



Cherryhurst Civic Club Newsletter

September 2001

Cherryhurst Civic Club Meeting

Please come to the next Civic Club meeting Thursday, September 13, from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Cherryhurst Park Center.

National Night Out Event a Success

by Ian Gordon

Fifty Cherryhurst neighbors attended the National Night Out event on our August 7th meeting date. The catered event focused on neighborhood crime. Two election candidates running for our District D Council seat, Darryl Carter and Gerald Womack, spoke on neighborhood crime. Six nearby restaurants supplied eleven trays of tasty food for the event. Thank you to Cafe Montrose, Katz's Delicatessen (4), Harry's Restaurant (2), Empire Cafe, Blue Agave and Gyro Gyros. Thanks to the Hosting Committee; Pauline Edgar, Jeff Kuchar, John Foster and Brenda Gordon. Ken and Jana Wright of 1802 Haver were at the gathering. It was good to see them. Jana has been an instrumental and guiding force to the club in the past. We hope Jana and Ken will soon have time to get involved again.

Message from the President

by Ian Gordon

Coming to the half way point of my year's term, I am learning, as an activist president, that my actions bring gratification to some, dissatisfaction to others and indifference to most. While interest and support for the civic club builds, I must often formulate ideas and take unilateral action. My actions are not of major consequence, but if any action offends or displeases, I will reconsider it. If disagreement persists, it will be brought to the monthly civic club meeting for resolution.

I spend many hours a month on civic club affairs, learning as I go. I coordinate neighbors' needs and represent Cherryhurst

September Yard of the Month

by Lynn Pannill

Yard of the Month for September is awarded to Mai and James Engle of 1611 Fairview. They have transformed their house and yard in the last few years, coaxing grass to grow in the shade, adding colorful pots and plantings, and updating the color scheme and paint of the home's exterior. Congratulations, Mai and James.



at NearTown general and presidents meetings, Police Interaction Program meetings (PIP) and anything else that comes up. I hope to increase participation over the course of time and look forward to delegating/sharing responsibilities and friendship with all. But if it is in the nature of the subdivision to have minimal participation, I will be happy to pass the presidency next year and step back action oriented committee work.

Most of us don't have the time to come to monthly civic club meetings, much less get involved with committee work. Please be aware that getting involved is an evolving process. We had the desire and luck to move Cherryhurst; why not drop in on a club meeting some month to hear what is going on and make some acquaintances? Occasional participation may lead to longer-term habit of participation. At some point there be a strong enough concern to take part in the work of a committee of interest. Please come visit!

Cherryhurst Committees Getting off the Ground

by Ian Gordon

Investment Club: For any interested in investing and the market, this is the time to get involved - buy low. Cherryhurst resident Michael White will talk to us about forming an investment club at the upcoming meeting.

Park Care: While the popularity of "inner city gentrification" is a recent development in Houston, Cherryhurst has been in

an improvement cycle for well over twenty years. We are far ahead of other near town subdivisions in this respect. It seems that every new buyer makes major improvements and has the sensitivity, reinforced by Cherryhurst Deed Restrictions to maintain the neighborhood bungalow style. This appreciates the beauty, quality and value of all our properties.

The Cherryhurst subdivision was recently mentioned in the Sunday edition of the Sunday August 20th Houston Chronicle as one of only two neighborhoods in NearTown that has maintained its original quality, the other being Mandell Place. Thanks to Deed Restrictions Chairperson Syd Moen, who along with other neighbors on the committee enacted the deed restrictions in the early '90's. Pick up a copy at the meeting.

Cherryhurst Park is the focal point of our citywide renowned neighborhood. Other NearTown civic clubs and the NearTown Association use the park and building for their monthly meetings and activities, which include childcare, children's birthday parties and an annual Easter Egg Hunt. The CCC Park Care Committee meets on Saturday mornings for maintenance work including leaf-sweeping, litter and leavings pick up and plant trimming. The city meets its minimum obligation to cut and trim grass and empty trash cans at the park, but we need to make a personal effort to give the park the care it needs.

