

**Quick Bits**

**Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale**

**Neighborhood GARAGE SALE**



It's that time of year again. With each Spring comes the annual Mistletoe Heights Garage Sale. The dates for this year's event are Saturday, April 24, and Sunday, April 25.

Don't forget to call the city for your individual permit at 817-871-7851.

**April Calendar**

- April 1 - Texas Independence Day
- April 4 - Palm Sunday
- April 4 - Daylight Savings Begins
- April 6 - Passover Begins
- April 10 - FWISD TAKS Testing
- April 11 - Easter Sunday
- April 22-24 - South Side Plant Sale
- April 24-25 - Garage Sale

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**Mistletoe Heights Easter Egg Hunt**

It's that time of year again! The annual Mistletoe Heights easter Egg Hunt is upon us. It will be held Saturday, April 10th, at 10:00 a.m. at Newby Park. If Mother Nature happens to bring us rain, the hunt will be rescheduled for 2:00 that afternoon. If it is still raining, the hunt will be cancelled.

If your children are participating, please bring two dozen plastic eggs filled with age appropriate candy or small toys to 2200 Edwin Street by Thursday, April 8. Please mark your bag of eggs with a NAME, PHONE NUMBER and the AGE(S) of your child (children). This helps the Easter Bunny sort them easier. In the event the hunt is cancelled, your eggs will be available for pickup after 2:00 p.m. at 2200 Edwin Street.

All children are welcome – the more the better. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance, so be sure to bring your camera. We will have coffee, donuts and juice. Even if you don't have small children, come on out and visit with your neighbors.

If you would like to volunteer to help before, during and/or after the event, please contact Amy Burns at 817-781-8800.



**Funding For The Newby Park Pavilion**

Buy an Engraved Brick or Laptop Computer Raffle Tickets now, and show your support for the pavilion to be built at Newby Park. Imagine how nice future Easter egg hunts will be with the pavilion in place. Please consider the purchase of one or more bricks and/or the laptop raffle tickets. See Page 4 for application blanks and information.

Friends of Newby Park



## April Yard of the Month

The yard of the month has been awarded to the Huling family at 2308 Mistletoe Blvd. Driving by this yard will definitely put a smile on your face. A colorful raised flower bed, edged in stone, is adorned with marigolds, petunias, alyssum, dianthus & geraniums. What beautiful, bright spring and summer colors. Be sure to look at the gorgeous Plum Delight Chinese Fringe Flower which makes such an interesting hedge.

What makes this yard so fun is the Huling family. They have Maggie Magnolia, Buddy Red Bud and Billy Ray Bald Cyprus (he's on his come-back tour - thought we lost him). Thank you to James, Tommie Jo, Edie and Peri for brightening our day. Congratulations!

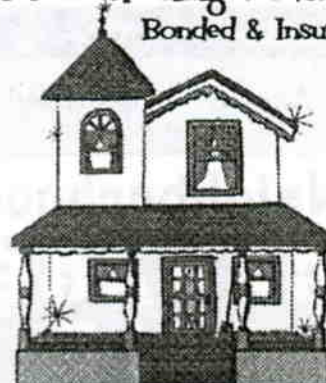
Tip for the month of April: you can prune azaleas lightly after they have bloomed. Fertilize them while in bloom; this is the most important time. You can also move azaleas while in bloom.

Happy Planting,  
DeDe Barth, Becka Elbert & Celia Jones



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### WANTED: Landscape Designer

We are looking for a volunteer to develop a workable plan with plants and engraved bricks for the proposed pavilion at Newby Park. If interested please call 817-923-5510.

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## National Arbor Day

One of the more wonderful things about Mistletoe Heights is the trees. We have many mature oaks and pecans lining our streets and shading our yards. It is obvious we appreciate their importance, since the tree is such a prominent part of our neighborhood logo. However, according to the National Arbor Day Foundation, tree cover in the average American neighborhood has dropped by more than 20% just in the last 10 years! That is an unhealthy trend.

Studies have shown that we are happier, calmer and healthier if we live among trees. When Steve and I were looking for our house, we had narrowed it down to two houses in Mistletoe Heights. I just could not decide which one I liked best. Both had some real assets. One day I drove up to each house and just sketched the front of it. While I was drawing, it suddenly dawned on me that one of the houses had huge trees, and the other didn't have any trees! That was it. I made my decision that very moment and have not regretted it since.

In 1872 H. Sterling Morton proposed Arbor Day, which is now observed the last Friday in April. If it were celebrated by all of us, we could reverse the 20% loss per decade. If you don't need a tree in your yard, you probably know someone who would love to have a tree planted in his or her yard. Or you could follow Steve's lead. He has planted and cared for 50-plus trees in our neighborhood, most of them on the berm and at the entrance. Here is to more trees in Mistletoe Heights, and Happy Arbor Day!

