



The Mistletoe Express

A Publication of Historic Mistletoe Heights

www.mistletoeheights.com

September 2005



Jim Bradbury

Letter from the president

Clouds have finally blown in to provide a much needed break from the blistering afternoons that have been imposed on us in late August. I am sure that it will be a short break, but it provides a taste of the cooler days that fall will bring as the calendar advances.

The meeting this month will be at Steve and Kathy McReynold's home at 2312 Irwin on Tuesday, September 20, at 7:00 pm. We will proceed on the same format as last time, including wine, cheese and light snacks. Among other topics, we will consider various projects to improve the neighborhood. We have been carrying funds in the budget for some time for this use. A number of suggestions have been made, including additional street lights, painting the retaining wall on Forest Park, planting trees and others. It is time to consider and vote on those projects and discuss how we will carry out the projects. If you have ideas, want to express your opinion, or just have some neighborhood beautification skills, please come and join us. While already scenic, our neighborhood needs some sprucing up in areas and we need to be thinking ahead on how we can improve the gateway to our neighborhood as construction and development on Rosedale progresses.

If you have not been to a meeting before, please come and join us - we need your thoughts. If you have been before please step over to a neighbor's house a couple of days before the meeting and ask them to join you at the meeting.

Neal Carrell, our neighborhood police officer has been checking in regularly and with the exception of a few missing urns and plants,

(Continued on page 2)

New Historic Preservation Committee

by Heather White

I wanted to introduce my committee to you so that you can call on us if you ever want to - but first a bit of background. When we learned new construction was proposed at the entrance to our neighborhood, many of our ears perked up. With neighborhood guidelines in place, a hands-off approach was taken. Many months later, we noticed that the proposed plans were still not in accordance with our guidelines, and that the neighborhood's viewpoint wasn't really being represented in the discussion. There seemed to be a fair amount of confusion about what was required, and we were concerned about what the outcome might be. We were pleased to be able to work with the property owner and his architect on tweaking the new construction plans to make them much more appropriate to our neighborhood, and decided that it would be beneficial for us to remain involved in the process to help future neighborhood applications go more smoothly. We knew that Fairmount had had a Historic Preservation Committee for years, and we thought perhaps we should have one as well, as a liaison between homeowners and Planning and the Landmarks Commissioners. So, if you're planning to work on the exterior of your house and would like to know whether you need a Certificate of Appropriateness, or whether your plans are consistent with neighborhood guidelines, you can either contact

Historic Preservation Planning directly, or you can let us know you have a question and we'll find out the answer for you if we don't know. We also write letters of recommendation for each proposed project that meets the guidelines, and as we've attended the commission's work sessions and hearings, this seems to increase the commissioners' comfort level with a project. Our committee includes neighbors with many different kinds of expertise, so if you ever need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us (contact information is on the back page of every newsletter)—we're here to help.

Heather White, Chair, Historic Preservation Committee

Committee members include Patrick Gallagher, John Key, Jim Bradbury, Michael and Lara Conn, Kathy McReynolds, Lisa Lowry, Tom Richey, RoseLynn Scott, Jeff Gibbons, and Martin Herring.

hwhite@credant.com

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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Neighborhood meeting
September 20, 7:00 p.m.

at the home of
Steve and Kathy McReynolds'
2312 Irwin Street.

(continued from previous page)

some of the neighborhood crime seems to have subsided. Our thanks go to our neighborhood Patrol Committee. Of course that things are slower is no reason to let up. The pressure from the patrols and watchful neighbors calling the non-emergency number when strangers appear needs to continue.

Construction on the Newby Park Pavilion has started. If you have not had the chance to drive by, please do so. Soon we will be having a "staining party" to stain the wood before the beams go up. We will announce the dates of that event by e-mail and at the meeting. And if all goes well we will be having the ribbon cutting this fall.