Property values facing the park are increased by \$50,000, while the amenity of a

park enhances all our property values. Adequate care of the park requires personal involvement. Five residents have volunteered their time for park care. If you have the time, if your home faces the park, if you have an interest in landscape or the beauty of our neighborhood, come out to help in our efforts; it's good exercise!



Consider joining us early Saturday mornings for a short time before the heat takes over.

Other Committees: Committees are forming for the following concerns: care of properties; crime watch; improvement of streets, sewers and sidewalks; and social activities. Most of us take responsibility for yard and home upkeep seriously, but there are exceptions. We need to work together to be of assistance to those not able to do so - front yard or alleyway. If you have the time and interest, please help us out.

A special Cherryhurst tee shirt is being designed to award volunteers and anyone interested in purchasing one. Come to the September meeting and help pick a tee shirt logo/slogan.

Area Development Continues

The condos under construction on Yupon at Woodrow Wilson School are progressing at the second story level. Unfortunately, this project will not be in harmony with the neighborhood bungalow style. The development was up and out of the ground before anyone was aware of it. It is important that we be aware of any anticipated development in the subdivision as soon as possible. We need to impress on developers our interest in maintaining a continuity of design in the neighborhood. New construction at 1717 Haver is also progressing into its second story. This residence proposes to maintain the bungalow style.

The proposed upscale Mexican restaurant at Westheimer and Mandell in back under construction after several months of down time. The existing building walls have been taken down to their original brick piers and walls, which have been sand blasted to reveal a pleasant natural tan brick. The parking area along Mandell has been leveled of existing concrete and sewer is now being laid. The remodeling will retain much of its original look, which was once a drug store.

The proposed Teahouse at the corner of Westheimer and Yupon has been cleared for

new construction. Design drawings were completed in mid August. We hope to review plans to offer any input, although we do not expect a new building along the famous "Curve" on Westheimer to comply with the bungalow style. New construction is expected to be complete by mid January to February.

This & That

The civic club purchased a TV stand for the use of the Cherryhurst Community Center. This goes along with the generous donation of a large screen television set by John Foster of 1724 Cherryhurst - thanks John! Yoga classes are underway at the Center on Mondays from 7 to 8:30 pm. Do you have a business that Cherryhurst residents can take advantage of? Please place an ad for as little as five dollars.

Anyone needing repairs or remodeling, please contact Ian Gordon for a list of neighbor referred utility/craftsmen and add to the list with your recommended contacts. The new list has served two neighbors in need to date. In these times of extended rains, we have been fortunate not to have flooding, but roof leaks are prevalent. Call Ian, an architect and roof flashing expert, for gratis leak review and cost effective recommendations.

The NearTown Association will hold a Montrose area Garage Sale Saturday, October 27th. Cherryhurst has been entered as a participant. Individuals with items for sale, please contact Ian by October 13th to participate. The Cherryhurst portion of the sale will take place at Cherryhurst Park or your individual address, whichever you choose. NearTown will provide all advertising.

PAC Meeting

James Engel is Chairman of the Cherryhurst Park Advisory Council. Meetings are the first Monday of the month from 7 to 8 pm. All Cherryhurst residents are invited to participate in this organization, which provides city funds for Cherryhurst park and program improvements.

Alleyway of the Month

by Beth Johnstone

Allen Mylar, 1715 Fairview. The alleyway is bordered to the west with a garage, cornered by picturesque groupings of Yucca trees trimmed with Giant Loriapee ground cover. The east half of the alleyway is bordered by an attractive wrought iron fence entwined with a stand of Bulrushes. This

carefully crafted design makes for a clean, attractive, low maintenance growth solution.

Civic Club P.O. Box

The Civic Club has obtained a new post office box at the Greenbriar Station. The new address is Post Office Box 541641, Houston, TX 77254

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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Cherryhurst Civic Club

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