



# Cherryhurst Civic Club Newsletter

June 2004

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## *June Club Meeting Thursday, June 17th*

The Cherryhurst Civic Club will meet this Thursday, from 7-8 p.m. in the Cherryhurst Park Recreation Center, 1700 Missouri.

The meeting will be informal and focus on the reinvigoration of the Civic Club--to seek greater resident participation in our ongoing activities.

Members of the Cherryhurst Civic Club Advisory Committee will be on hand, along with Civic Club President Mark Johnson, to discuss future activities of the Civic Club.

Upcoming meetings are planned for Thursday, July 17 and Tuesday, August 10--our annual "National Night Out" pot-luck neighborhood get-together.

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## *President's Message*

*by Mark Johnson*

The Cherryhurst Civic Club has existed as an informal "Club" since the very beginnings of the neighborhood.

It has met in the past on a monthly basis to discuss issues confronting the neighborhood, and to plan strategies for these issues. The Club also functions as the official subdivision representative to the City of Houston.

The Club participates in the Neartown Association--an umbrella organization of Civic Clubs and Associations in the greater Montrose/Museum Area "superneighborhood."

I have been editing and printing the Newsletter for at least the last 15 years--my earliest editions were actually published using a mainframe computer--done with the permission of my employer. They are now created with

Adobe FrameMaker on my laptop, and made available on the Web ([www.cherryhurst.com](http://www.cherryhurst.com)) in Acrobat format--something unavailable to the average individual when I started.

Since the loss of my employment due to an industry-wide cutback in 2001, I have been working as an assistant photographer for one of Houston's best-known architectural photographers, Joe Aker. I've also been doing the IT work for his company, AZPhoto, and have consequently done a great deal of traveling in this role--much more than I had done for my previous employer of 16 years, BMC Software. This increased travel has at times made it difficult for me to plan Newsletters and meetings and for that I am sorry.

I have continued to attend the Neartown Association meetings when my schedule permitted, and also continue as the Neartown Association's webmaster ([www.neartown.org](http://www.neartown.org)).

We currently need a volunteer to represent Cherryhurst at the monthly Houston Police Department "Positive Interaction Program." Thanks to Tori Williams for representing us at this month's meeting. A volunteer to coordinate the "Yard of the Month" is also needed.

Last year we had three Newsletters and three meetings--the last of these in September 2003. While it was fun getting the Newsletter going again--I found myself having to hand-deliver each copy to the neighborhood--something I had not had to do previously.

A few months ago, a group of neighborhood residents approached me offering support for the Civic Club and the Newsletter. The group, which I have dubbed the "Cherryhurst Civic Club Advisory Committee," is led by

Tracy Gary and includes Syd Moen, Tori Williams, Vann Vaughan, Cindi Walker and Club Vice President Jeffrey Kuchar.

The Advisory Committee has been meeting informally the past two months planning to get the Civic Club going again, with more energy and involvement of Cherryhurst residents. If you want to participate in the Club or the Advisory Committee, please email Mark Johnson ([mtjtx@mac.com](mailto:mtjtx@mac.com)) or Tracy Gary ([TracyGary1@aol.com](mailto:TracyGary1@aol.com))--better yet, come to our next meeting this Thursday, from 7-8 p.m. at the Cherryhurst Park Community Center, 1700 Missouri St. in Cherryhurst Park.

I'd like to express my thanks to the Advisory Committee members for their support of the neighborhood. I look forward to getting the Club going once again.

And one final note--if anyone knows the whereabouts of the "Yard of the Month" sign, please let us know!

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## *PIP Meeting*

*By Tori Williams*

Established in 1983, the Houston Police Department started the Positive Interaction Program (PIP) to provide local civic associations with more information about how each division operates and to help citizens know what to expect should they ever need help from a particular division.

On May 19, 2004, several residents from Cherryhurst Park attended the PIP meeting. Adult Protective Services gave an excellent presentation. (See Mark Johnson if you want a copy of the handouts.)

The Crime Bulletin for District One was released, and there were a

few questions about activities going on in different neighborhoods in the Montrose area.

The questions most relevant to residents of Cherryhurst Park were about the recent murder on Yupon Street and the assault on Haver Street. Unfortunately, these incidents are being investigated by two different divisions--Homicide and Burglary/Theft. Since no one was present from either of these divisions, the Police Officers present could not provide information.