Kathy McReynolds

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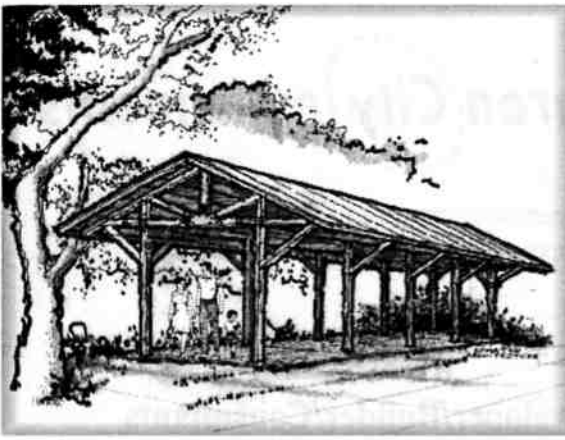
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**214-528-5579 or 214-405-5579.**

See our new custom home at 1320 College Avenue – call Lori Gallagher, Helen Painter's Historic Southside Team expert at 817-475-5117 for a showing.



# 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, fundraisers 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 fundraisers 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! 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](mailto:carrk@charter.net) or [PHSFtW@aol.com](mailto: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.



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### 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

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Brick #3

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Brick #2

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Brick #4

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

## Cats...Cats...Cats...Cats...Cats...

We've all seen 'em. Some of us have several. Many of us feed them. Now there seems to be a new flock... herd... passel... drove... pack... whatever, of kittens figuring out whether they can beat your car across the street. Here in Fairmount we have a little bit of every type of cat – from the pampered Persian who watches the goings on from a window in disdain, including the scared and hungry cat abandoned by a resident who left the neighborhood to the cat so wild you barely see it streak across the yard.

Over the last year, the Fairmount Feral Friends (or whatever we call ourselves) have trapped over 100 cats. In conjunction with the Humane Society of North Texas, they've received their rabies shots as well as a 4-in-1 shot for general feline diseases, been neutered or spayed, ear tipped and returned to their home ground. A small percentage, too ill to save, was euthanized. A larger number, deemed adoptable, were kept by HSNT for adoption. Obviously, we haven't completed the project.



During 2003 budget constraints at HSNT made it necessary for them to charge us \$15 per cat for neutering and spaying. While that price is exceptionally low (the next best low-cost clinic charges \$65 and \$75 per cat) it has meant a need to reassess our program. Private donations to the program and money dropped into the jar at Old Home Supply (THANK YOU, Ralph Watterson!) have totaled about \$150. At the same time, other neighborhoods, hearing about our program, have requested assistance, further stretching our time and people resources. Fortunately, we've had extra traps at the time to loan and they've been able to pay their own way.

We're currently working with the city, the Animal Control department and a new advocacy group called CLASP to try to obtain some grants which will allow the program to be expanded city wide. Program implementation will probably still be retained in the neighborhoods, so the need for citizen involvement in trapping and transporting will still exist. All this, however, is a year or more down the road. In 2004 we again requested and received funds for the Cat Project based on the numbers from 2003. However, changes at HSNT have meant the collections days have been reduced to two Tuesdays a month and our secondary source for altering and vaccination costs \$20 per cat. As always, we need more people to trap and transport.

However, if you have stray, abandoned or feral cats around your house that need to be trapped, we usually have traps you can borrow and we'll arrange transportation, if at all possible, when necessary. Please contact me, Susan Harper, at 817-927-7257 and leave a message. I'll return your call.

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## Talking Points for Code Rangers

The Code Rangers Program is a volunteer-driven citizen involvement program. It aims to use citizens in partnership with the City of Fort Worth Code Compliance Department to help report code violations and encourage citizens to voluntarily correct those violations.

Code Rangers will patrol their neighborhoods at their convenience, and identify specific types of Code violations. They will then report their findings to staff members in the Code Compliance Department. The City will send a courtesy notice to the owner or occupant of the property where the violation occurred. This notice will be sent based on the Code Rangers' trained observation alone. No Code Compliance Officer will check property before the initial notice is sent. This courtesy notice is not an official notice, but a friendly warning to the property owner or occupant.

After ten days, the Code Ranger will do a follow-up inspection to see if the violation has been corrected. If it has been corrected, the voluntary compliance will be documented. If the violation persists, a Code Enforcement Officer will visit the property and issue an official notice to correct the violation. At this point, the report will be handled like all other reports received by Code Compliance. The Code Ranger may continue to monitor the property and receive updates from the Code Enforcement Officer.

### *When will the program start?*

Training for Code Ranger volunteers will begin in March and volunteers will begin patrols by April.

### *How long will training be?*

Probably a 12-hour course, divided into three 4-hour units. All units will be offered at various times. Participants must complete all units, pass an exam, and participate in a ride-along with a Code Enforcement Officer before beginning their patrols.

(continued on page 8)

## MCH TILE

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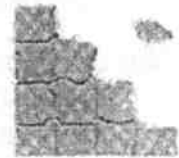
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