The position of City Liaison has been vacant for some time and I would like to fill it. This is an important role for the MHA and we need a good responsible person to act in this role. If you have skills in this area and are interested, please drop me a note or tell me at the next meeting. This would not involve an undue amount of time and would provide a constant connection to the City on problem areas and give us timely information on new City projects that will impact us here in MH.

Please come and join us at the meeting later this month. In addition to the above, we will set the date and location for the


Christmas party. If you have a home that you would like to show off this December, please come to the meeting or get word to me. Last year's party was a lot of fun and I would like to expand the crowd and maybe the length of the party too.

**I love my
"gray Taco Bell"...**

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Subject: Bike Theft (mid-July)

I was over at a friends house last night who lives on Kensington in Berkeley. When I saw the same group of kids that I have seen in Mistletoe from time to time. All boys about 10 - 13 years old, always in a pack of 4-6 kids. About 2-3 black kids and 2-3 Latin kids, all with real short hair.

All are on bikes with one boy "getting a ride" on the back of one of the bikes. To make a long story short, they rode by once and the one on the back hopped off and headed towards the garage until his friends noticed us and called him back. The kid on foot ran back to the bikes, and before he got on we noticed that he was slipping a butcher knife under his shirt, my guess is that he needed to adjust it before he got back on the bike.

This knife was not stolen from my friend, he had it with him. They rode off, we called the non emergency number and filed a report.

About an hour later they returned, and despite the presence of adults in the front yard (this house is on a corner, the garage is around the corner from the front yard), they made off with my friends sons bike. So keep your eyes open, I am quite sure these are the same boys who have stolen several bikes from Mistletoe.

Subject: Bike Theft

They're still around. Saw them today on Mistletoe Blvd. and then going down the hill at the end of Mistletoe drive. The police say that since they are armed, the police should be called everytime they are seen. Keep your eyes open. They are pretty brazen, they will be back.

Subject: Bike Theft Update

The dad saw the same group of kids...one riding his sons bike. He followed them, called the police and got his sons bike back.

The police had their parents pick them all up, took their names and addresses.

Subject: Stolen Vehicles

Our 91 Chevy Suburban was stolen from our home (parked on the street) on the night of 7/10 (or the morning of 7/11). It is blue with gold stripes. The license plate # is G82PXC. Please notify us or the police if you see it.

Chris Fowler or Brian Richardson
2133 Weatherbee Street
817-924-5586

E-Chat



Last night our tenant's boyfriend's car was broken into. His stereo was stolen. This was after midnight. The police were notified and a report was filed. The location of the break-in was on Clara Street just about to

Mistletoe Drive on the curve. Well lighted.

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Two Deco/Moderne jewels sparkle amid the bungalow and ranch style homes of Mistletoe Heights

By Martin Herring

In April of 1925, an exposition opened in Paris called the L'Exposition Internationale des Arts D'coratifs et Industriels Modernes. It would influence American design for the next twenty years. The name for the style it spawned was shortened to Art Deco.

The Exposition was meant to showcase only the most modern European design, whether in architecture or consumer products. And by 1926, Deco was already filtering into the American psyche via shop displays and movie sets.

Art Deco remained a commercial style for the most part, yet residential architecture couldn't help but be affected by it. For those architects and builders brave enough to break away from the traditional styles of the day, Art Deco brought a whole new look to housing. In many ways, it emulated Bauhaus design, with its flat roofs, curved walls, and bands of windows; yet true Bauhaus adherents would have been aghast at the further addition of strident colors and wild geometric motifs such as ziggurats, sunbursts, and lightning bolts.

In the mid '30s, Art Deco branched into a related style known as Streamline Moderne. Its features were derived less from the Paris exposition than from industrial designers such as Raymond Leowy, who throughout the decade had been madly reshaping everything from wringers to radios to mimic the fluid lines of modern aircraft. In 1935, Leowy painted "speed lines" on the nose of the Pennsylvania Railroad's new

streamlined locomotives, suggesting the streaking of an object in motion. Ironically, these became a favorite motif on Deco and Moderne homes as well, despite the fact that these houses clearly weren't going anywhere.

