



The Mistletoe Express

A Publication of Historic Mistletoe Heights

www.mistletoeheights.com

October 2005



Jim Bradbury

Letter from the president

I'm pleased to report another good meeting of the Mistletoe Heights Association, at the home of Steve and Kathy McReynolds. We had a good turnout and, as I had hoped, we saw some new faces. We covered a lot of ground at the Sept. 20 meeting, so I'll provide a rundown of the essential issues covered.

We had an excellent discussion of various neighborhood improvement projects that should be commenced.

After listening to all suggestions, a strong consensus developed that the most worthy project is improvement of the entrance to the neighborhood at Forest Park Boulevard and Rosedale Street.

Although some minor changes could happen quickly, including repair of a sprinkler system at the entrance, everyone agreed that we need to spend some time and effort to design an appropriate approach. We need more than a new sign.

The hardest-working group in the neighborhood, the Historic Preservation Committee, has agreed to undertake this effort. Martin Herring is developing several alternative designs.

At the meeting, we discussed approaching Berkeley Place, the city and the developer of the project across Rosedale about contributing to the design and placement of the improvements. Both Berkeley and Mistletoe Heights deserve a more historically appropriate and stately entrance to these unique Fort Worth neighborhoods. Look for some changes early in 2006.

(Continued on page 2)



Photo: Jim Peibert

HERE IT IS!

The Friends of Newby Park Committee is proud to announce completion of the pavilion at Newby Park. It will be presented to the city of Fort Worth in a **gala ribbon-cutting on Saturday, Oct. 22, at 4 p.m.**

An invitation is extended to all residents of the Mistletoe Heights neighborhood and to those who helped so much with development of the pavilion. Our City Council representative, Wendy Davis, and Mayor Mike Moncrief have been invited to attend along with other city officials.

The ceremony will begin with the introduction of dignitaries and the Friends of Newby Park Committee.

After the presentation ceremony, complimentary hotdogs and cold drinks will be available, and the Mistletoe Heights All Stars band will perform. The music will continue until 7:00 p.m. or, as band leader and guitarist Jeff Gibbons puts it, "until we decide to stop!"

Construction of the pavilion was made possible by the sale of engraved bricks and donations from individuals and corporations, namely Quarles Lumber, Baylor All Saints Medical Center, Fort Worth Western

(Continued on page 10)



OCTOBER CALENDAR

PAVILION Ribbon-cutting festivities featuring the Mistletoe Heights All Stars band. October 22, 4:00 p.m.

HALLOWEEN
Pumpkin Carving Contest
October 30

(President's Letter, continued from previous page)

The pavilion in Newby Park is finished — believe it or not. Construction is completed and landscaping will be going on over the next couple weeks.

The best part is that the park and pavilion are now ready for the much-awaited grand opening. It will be at 4 p.m., Oct. 22. We'll have ice cream, hot dogs, a ribbon cutting and music by our neighborhood band, the Mistletoe Heights All Stars.

In legal news, the concrete batch plant is about to come back into focus. A small group of people from both Berkeley and Mistletoe Heights has been working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, along with the office of City Councilwoman Wendy Davis.

TCEQ's responses to the public comments are expected in early October. That will mark the beginning of a 30-day window for people requesting a contested case hearing. You may recall from past meetings and articles that the agency defines the affected populace as those within 440 yards from the edge of the plant. You will receive e-mail notices of how to take action.


Citizens on Patrol is working very well but we need new trainees to complete the course at the Fort Worth Police

Department. Regrettably, we lost both David Briggs and Neal Carrell as our neighborhood police officers. But we have a fine replacement on the east side of Forest Park and will have a replacement for Neal shortly. Remember to follow the simple tips about not leaving possessions out in the open. The tips may sound silly, but they work.

It will be no surprise that many of our neighbors were quick to respond to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Food, clothing and compassion poured out rapidly. Now, with Hurricane Rita, we may have even more work to do. If you can't do something, then just give. It's needed badly.

On a much lighter note, Gerry and Meralen Tyson have graciously agreed to host the neighborhood Christmas party at their home at 1351 Mistletoe Drive. The party will be Sunday, Dec. 18, so mark your calendars. With evening temperatures hovering at nearly 100 degrees, Christmas may seem far away, but it will be here before you know it.

Last, it's that time of year for officer elections and nominations. We need to fill all positions. If you love this neighborhood, your involvement is needed. Things are going very well for us, but there's more work to do. So please let me or someone know of your interest or let us know if you have a suggestion of a worthy candidate.



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Pumpkin Carving Contest Rules

- 🍷 The night **BEFORE** Halloween (which means Sunday the 30th this year) the elite gang of gourd judges hits the street to judge this year's offerings. All real carved pumpkins are judged soon after dusk.
- 🍷 The grand prize winner will get either an all-expense trip to Transylvania or a \$50.00 prize (to be decided later).
- 🍷 All honorable mentions get a fabulous write-up in the newsletter.

