



# Cherryhurst Civic Club Newsletter

April 2001

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## *Next Civic Club Meeting Tuesday April 3rd*

The next meeting of the Cherryhurst Civic Club will be Tuesday, April 3rd at 7 p.m. in the Cherryhurst Park Clubhouse.

The owners of the Backstreet cafe will be present to discuss their plans for a new upscale Mexican restaurant planned for Westheimer and Mandell, adjacent to the subdivision.

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## *Mexican Restaurant Planned for Imperial Plumbing Storefront*

by Mark Johnson

The owners of Backstreet Cafe on South Shepherd have leased the old Imperial Plumbing storefront on Westheimer and Mandell and plan to open a high-end Mexican restaurant.

The restaurant will feature cuisine from the coasts and interior of Mexico, according to partners Jack Blalock, Tracy Vaught and Hugo Ortega, who is Backstreet's chef. The three have been invited to this week's Civic Club meeting to discuss their plans with Cherryhurst residents.

Last week the civic club officers met informally at the home of Sue Hepler to get acquainted with their plans.

Blalock mentioned that the restaurant--at this time unnamed--will be located in the 1600 Westheimer storefront. Plans at this point include the extending of the Westheimer curb to the edge of the street, taking back the Westheimer parking area and replacing it with a garden highlighted by a row of plum trees.

The facade will be restored to its

1920s appearance, including a wrap-around awning. The owner of the property, Andrew Kaldis, will complete the gutting and re-roofing of the old building, and the installation of the parking lot behind the storefront. Blalock and Vaught said they would take over at that point, and are now working with their architects to plan the kitchen, dining area and bar.

The area behind the restaurant once contained a derelict warehouse and a badly deteriorated home which has been leveled for the parking lot. Blalock stated there would be valet parking for the restaurant, with the parking being landscaped to present a barrier to Mandell.

The concrete block warehouse at the back of the Imperial Plumbing lot has been sold in a separate transaction, and will not be part of the restaurant.

Vaught detailed the plans for a restaurant seating approximately 140, with a bar seating 20-25. Blalock noted that the bar is planned as a waiting area for guests prior to seating, and emphasized that it was not main focus of their intended business. He noted the restaurant's primary goal was to provide a fine dining experience.

Blalock, who lives in the storied 'Clark Gable House' on Hyde Park, emphasized to the civic club officers his concern that the establishment would cater to fine dining, as opposed to drinking. "I live four blocks from the bars in Montrose, and believe me, you don't want that kind of a business in your neighborhood," he offered.

The restaurant's opening is planned for September 1st, with hours from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, with closing at midnight Friday and Saturday.

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## *Dance & Diet*

"Dance & Diet", a program presented by Ian Gordon, continues at the Cherryhurst Park Clubhouse every Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The event is free of charge; warm-up suits and tennis shoes are recommended as well as a bottle of water or Gatorade.

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## *Area Development Continues*

by Mark Johnson

Development continues in the area around Cherryhurst, leaving our neighborhood undisturbed, for the most part. The two cement block apartments at north end of Mandell were leveled last month, apparently for new townhouse development.

Residents of Haver Street have noted the apparent demolition-in-progress of 1717 Haver.

While no plans are known at this time, we can report that the roof and attic have been removed, the brick veneer has been removed and many interior walls have been cut open to reveal the shell of the original home.

A large dumpster sits on the home's front lawn providing an ironic contrast to our yard of the month next-door.

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## *April Yard of the Month*

by Lynn Pannill

The April Yard of the Month award goes to Holly and Greg Han of 1721 Haver. This wonderfully landscaped and maintained yard features blooming plants and shrubs, and both the front and back yards of this corner lot are visible.

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## Resident Encourages Involvement in Civic Club

The following article was submitted to the Newsletter by Cherryhurst Resident Hampton Burt

--Editor

by Hampton Burt

Membership in Cherryhurst Civic Club is crucial to anyone interested in preserving the integrity of our area; not merely its historic significance, but its residential aspect. The city government, although in a sense responsible for ensuring some needs of Cherryhurst residents, realistically can only be expected to fulfill its political and tax based interests. The men and women it sends here to do the job don't live here. And while their motivations are often good, only rarely will they be as good as our own.

Factors such as the rise in the price of oil, the desire of many people to live closer to their jobs and the centralization of sports and other facilities, are increasing the monetary value of the land we live on, making it more desirable to entities that don't care about us or our wants or needs. Monetary value certainly can at times be related to quality of life, but in living our good lives there are numerous qualities that have nothing to do with monetary value. One of these that is threatened with destruction is the viable concept that Cherryhurst is a living, breathing neighborhood, in which similar people live together in similar ways, sharing common needs and interests in a socially healthy and humanly constructive manner.

The enemy that would destroy this goes by the names of complacency, "There is no need for me to do anything," "others will do what is needed," "yes, Ill help sometime but not today," "my input is worth nothing," various kinds of social laziness, disinterest, and apathy, to specify eight. We need to effectively bring forward the weapon of active self-assertion; that miraculous tool, self-interested goal-directed work; the

transforming attitude that our objectives can be accomplished through our own willful perseverance; and the wonderful assurance that our own ideas of what we need are better and more accurate than those of anyone else, whether outsider individual or lawfully instituted government.

We have let our grip slip. We are no longer in charge of Cherryhurst. The comforting impression that ours is a neighborhood that is really our own is now, in reality, a lingering artifact of work done by previous generations, not by we ourselves. That luxurious remnant will not last forever. A feeling of community cannot live without maintenance. If we want what we enjoy to be enjoyed by those who come after us, we are going to have to take determined action to preserve it as a living reality. Moreover, the action needs to be consistent.

Having Cherryhurst declared an historic district is perhaps one step. This can be a useful tool in keeping developers out. But, at most, it will be a useful technicality. People don't primarily live in historic things without in a sense becoming museum keepers; healthy people prefer to inhabit dwellings tailored to their own personal tastes and whims to an infinite degree.

We need the realization that although a city government can be legal and moral, that doesn't mean it will act in our interest; that government is not even always a desirable way to achieve a thing needing to be achieved; and that it will be our own thoughts and decisions that will make or break this neighborhood, whether through our action or the absence of our action.

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## Cherryhurst Civic Club

### Officers 2001

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Presidents .....	Mark Johnson
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### Committees

Benevolent Actions.....	Beth Johnstone
Deed Restrictions.....	Sydney Moen
Greeting .....	Pauline Edgar
Newsletter .....	Mark Johnson
Park Improvements .....	Peter Begin
Security Patrol Contact .....	Randy Pike
PIP Representative .....	Ian Gordon
Recycling .....	Jana Wright
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Month.....	Lynn Pannill
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### Block Captains

California .....	Wayne Otway
Cherryhurst .....	John Foster
Fairview .....	Judy McMillian
Haver.....	Syd Moen
Mandell.....	Joe Stine
Missouri .....	Peter Begin
Michigan, Indiana,	
Maryland & Welch.....	Fran Farrell
Ridgewood .....	Shirley Wallace
Windso .....	Jana Wright
Yupon.....	Patty Armstrong

### Send Us Your E-Mail Address!

If you're one of the Officers, Committee Members or Block Captains listed and would like your e-mail address published, please e-mail it to [markthomasjohnson@csi.com](mailto:markthomasjohnson@csi.com). --Editor

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## Newsletter Notes:

Thanks to Ian Gordon, Hampton Burt, Lynn Pannill for the articles in this month's Newsletter. Your comments and letters about the Newsletter are welcome! To send articles or letters to the Newsletter Editor, contact:

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