In the Postwar years, a renewed sense of American pride led buyers back to the more home-grown look of Colonials and Ranchers, and the high-style era of Deco/Moderne quietly faded out. Since the style never really caught on with tract builders, such houses are quite rare, often appearing singly among the more popular bungalows and cottages of the era.



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Yard of the Month: 2336 W. Magnolia

by Becka Elbert, DeDe Barth & Celia Jones



The home at 2336 W. Magnolia has been chosen as September yard of the month. This is the home of the Martin family. At a time when most yards are showing the effects of our 100 degree weather, this yard is holding up beautifully. The hardy plants in this yard include Gerber daisies in decorative blue pots, hanging baskets filled with Fern and Airplane plants (also known as Spider plants), perfectly manicured boxwoods and a gorgeous purple Rose of Sharon (also known as Althea from the Hibiscus family) in full bloom. Thank you, Martin family, for your hard work in this hot Texas weather. Happy Planting.

I am aware of only two houses in Mistletoe Heights which have many of the features of Deco or Moderne style—2333 West Magnolia and 2324 Mistletoe Drive. They're quite striking and reflect another fine example of the diversity of vintage architecture found in our neighborhood. Next time you are on these streets take a look. These gems are rare!

Design features often found in Art Deco and Streamlined Moderne homes include:

- curved corners (providing a sense of motion)
- occasionally portholes and bulkheads
- concrete and stucco material
- glass brick
- flat roofs
- lack of overhangs
- steel sashes (the leading-edge window technology of the 30s)
- geometric designs, such as zigzags, chevrons, diamond and sunburst
- polished aluminum or stainless steel



2324 Mistletoe Drive

*Much of the information in this article was gleaned from an article by Arrol Gellner, a practicing architect in San Francisco, California.

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NEWBY PARK UPDATE

The long-awaited construction of the pavilion in Newby Park began this last month. If you have driven by the park, you can see that the slab and the sidewalk from the street have been poured. They also have poured a pad for the bricks, and these are at the engravers and will be installed soon. The upper structure of the pavilion will be delivered on site, and hopefully will be finished by mid-September. The Friends of Newby Park Committee is planning the dedication ceremonies, and a date and time for the big celebration will be announced later.



The pavilion's slab has been poured.

Many thanks for the generous support of our neighborhood and friends in buying the engraved bricks, and

our corporate sponsors (Quarles Lumber, Baylor All Saints Medical Center, Fort Worth Western Railroad, Fort Worth National Bank, Texas Bank, Colonial Savings, and a major donor who wished to remain anonymous). A total of 112 bricks were sold, and with these monies and the corporate donations, a

\$25,000 TIF Matching Grant, and a grant from the City of special fund from our Council Person, Wendy Davis, we were able to meet our goal of \$50,000 projected construction costs.

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Thanks to you, the Newby Park Pavilion is on its way to becoming a reality

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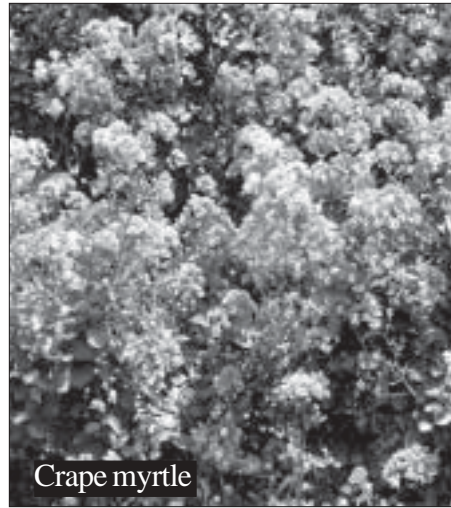
Gardening with Patsy Slocum

Fall is just around the corner, and now is the time to think about future tree and shrub planting you might want to do in landscaping your yard. One of the most common mistakes a homeowner makes is planting a good tree in the wrong spot. This happens, usually, when a person just does not know how large a tree or shrub will eventually become. One can save pruning time and wasted energy by observing some of the mature trees and shrubs in our neighborhood. Sometimes one is looking for color and other times shade from the afternoon sun.



