



Cherryhurst Civic Club Newsletter

July 2001

Civic Club Meeting Thursday July 12th

Please attend this month's Cherryhurst Civic Club meeting Thursday July 12th at 7 p.m.

The Great Houston Flood of 2001

by Ian Gordon

Cherryhurst residents were fortunate to have their homes remain above water during the famous flood of 2001, which was estimated as a 400-year event.

Total rainfall from this five-day stalled storm was 32 inches, almost three quarters the annual average! The heaviest rainfall occurred June 5th--the night of our last scheduled civic club meeting--with 18 to 24 inches throughout the city.

Cherryhurst received 24 inches, but no homes flooded to the best of our knowledge. Streets flooded, making it impossible to get to the civic club meeting. Two people waded through the foot-deep waters to get to the meeting at the park building where they met trapped Park Supervisor Marshall Broadway.

The floodwaters reached 18 inches in our streets that night, but did not reach homes or the park building. This building, so aptly planned by the 1920's developers of the Cherryhurst subdivision, is not on pier and beam like our homes, but is at the highest point of the subdivision. Cherryhurst's high and dry location is one of many reasons why our neighborhood is so well valued.

Some cars sustained floorboard flooding. While streets took the brunt of the flooding, alleyways and rear yards have been well planned on higher ground and remained relatively flood free. This is a good reason to park your cars on higher ground in the rear parking areas off the alleys.

Please consider off-street parking to avoid car vandalism, theft, flood damage

and traffic congestion.

Because of the flood, the City has temporarily suspended the collection of plastic bagged lawn leaf debris. To find out when lawn and leaf debris pickup will be resumed and for other

questions, call Trash Collection at 713-837-9100 or 9200.

Real Estate Values on the rise in NearTown

Last month's real estate report by Patrick O'Neil noted recent home listings and sales in Cherryhurst and a skyrocketing current value of \$145 per square foot for our floor space. This puts the current value of our smallest homes at well over \$200,000.

With the upward cost of gasoline, our neartown home properties will continue to increase in value. Recent tax appraisals were discussed at the May meeting and the fact that increased values in our neighborhood are outstripping the rest of the city. The upward values of our properties create growing pains that need to be addressed.

Please join us at the July meeting to learn about problems and solutions. We will have real estate reports in the future on a quarterly basis.

Crime Watch Committee Forming

We are forming a crime watch committee. Two retired gentlemen in the subdivision have expressed interest in becoming crime watchers on their daily

July Yard of the Month

by Lynn Pannill

The recipient of Yard of the Month for July is Shannon Scoville of 1810 Cherryhurst. Colorful blooming begonias flanked by evergreens and vines make this landscape particularly appealing.



walks. Dog walkers also make excellent crime watchers.

There is no better solution than to have our own interested homeowners take responsibility for these activities. If a percentage of the 300-some homeowners in our subdivision will pay a retired resident the \$120 a year we paid an off-duty police patrol in the past, we can afford a \$20,000 plus stipend a year for full time, subdivision wide, crime watch and landscape care. Come to the meeting to discuss how to note and report suspicious activities while staying out of harms way.

Park Landscape Care

While the City does basic park landscape maintenance like mowing and edging, fine-tuning is needed to maintain a clean, good looking park. Work needed to be done on a weekly basis includes leaf raking, curb and sidewalk cleaning, bush and tree trimming and litter pick up.

Two volunteers presently meet Saturday mornings to maintain the park. Five volunteers are needed to maintain a well-manicured park. Please call Ian Gordon at 713-520-1641 or email at hecgordon@aol.com to express your interest in joining us. You will be kept posted on scheduling and invited to join us for efficient exercise and a hearty breakfast at Harry's afterwards.

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Cherryhurst Changes

by Ian Gordon and Mark Johnson

Work continues on 1600 Westheimer, site of the new Mexican restaurant, scheduled to open in September. Kitchen design has been completed and drawings are progressing through the City Building Department for permit. Workers have removed the windows and glass from the structure, which now remains open, and is a frequent target of local graffiti artists.

An Asian teahouse is proposed at the corner of 1401 Westheimer at Yupon--the



1600 Westheimer

site of a former car dealership. The house on this site is now being razed for the teahouse, scheduled to open in November or early next year.

The vacant house at 1601 California, adjacent to the planned teahouse, has had its rear door kicked in and apparently is having transients staying in it at times.

The late George Ernst's home at 1713 Haver, which was on the market for some time, has been purchased.

1717 Haver is being rebuilt as a two-story residence to remain in the bungalow/cottage style. This is the first completely rebuilt home in our subdivision, a somewhat threatening, but exciting prospect for our upwardly mobile community. Roberta Roberts and her husband, business consultant/builder Paul may be at the meeting to tell us about the plans for their dynamic new home.

Our subdivision is well preserved in its historic fashion. To retain and enhance its quaint beauty and style, we may wish to consider the protection of the Historic Preservation



The site of the planned Asian tea room on Westheimer & Yupon is cleared



1601 California: vacant and open to vandals

Ordinance, which several other NearTown neighborhoods have obtained.

Park Landscape Care

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Cherryhurst Park Landscape Planning is getting underway! Missouri Street resident Max Porch has graciously volunteered his knowledge on native fruit bearing and drought resistant Texas plants.

Fruit-bearing plants will insure a colorful bird population in the park and drought resistant plants will assure longevity with low maintenance, which the City needs to be assured of to avoid extra maintenance responsibilities and approval of our plans.

Texas wildflowers in clusters surrounding our Live Oaks would be colorful and self-maintaining. Each Live Oak cluster could have a different species such as Bluebonnet, and be maintained by a specific group of volunteers who favor a particular species. Herbs can keep a low profile at shady street areas, give off spicy

smells and be of culinary value to interested neighbors.

Newsletter Notes:

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

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--Editor

Cherryhurst Civic Club

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