Plan your gourds' grimace now, get the whole family involved and remember judging occurs the night before Halloween and styrofoam/plastic does not count in the judging.

Oh, by the way, we need a few more elite pumpkin judges. The only prerequisite is availability and not being easily offended by the wine-consuming resident experts. To apply call either Jeff Gibbons (817-926-0079) or Kathy McReynolds (817-926-7955).

HURRICANE KATRINA

A message from Mayor Moncrief:

The need for volunteers to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts still continues locally. Volunteers wanting to help in shelters should not go directly to the shelter sites but should call the local Hurricane Katrina Phone Bank at 817-392-7400. The phone line is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Volunteers are scheduled for four-hour shifts and are needed 24 hours a day. Shelter needs include child care, food service, computer assistance, sorting of donated goods, welcoming guests and assisting in moving guests from shelters to interim housing.

For those unable to volunteer, a fund has been established to assist Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Tarrant County. Checks made payable to Tarrant County Relief Fund should be mailed to Tarrant County Administrator, 100 East Weatherford St., Suite 404, Fort Worth, Texas 76196. Donations can also be made online at www.tarrantcounty.com

And this might still be relevant—

If anyone knows of individuals or groups that are or will be setting up living quarters for families relocating to the area, we have 2 couches that we would like to donate.

Please keep this in mind for the future if there is not an immediate need.

Contact Chris @ fershtand@aol.com

CRIME

One of our neighbors was the victim of a Saturday morning robbery, in the eastern parking lot of the Paris Coffee Shop.

She is physically fit but was walking alone to enter the restaurant. She felt a couple of taps on her shoulder & thought it was the girlfriend she was going to meet. Three males knocked her down, stole her purse, & jumped into a waiting van. She wasn't seriously hurt, but she was shocked, as anyone would be.

The police were called & they interviewed her. They sent someone to her home to make sure the criminals didn't try to rob her home, too.

A waitress at the restaurant told me that near the end of the month, the drug addicts have run out of methadone

because they use it too quickly, so they are desperate to get money for more drugs or methadone.

We all need to be aware of our surroundings and the people who may be watching us. The restaurant is such a popular and busy place. These criminals were very desperate!

Be sure to pass the word on to your friends and neighbors. This can happen anywhere at any time.

E-Chat



PETS

I have a neighborhood rescued black, male kitten with beautiful green eyes that needs a good home.

Please let me know if you or someone you know might be interested.

Thanks. Carol Benson
817-921-4000

Lisa and Lee Wills@
2343 Mistletoe Blvd.

woke to find a "yellow Lab/Retriever" mix in their backyard. Lisa states the dog was quite skittish and would not allow them to look at the tag on the collar. She also said the dog looked older.

If you are missing your very cute white puppy, (I don't know what kind of dog), we have it! Call me with the info and I will let you have your pup!

Nancy 817-966-4237

NEWSLETTER

Dear Mistletoe Express contributors and officials:

I am pleased to inform you that Jim Peipert has agreed to help me with the editing of the newsletter. His primary task will be to get the stories in by deadline, which is the 20th of the month, as well as editing content.

This will help focus my efforts in doing the layout of the paper and oversee its production at the printer. This way, I hope, we will avoid delays in delivering the newsletter, such as the one we are experiencing for the September issue.

So, some of you should expect to hear from Jim very shortly.

I look forward to working with Jim and with all of you on the many future issues to come.

Thank you for everything you are all doing and thank you Jim.

Sevan

Mistletoe Heights residents are encouraged to volunteer for the Mistletoe COPs program. A few of us did attend the July 9 training session but we really still need to get some additional volunteers trained before we can effectively set something up for the neighborhood.

The next Citizens on Patrol Training class will be Saturday October 15th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Police and Fire Training Center at 1000 Calvert St. (just across the river from RadioShack's new HQ).

There is no need to pre-register for the session but the link

below provides some additional information and the application form: fortworthpd.com/policingcop.htm

If you are able to attend this session, please contact Samantha Bennett at 214-886-6892 (cell) or 817-415-5299 (work). Email:

samantha.bennett@charter.net

The other COPs coordinators you can contact are:

Debra Windsor

Work: 817-884-2826

Email: mdwindsor@charter.net

Carrie Johnson

Home: 817-926-9776

Cell: 682-561-9776

Email: redhawk_eagle@yahoo.com



Pod People Invasion

There are a growing number of 'PODS' appearing in Mistletoe Heights. I am referring to "personal on demand storage units" They are mostly in driveways and mostly leave after a brief stay; however, several people have asked about them so I asked the city's code control officer. They can only remain on property with an active building permit. Under some circumstances this might be a lengthy time span – IF construction is ongoing. They cannot, on the other hand, be used for general storage.

More Signage Needed!

