal representative, governing, and policy-recommending body of our neighborhood association. It meets monthly to discuss local issues, hear from guest speakers, and vote on policy positions.

We're looking for volunteers from across the neighborhood—renters and homeowners are both welcome. We'd also love to have people who bring diverse knowledge and expertise, both from formal training and lived experience.

If you're interested in serving on the Steering Committee, fill out the short application at bit.ly/CNA-SC by Wednesday, November 2. You can also show up to the general membership meeting on November 16 to throw your hat in the ring.

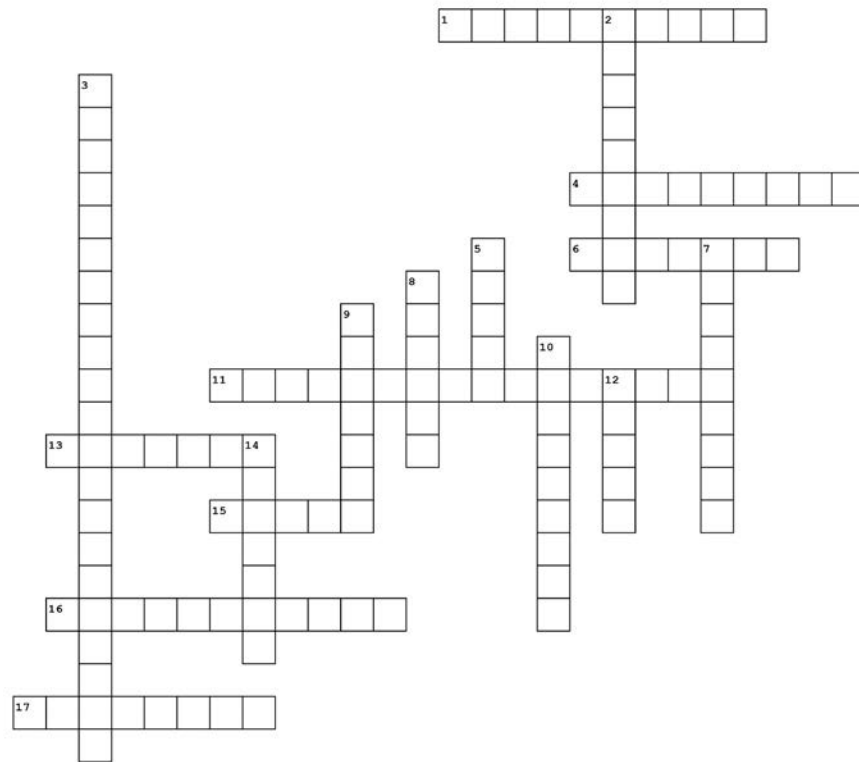
Crossword: Iconic Cherrywood Haunts

Across

1. Goin' to the _____
4. Home of the Mustangs
6. The beginning
11. Gifts of the Earth
13. Milkweed or common tiger
15. Cat themed
16. Indigenous beans
17. Tall ones

Down

2. Knockout sandwich
3. Formerly Pato's
5. People's courts
7. Celestial dining
8. International selection
9. To tighten your wig
10. Large green space
12. Bonus: Mom's attic
14. Mr. Alexander's place



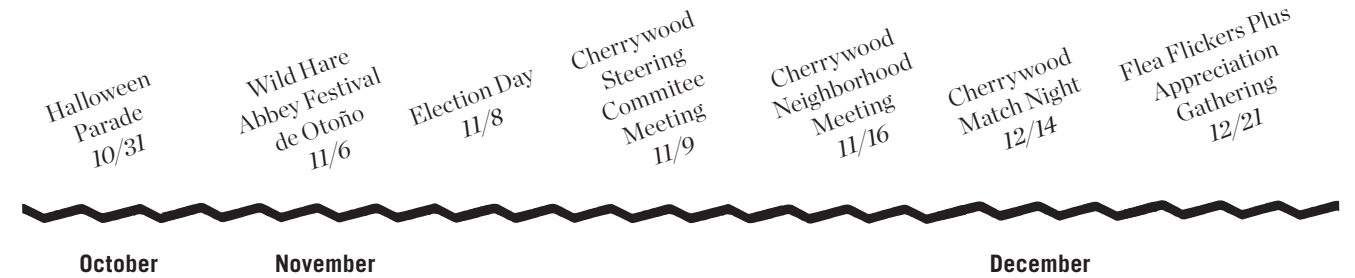
Wild Hare Abbey Festival de Otoño

Live music of all kinds and games for kids — Group jam session to finish up the event with any and all musicians and singers invited to join in!

Sunday, Nov. 6, 2022 1pm to 7ish pm
3201 Hollywood Avenue, 7872 BYOB, blanket, families and friends and snacks to share

We NEED something fun to look forward to! Join us!

Upcoming Exciting Events



Halloween Parade

by Steve Wilson

Howl y'all doin'? This will give many of you a case of deja-boo, but I'm here again with pumpkin to talk about: Cherrywood will hold an eerie-sistable Halloween Costume Contest at 6 p.m. on Oct. 31 at 2800 French Place!

Bring your gourd-geous costumes and enter the cate-gory of your choice:

- 1) Best Group Costume
- 2) Best Overall Costume (Individual)
- 3) Keep Cherrywood Weird

Winners will receive invaluable prizes they shall cherish and treasure for all eternity. (Witch-ful thinking I know...) We'll begin at 6 p.m. sharp and finish quickly so kids can trick-or-treat. Please show up five minutes early if you'd like to entomb...I mean enter. (Running out of puns here...) Creep it real!



Holiday Fundraiser

The holidays are upon us! As you know, this is an important season for small businesses, and we always encourage you to eat and shop local in Cherrywood as much as possible (especially with those businesses advertising in the Flea!). It's also an essential season for those who are able to share our resources with others. We first ran a neighborhood fundraiser in 2020 that raised over \$1,000 for Hoover's gift cards distributed to families at Maplewood and Campbell Elementary. Last year, we raised funds for the Other Ones Foundation and the Austin Justice Coalition, both active in Cherrywood and city-wide.

This year we're riffing off the 2020 concept with a three-day campaign Tue., Dec 13, through Thur., Dec 15, encouraging you to eat and drink at neighborhood eateries who are donating partial proceeds to be split to the PTAs at both Maplewood Elementary and Campbell Elementary. We see this as a terrific way to support the many morning, lunch and late-night eateries like Cherrywood Coffeehouse in our neighborhood, give you a reason to eat out and put neighborliness into action! We'll be posting participating businesses on the cherrywood listserv all the way through Dec 15.

The Steering Committee will throw in a match of \$250 to get the ball rolling. If it's easier for you to just make a straight donation to either Maplewood or Campbell - please consider noting "Cherrywood" in your donation so we can collate all the activity. Feel free to reach out to steering@cherrywood.org with any questions!

Thanks for your consideration! We hope you're staying warm and safe as the neighborhood transitions from Halloween ghouls to holiday lights.

— Steering Committee

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