



the Mistletoe Express



A Publication of Historic Mistletoe Heights

February 2004

Quick Bits

Yard-of-the-Month Volunteer Needed

Mistletoe Heights is searching for a resident with landscaping experience (does not have to be an expert) to volunteer as our Yard-of-the-Month Judge. Anyone who feels they are qualified should be able to describe the types of plants, trees and shrubs used in the yard they have selected and give a brief description. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Mistletoe Express editor at carrk@charter.net or (817) 907-5759.

February Calendar

- February 7 - Bond Election
- February 8 - Last Day - Stock Show
- February 10 - Potluck Association Meeting at Lily B. Clayton
- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 16 - Presidents' Day

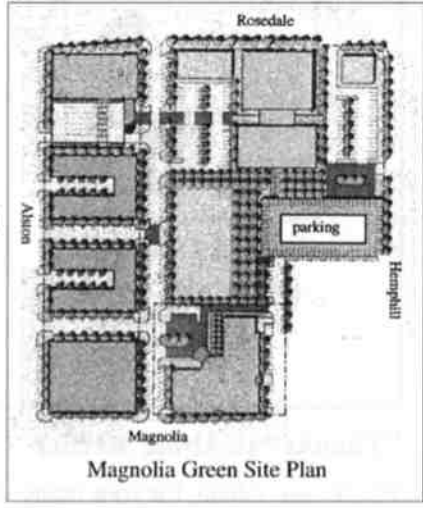
Street Reps - please check your contact information on the back page and let the editor know if any changes are needed. Thank you.

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Fort Worth South Report

Magnolia Green - Pennsylvania Avenue L.P. planned to break ground in January on the first phase of a \$37 million mixed use development on the 11-acre site bounded by Rosedale, Hemphill, Magnolia and Alston. The project vision includes a bank-anchored office building, a medical office building, residential units and first-floor retail spaces with first occupancy scheduled for February 2005. Details on the tenants of the first two new structures were to be announced in January, as well. This is one of the original urban village projects envisioned by FWS as a catalyst for redevelopment of the area. We're grateful to the Darden family for embracing the vision, and being willing to develop their property in a mixed-use form.



Rosedale - The pros and cons of four alternatives to the current plan to rebuild Rosedale as a six-lane divided boulevard will be available for review in mid-February. FWS's Board of Directors requested a review of design alternatives following the recommendations of an outside consulting team invited to assess FWS's strategic plan. The objective is to prevent the construction of a roadway that would prevent pedestrian access from, and between, new residential neighborhoods, work locations and retail outlets. The six-lane design was originally proposed in 1990 to, in part, bypass the construction of the new I-30/I-35 interchange. Circumstances have changed since this design was considered. The revitalization of the medical district now envisions significant residential development. So, many favor a modified design with two lanes each way, dedicated left-hand turn lanes at median breaks, and wider sidewalks/parkways to accommodate pedestrians. Once the construction contract is let, it will take 785 construction days to complete the road between S. Main and Forest Park Blvd.



You are invited to the annual Mistletoe Heights Potluck Supper

Tuesday, February 10, at 6:30 pm at the Lily B. Clayton cafeteria. Please bring a dish or dessert to share with your neighbors. Drinks and utensils will be provided.



Don't miss this very special annual Mistletoe Heights event!

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A Mistletoe Heights Tale

Over the holidays at a dinner party, I chanced to meet Paul Allen of 1121 Mistletoe Drive. In the course of our conversation, I told him I walked by his house practically every day and although the architectural style was somehow familiar, I couldn't quite arrive at a conclusion as to what it was. Once he told me the history of his house, I, of course, instantly practiced the time-honored Hungarian tradition of slapping the palm of my hand smartly to my forehead and saying "Of course!". The following is the story as related to me.

During World War I, a young soldier from Fort Worth fought in France and, at the conclusion of the war, remained there for a short while and thoroughly enjoyed his stay. Upon returning to Fort Worth, he married his high school sweetheart and convinced her that she too would love France. As a result they honeymooned in the south of France and stayed for a year, both enjoying it tremendously. When they returned home (as everyone generally does), they built a duplicate of the French provincial cottage that had been their home in Provence at 1121 Mistletoe Drive where it still stands.

No wonder the style had been familiar to me; after enjoying "A Year in Provence" and "Toujours Provence" by Peter Mayle, the architectural style somehow resonated. Paul later gave me a brief tour of the house and I must say it is beautiful, from the mahogany floors to the exposed ceiling joists it is surely unlike any other home in Mistletoe Heights. An old television program, "Naked City" used to proclaim that there were "seven million stories in the Naked City"; to paraphrase that, I believe there are over 500 stories in Mistletoe Heights and this is one of them. Thank you, Paul, for sharing this story.

Tom Richey

"Thanks" to Abbie Steffler

Thank you, Abbie, for your many years of service as the block rep for 1100 Clara. Jack and Lorri Kendrick, 1146 Clara, will assume the responsibilities as the new block reps.

Mistletoe Heights

Home Enhancement Tips #6

Special tips for home showings:

- Secure jewelry, cash, prescription medications and other valuables
- It is usually best if you can leave while your house is being shown
- Please save business cards of all agents who show your property
- If people who are not accompanied by an agent ask to see your property, please refer them to your agent who will pre-screen them



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80th Anniversary of St. John's Episcopal Church

St. John's Episcopal Church located at 2401 College Avenue will celebrate its 80th anniversary in February with a special service and dinner on February 21, 2004. The Mass will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner following at the church.