Japanese maple

Now that we are still in the hot growing season, it would be well to observe what you need in landscaping. Trees and shrubs grow well if they have plenty of room. Pushing them up against the house or clumping them too close together will slow their growth tremendously. A good



Crape myrtle

rule of thumb is to plant your tree or shrub half its mature height from a building, walkway, or boundary. Your yard may appear stark or empty at first, but in the long run you will appreciate the space. You can fill in the gaps by

using fast growing perennials to fill in the space while trees and shrubs are growing to their mature heights.

Some great trees for fall color are red maple, Japanese maple, sugar maple, and our Texas favorite, the crape myrtle. The red maple grows fast, red in color, and will grow to be a huge tree. The Japanese maple has yellow, orange, and red, is a fairly slow grower, and may be 25 feet tall when mature. I have noticed that many crape myrtle in our neighborhood are in full blossom now. They are fast growers and can become as tall as 30 feet. They should not be planted close to a building.

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Joe Wienandt

By Liz Stevens

Joe Wienandt is very into plants right now. Carnivorous plants, meaning the kind that eat bugs. His collection lines the window ledge in the kitchen. There is a young Venus flytrap accompanied by deeply veined pitcher plants shaped like Jack-in-the-Pulpits. He points out the minute, spiky hairs growing on one plant's stem: the ladder up which unsuspecting insects climb to their doom.

Joe is 13 and has lived in Mistletoe Heights his whole life. You might catch him riding his bike around the Triangle Park, playing with his cat, Kramer, or going door-to-door selling meat-eating flora.

It was in fifth grade that Joe first became enamored of plants, specifically the carnivorous kind. A classmate brought a Venus flytrap to school and Joe immediately set out to buy himself one on the Internet. What he found was California Carnivores, a Web site and business co-owned by Peter D'Amato. D'Amato wrote *The Savage Garden*, which is now Joe's favorite reference book. He and D'Amato are regular email correspondents now, too.

Joe's interest in carnivorous plants has even spurred the librarians at his school, William James Middle School, to order a couple books on the subject, he says.

His hobby hasn't been a bed of roses, so to speak. There was a learning curve. "I killed the first five plants," he says. "Over-watering."

The cobra lilies just didn't like the Texas climate. The paddle plant, a succulent from Africa, seems to be adjusting, however. (We should mention that Joe also has a small but promising cactus garden in his backyard next to the pond/water feature. On the day we visited, Joe's dad, Chris, was hand trimming the grass that had grown up around it.)

Joe is more than a plant guy, though. Last year he went to state finals representing his math club. This is his third year taking violin at school. And he's looking forward to the robotics class he has signed up for next semester at William James.

This past summer, Joe became famous. Sort of. He found a pretty lucrative summer job over the Internet writing a daily blog about his life. In conjunction with that, the European-based media company that hired him sent a cameraman and producer to Fort Worth twice to film Joe. All he had to do was hang out with his friends. Plus the daily blogs were brief: "Today I made a movie with J.P."

But easy-come, easy go. Joe spent the money he earned on (what else?) plants.



