



Cherryhurst Civic Club Newsletter

December 2001

December Civic Club Meeting/Xmas Party

The December meeting of the Cherryhurst Civic Club will be held Tuesday, December 4th, from 6 to 8 pm at the Cherryhurst Park Center.

The December meeting will be a potluck Christmas party. The civic club will provide a roast turkey and cooked ham.

Please join us and bring a side dish, dessert or beverage. Report



your interest and contribution to Ian Gordon. The Civic Club will provide Poinsettia plants for table decoration and the plants will be raffled off during the party.

Let's make this a bright neighborhood at Christmas time by decorating our houses! The "Yard of the Month" award for December will be for best Christmas decorations. It will be announced in the January newsletter.

Area Development Continues

by Ian Gordon

Construction of the four townhouses at 2412 and 2414 Mandell is in full swing. Concrete foundations have been poured and wood stud framing is up through the first floor. The upscale Mexican restaurant at Westheimer and Mandell has stalled again after completing the paved parking lot. But the adjacent concrete block building, purchased by an investment banker, is in full remodeling. A new facade now plugs the former front garage door opening and new front and side concrete paving is underway. Damaged concrete block walls at the rear of the building have been replaced and the interior structure is being

fitted out for two-story office and residential space.

As the exterior of the new house at 1717 Haver nears full expression, it appears the new two-story structure will fit in with its surroundings as best as can be expected. It has been the experience in nearby West University that residential demolition and rebuilding only get built bigger and better. Property values in Cherryhurst are similarly too high to do otherwise.

Construction of the proposed teahouse on cleared land at Westheimer and Yupon has not yet begun. The derelict house immediately behind it at 1601 California has again been cited for violating city health, safety and building codes. Fines will begin being imposed if the structure is not soon brought up to code standards by the owner or the mortgage company. The owner is interested in selling the property, but an asking price of \$250,000 for what amounts to land value, may limit interest.

Yard & Alleyscape of the Month Awards

These awards are not featured this month. The Yard of the Month will be awarded later in the month for best Christmas lighting. We already have two entries as seen in the adjacent photo. Join in the Christmas spirit by decorating your house!

Nearly Famous Neighbors

by Ian Gordon

Menil Museum's Director of Art is Cherryhurst Missouri Street resident Ned Rifkin. He will soon be leaving Cherryhurst to become Director of Art for the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC. During his stay in Cherryhurst, Ned remodeled the interior of his home. When Ned's house goes "on the block", be sure to stop in and see his interior remodeling, which is quite striking in its modern, museum-like look.

Architect and developer Davis Railey had previously updated the house with a remodeling and addition. Davis has done five remodeling/additions in Cherryhurst with a sensitivity to Cherryhurst's historic building style. He is to be commended for maintaining the neighborhood look while increasing the value and livability of each of his remodelings.

Newscasters abound in our neighborhood. Lanny Griffith of Yupon is news director for Fox television. ABC news troubleshooter Wayne Dolcefino owned a condo at Haver and Yupon until he married three years ago.

Dr. Dick Evans of Haver Street has published books on his research specialty. Dick and his dog Pepper have always taken an unselfish, active roll in Cherryhurst. You may have seen him spraying weeds at the park and at your sidewalk annually. How about serving as an officer this year, Dick? Let's "Draft Dick for President"!

Another nearly famous neighbor is Dewayne Hukaby, who recently retired as a financial advisor for the City of Houston. He will be leaving Cherryhurst soon for a university teaching position. He owns a townhouse at Yupon and Fairview. Mayor Brown gave Dewayne a special public commendation for valued service upon his retirement.