Nestled in the heart of the beautiful and historic Ryan Place neighborhood, Saint John's Episcopal Church is like a perfect blend of tradition and innovation. Since its earliest beginnings as a mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, Saint John's has joyfully remained true to their beliefs, their community, and to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The official meeting of seven families to organize Saint John's Church was held on February 7, 1924. The first services were held in a store space in the 2700 block of Lipscomb Street. Soon growth required the location be moved to 2261 College Avenue to a store located on the corner of College Avenue and West Jessamine Street, a drug store, a grocery store and a barber shop. This building is still standing today. The property at the corner of College Avenue, Elizabeth Blvd., and Page Avenue was purchased in late 1924 and building began almost immediately.

The first rector, The Reverend Ira Day Lang arrived at Saint John's on February 1, 1925. Easter of that year worship took place at the new church site, with the roof and walls still to be completed. The "little brown church" was completed in July, 1925 and consecrated February 13, 1944. Our church has grown to a property-rich collection of structures that includes a church fashioned in the style of a rural English parish and a curate's home located adjacent to the church.

Saint John's Episcopal Church is patterned after a traditional Anglican Church in England. The nave seats 250 people. Stained glass windows line the walls, and a Rose window adorns the wall of the balcony. To the left of the High Altar is our Lady Chapel. This Chapel seats approximately 25 people.

If you would like to join the parish for the anniversary service and dinner or know of former parishioners who should be included, please phone the parish office at 817-927-5341. We extend this invitation to all our friends in the Mistletoe neighborhood.



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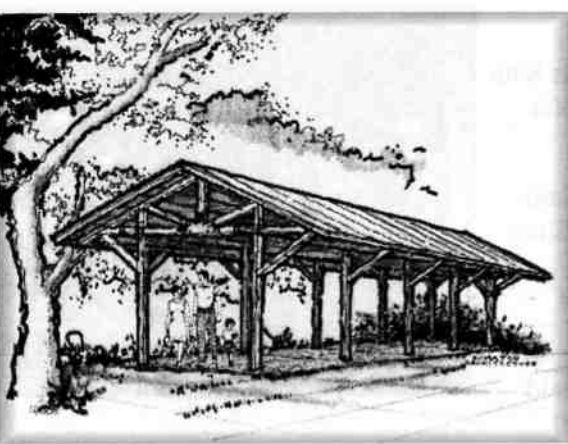


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Calling All Friends of Newby Park



The **Newby Park Pavilion** fund-raising campaign has officially kicked off! With an estimated budget of \$40,000 in construction costs and an additional \$10,000 for enhancements, fund raisers such as the sales of engraved bricks and a computer laptop raffle will be conducted. We are also soliciting corporate sponsors and support from the City's Park Department. We know you'll want to be a part of this worthwhile and enduring neighborhood project.

This pavilion is for you and your family's enjoyment. With your help, these two innovative fund-raisers will get the pavilion project ball rolling.

LAPTOP COMPUTER RAFFLE

Who couldn't use one? Purchase a chance to win a Dell laptop computer for only \$25 per ticket. Hey, the odds of winning are super! Tickets sales will begin at our MH meeting on February 10, and households will also be contacted individually. The raffle drawing will be held at the MHA meeting on May 11. Enter as many times as you wish. For tickets email name, address and phone to carrk@charter.net or PHSfTW@aol.com.



PERSONALIZED ENGRAVED BRICKS

Be a part of the pavilion and posterity! Purchase a personalized engraved brick for \$100. What a great idea for any friend of Newby Park. Engrave names of family members, friends - even pets. The tokens of love and remembrance are limitless, and it will be there for generations to come. The bricks will be displayed in or around the pavilion. All brick purchases are considered tax-deductible donations.



Engraved Brick(s) Application:

Please print your message(s) below to include up to 3 lines of text with a maximum of 13 letters per line per brick. **Make checks payable to:** Friends of Newby Park, and mail to: 2218 W. Rosedale St. So., Fort Worth TX 76110.

Brick #1

Brick #2

Brick #3

Brick #4

Want to order more bricks? Questions? Call 817-923-5510.

Letter from the President

Winter has arrived in Mistletoe Heights; at least we can call it winter. Oh, we will probably get an ice storm that will slow things down, but probably not as bad as the one last year that stopped everyone except the kids with ice skates.

I was thinking about our weather when I talked to my brother in Boston the other day. They have had record cold already this year. Real cold. I told him that we had been riding our bicycles in the neighborhood, and he grumbled something about running his snow blower for three hours and feeding some whale meat to the sled dogs.

Winter just gives us another reason to be thankful that we live here. But doesn't adversity build character? Do we have it too easy? Well, we don't have to worry about that because we live in old houses. We can have all the adversity we want at the time and place of our choosing by starting that restoration project we've been planning.

Actually, this is not so bad. We can have the equivalent of a light snowfall by doing a simple project like ...well, I can't think of anything simple right now; or get the feel of an Arctic winter by redoing a whole house. Like Rose Lynn and I just did.

It's all part of the charm of our neighborhood. When I meet people thinking of moving here, I assure them that they will get to know their neighbors, and will share a common situation. We will all be working on our houses. We also want to show what we have done, and see what others are doing, too. Each house is a historical artifact, but also a personal statement that has been written by everyone that has ever lived there. We have the ability to change our houses to suit ourselves while maintaining the charm that initially attracted us to them.

The real beauty of this situation is that if you have a project in mind, there is a good chance that one of your neighbors has done something similar. Great information can be had from those who have gone before, and they are usually most generous with it.

So go for that project. Get the info you need beforehand and do it. A year later you will have forgotten the hassles and headaches, and will just enjoy being in this great space that you have helped create.

See you in the neighborhood,

Jeff Gibbons

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