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Southside Preservation Hall	926-2800	HallTess@earthlink.net	www.southsidepreservation.com
The T/Longhorn Trolley	215-8600		www.the-t.com
Trinity Railway Express	215-8600		www.trinityrailwayexpress.org
Wendy Davis - City Council District 9	392-8809	district9@fortworthgov.org	ci.fort-worth.tx.us

MHA Officers	Street Reps (listed by blocks)		Publishing Information
President	2200 W. Rosedale South	2100 Edwin	 <p>EDITORIAL POLICY</p> <p>Articles and letters to the Editor are welcomed. To be published as written, letters must be addressed to the Editor, signed and include a phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. Articles may be submitted for publication, signed or unsigned, subject to approval and editing by the Editor. Letters to the Editor are limited to a half page (approximately 350 words). Please submit to twoearsup@charter.net or 1114 Buck Avenue. The deadline is the 20th of each month.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">ADVERTISING INFORMATION</p> <p>To place an advertisement or for actual mechanical sizes, please call Nancy Brown at 923-7146. Ad rates are: business card size \$15, 1/4 page \$30, 1/3 page \$45, half page \$55, full page \$100, and pre-printed 8 1/2 x 11 insert flyers \$50. The deadline is the 20th of each month.</p>
Jim Bradbury 924-9869	Carrie Johnson 926-9776	Lynn Herrera 926-9991	
Vice-President	2300 W. Rosedale South	2200 Edwin	
Tom Richey 923-7352	Kimberly Helixon 927-4641	Wyatt Teague 923-2330	
Secretary	2200 Irwin	2300 Edwin	
The Peiperts 926-4117	Gary Willis 924-4000	Tom Richey 923-7352	
Treasurer	2300 Irwin	2100 Weatherbee	
Alex Blanton 926-1792	Sue Duvall 926-8714	Judy Gude 926-8843	
Newsletter Editor	2100/2200 Mistletoe Blvd.	2200 Weatherbee	
Sevan Melikyan 921-2120	Gil DeHoyos 926-6409	Susan Harwell 923-8806	
Street Rep Captains	2300/2400 Mistletoe Blvd.	1100 Clara	
Pat Hale (East) 924-5263	Lisa Stewart 924-9666	Jack and Lorri Kendrick 924-2800	
Gaye Reed (West) 921-0009	2100/2200 West Magnolia	1200 Clara	
Welcome Baskets	Sherry Choate 923-7335	Betty Arvin 924-7088	
Joy Teague 923-2330	2300 West Magnolia	1100 Buck	
Advertising Manager	Susan Pressley 923-6061	Janet Gallagher 921-9027	
Nancy Brown 923-7146	2100 Harrison	1200/1300 Buck	
Newby Park	Elizabeth Sims 926-3548	Simone Scott 924-3838	
Patsy Slocum 923-5510	2200 Harrison & Jerome	2100 Morphy	
City Liaison	Scott Doty 924-2644	Debra Tice 921-4651	
Vacant	2300/2400 Harrison	1100 Mistletoe Dr.	
Historian	Faye Dowdle 926-7571	Kim Musgrove 923-6785	
Wyatt Teague 923-2330	2100 Mistletoe Ave.	1200 ñ 1500 Mistletoe Dr.	
Yard of the Month	Neataw Engels 927-2468	Rochelle Graham 927-2967	
De De Barth 922-8966	2200 Mistletoe Ave.	2300 Mistletoe Dr.	
Becka Elbert 923-8320	Richard/Christi Yantis 924-2857	Sandy Tarpley 924-9215	
Celia Jones 924-1191	2300 Mistletoe Ave.	Forest Park Blvd.	
	Sam & Jack Bradbury 926-9095	Steve McReynolds 926-7955	
MHA YEARLY DUES			
Dues are \$5, \$10, \$25 or more. Your dues help to defer the cost of this newsletter, the Mistletoe Heights phone directory and many other neighborhood functions. Dues are accepted by Alex Blanton (call for address - 926-1792).	Neighborhood Police Officer East of Forest Park	Neighborhood Police Officer West of Forest Park	
	Officer D. B. Briggs	Officer Neal Carrell	
	Office 871-8948	Mobile 994-3409	
	Mobile 991-8473	Pager 998-0478	
	Email: BriggsD@ci.fort-worth.tx.us	Email: Larry.Carrell@fortworthgov.org	