What do you do? Are you nearly famous? We may be calling you for a feature article in an upcoming newsletter. Don't worry if you aren't nearly famous. The upcoming series will simply be titled "Spotlight on your Neighbor". But if you want to be nearly famous, participate in the Cherryhurst Civic Club, and become an officer. Offer you name up for nomination at the January meeting and increase your sense of community in a wonderful place to be. Join us at the January civic club meeting to vote for new officers for the year 2002

Cherryhurst Development Awards for 2001

by Ian Gordon

As the year comes to a close, we look back at the best completed and ongoing developments in the subdivision and with the following awards series.

The Demolition/New Residence

Award of the Year has two entries - the new Harris family two story residence at 1717 Haver and the property next to the O'Brien family at 1613 California. The California Street property was bought by the O'Briens, the house demolished, the yard fenced and a rear yard office/play/guest house built. There may be a house in the future, but until it gets built, congratulations to Roberta & Paul Harris for best new residence of 2001 - happy Cherryhurst living!

The Peripheral Commercial Property of the Year Award also has two entries. Unfortunately neither the upscale Mexican restaurant nor the teahouse at the east and west borders of Cherryhurst at Westheimer are complete. They will have to be considered for next year's award.

The Remodeling/Addition Award of the Year is our premier award, since most of the upgrading in Cherryhurst is of

this variety. The residence at 2400 Mandell, which had the only Postmodern architectural facade in Cherryhurst, has



been remodeled and is now more in conformity with the neighborhood building style. The new red and white painted facade may give pause for December's Christmas decoration award - with the addition of a green wreath or two. The two-story Tudor style home at 2617 Yupon, already one of our larger houses, received a 750 square foot addition by architect Walter Murphy, which matches its attractive timber/stucco styling. This house, owned by Tom and Christi Hagemann, wins the Cherryhurst remodeling/addition of the year award because of its tasteful, harmonious addition.

The Interior Remodeling Award of the Year is another popular category of development in Cherryhurst. There have been several such remodelings in 2001,

some, unfortunately, due to the Great Flood of 2001. Mike & Pauline Edgar of 1701 Haver did extensive interior remodeling. They updated their bath and kitchen cabinets, along with a new wood front fence replacement. Ned Rifkin of 1617 Missouri has done extensive remodeling, including a modern stainless steel kitchen. This striking interior design wins the 2001 Interior Remodeling of the Year Award.

Become a Member of the Cherryhurst Civic Club

The Cherryhurst Civic Club would appreciate your support and participation. Please join us in making friends, enhancing the beauty and safety of the Cherryhurst Subdivision and maintaining and increasing property values. We have received approximately 15

Annual dues of are \$20 and should be made by check payable to the "Cherryhurst Civic Club." Please use the form on page 4 of the Newsletter for your dues and mail to:

Cherryhurst Civic Club
Post Office Box 541641
Houston, TX 77254.

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Officers 2001

President..... Ian Gordon
HeCGordon@aol.com
Co-Vice Jeffrey Kuchar and
Presidents..... Mark Johnson
jeffreyk@morganpersonette.com
Treasurer Mark Johnson

Committees

Benevolent Actions..... Beth Johnstone
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Greeting Pauline Edgar
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Newsletter Distribution..... John Wilmore
Phil Dyer, & Brenda Gordon
Park Improvements Peter Begin
Security Patrol Contact Randy Pike
PIP Representative Brenda Gordon
Recycling Jana Wright
Yard of the Month..... Lynn Pannill
lpannill@wt.net

Newsletter Notes:

Thanks to Ian Gordon 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:

Mark Johnson
Box 541632
Houston, Texas 77254-1632
Voice - - - - - (713) 520-8902
FAX - - - - - (713) 520-9040
E-mail - - - - - editor@cherryhurst.com

Cherryhurst Civic Club 2001 Dues Payment Form

Name _____
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Please mail your dues of \$20 payable to the "Cherryhurst Civic Club" to:

Treasurer
Cherryhurst Civic Club
P.O. Box 541641
Houston, TX 77254

You may also bring this form with your dues to any Civic Club meeting. Please do not mail cash. This information will also be used for the Cherryhurst Directory.