If someone would like to be the official representative for the Cherryhurst Civic Club, please come to the next Civic Club meeting this Thursday and volunteer. You can also email Mark at [mtjtx@mac.com](mailto:mtjtx@mac.com) if you're interested.

The meetings take place at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the Multi Service Center at 1745 W. Gray. Sign up now! After all, why stay home and watch Law and Order when you can see real life drama in your own neighborhood?

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## Cherryhurst History

by Syd Moen

### Cherryhurst (1906-1922) D.B. Cherry and E.L. Crain

In 1906 H. H. Cherry purchased property from Sam Roos for the price of \$37,000.00. This "tract of land" was described as, "45-1/2 acres a part of the Lamar Place in the Obedience Smith original grant in Harris County, Texas." D.B. Cherry purchased the above tract of land from his brother later that same year.

Cherry came to Houston in 1892 and engaged in the cotton, and later the real estate business, and continued until the Texas oil boom, when he devoted his entire time to oil development. He retained his real estate holdings, and subdivided Cherryhurst in 1916. Dillin's wife Emma Richardson Cherry was a well-known artist and one of the founders of the Houston Art League, the predecessor to The Museum of Fine Arts.

E.L. Crain bought Cherryhurst from D.B. Cherry for the purchase price of \$94,380.00 in 1921. Through his Ready-Cut House Company, Crain developed Pinehurst, Cherryhurst, Southside Place, and Garden Oaks.

In looking through the Houston City Directories, streets with home addresses didn't start to appear until 1922. It would be fair to say that D.B. Cherry was responsible for Cherryhurst's name, but that E.L. Crain was responsible for final development of the subdivision.

### E.L. Crain and the Park (1930)

*From Crain, E.L., "Small Parks Called Houston's Pressing Need." Houston Chronicle. November 23, 1930*

"When Cherryhurst was plotted, a section in its midst was reserved for a temporary park and playground. Frankly, the social implications were not of controlling concern; the plot was naturally pretty and it enhanced the beauty of the section and helped to sell it.

After most of the other lots were sold and houses built on many of them, the reserved section was split up to be sold. And right then I ran into something that had not occurred to me before. The people who already had built homes there wanted the park and playground to stay.

This had never been planned, nor had any of the lots been sold with the understanding that it was to stay. However, it was impossible for me to give the property outright. The residents petitioned the city to buy it for them, but the city was unable to stand the entire expense.

Finally, after a number of conferences, the city acquired the property for about half its value. Upon this basis I lost some money, to be sure, but gained in its stead an insight into the value of parks and playgrounds for city dwellers, for which I have been thankful ever since."

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## Don't Be a Poop

by Tori Williams

I have a confession to make. I am an inconsiderate neighbor because I

walk my dog and do not clean up after her when she poops in other yards. Now there are two reasons why I should not do this:

1.) It is rude to my neighbors. 2.) The City of Houston recently passed an ordinance that attaches a hefty fine if caught in the act of this rude behavior.

According to the new ordinance, which is officially called the Defecation by Dogs and Cats Ordinance (unofficially called the "pooper scooper law"): (a) It is the duty of each person in control of a dog or cat to promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by such dog or cat. (b) It shall be the duty of each person in control of a dog or cat to be in possession of materials to remove feces left by such dog or cat. (c) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the person in control of the dog or cat is the owner of the premises, or the owner's agent of the premises, where the dog or cat deposits feces." (d) Violation of this section is unlawful and any violation shall be punishable upon conviction by a fine of not less than \$75.00 or more than \$500.00. Each act in contravention of this section is a separate offense." Fortunately our cat is an indoor cat! Regarding the dog, I have decided to save myself from a \$75.00 fine and be a better neighbor. I have purchased a box of 250 sandwich bags (Target charges \$1.65 per box) and carry a few with me when walking the puppy. It is amazing how much friendlier my neighbors have become!

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## Cherryhurst Civic Club

[www.cherryhurst.com](http://www.cherryhurst.com)

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Cherryhurst Civic Club Advisory

Committee: Tracy Gary, Syd Moen, Vann Vaughan, Cindi Walker, Jeffrey Kuchar.

Newsletter Notes: Your comments and letters about the Newsletter are welcome! To send articles or letters to the Newsletter Editor, contact: Mark Johnson, Box 541641 Houston, Texas 77254-1641