The need to have additional signs (our Mistletoe Heights dry-erase signs used to announce events) came up at the last meeting. In an effort to have a sign on nearly every block to better inform neighbors we need to do two things:

1) If you currently have a sign and do not have time to put it out when an event comes up, please return it to Kathy McReynolds' porch (2312 Irwin) and leave a note on it telling us who returned it.

2) If you are willing to volunteer to put the sign out on your block please call Kathy @ 926-7955. This chore takes all of 10 minutes about six times a year!

Thus far we have identified a need for a volunteer on Mistletoe Drive (northern portion), 2300 block of Rosedale, 2200 block of Mistletoe Blvd, and on Weatherbee.

Won't you please take on responsibility for your block?

By Steve McReynolds

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Yard of the Month: 1410 Mistletoe Drive

by Becka Elbert, DeDe Barth & Celia Jones



We have chosen the home of the Hull family at 1410 Mistletoe Drive as the Mistletoe Heights yard of the month for October. What a beautiful Tuscan, Mediterranean, South Beach feel, with a touch of Texas thrown in.

This combination and concept work well with the architecture of this magnificent home. The giant elephant ears and palms welcome you at the gate leading to the back yard.

The flower beds in the circular drive are filled with purple fountain grass, aloe, desert willow and a mesquite, to name a few. Two very tall green cyprus and pots filled with Sago palms greet you as you enter the front porch. This is one yard you don't want to miss.

Happy planting!

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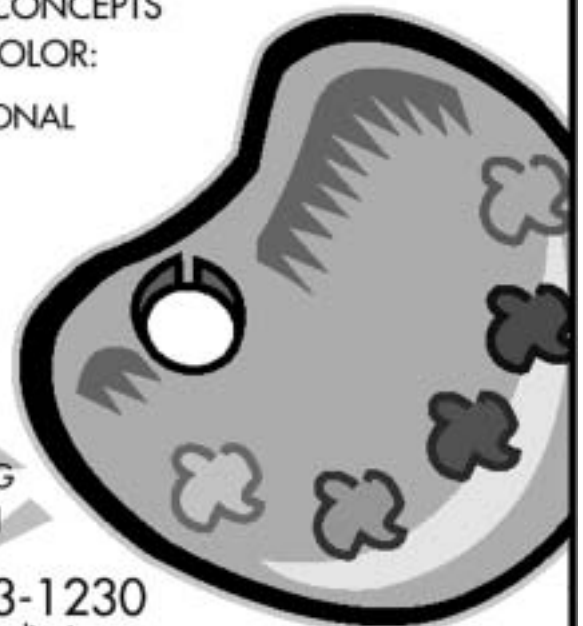
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(Newby Park, continued from page 1)

Railroad, Fort Worth National Bank, Texas Bank, Colonial Savings and an anonymous donor.

Many thanks are also due to Fort Worth Lawn Sprinkler Co. for the automated sprinkler system, Elizabeth Anna's Old World Garden for the landscaping plans, Karl Komatsu for the architectural plan, Texas Lighting Supply for the lights, John Key for the electrical work and Tom Hale for supervision of construction.

The cost of the pavilion was \$50,000, and part of this cost was met with matching funds from the TIF and a special city fund from Wendy Davis's district.

It is hoped that many will turn out for this event to see the wonderful addition the pavilion is to our neighborhood. When the proposed playground is completed, this park will be a jewel to shine for many years.



it begins...



it continues...




it's almost done...



it's finished!

photos by Gaye Reed



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Minutes of the Mistletoe Heights Association meeting, Sept. 20, 2005

The meeting was held at the home of Steve and Kathy McReynolds, with 21 people present, including our new neighborhood police officer and a code compliance officer. President Jim Bradbury called the meeting to order. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report were skipped and will be read at the next meeting.

Leah Wagner, the new NPO, is based on the south side, but also is responsible for the east side of Forest Park. She provided several tips on prevention of crime and theft. She said that Officer Neal Carrell, who was responsible for the west side of Forest Park, has taken a leave of absence and will be replaced shortly.

Officer Wagner's telephone number is (817) 871-8885; her cellphone number is (817) 991-8473.

Code Compliance Officer Morris Carrejo answered several questions about code compliance, mainly involving Dumpsters, which are used during construction, and Pods, which are used during a move. Officer Carrejo's telephone is (817) 392-5158; his cell phone number is (817) 269-8693.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEWBY PARK – Patsy Slocum reported that structural work on the Newby Park pavilion is complete. Still to be done are electrical work (by John Key); installation of a sprinkler system (Fort Worth Lawn and

Sprinkler); landscaping (Elizabeth Anna's Old World Garden); and the inspection by the city. We may not have enough money to purchase park benches.

A gala opening and a ribbon-cutting for the pavilion will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, at 4 p.m. All are invited. There will be speeches by local dignitaries, free hot dogs and music.

MISTLETOE HEIGHTS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE — Heather White gave a recap of the progress made in working with the owner and architect building the house on West Rosedale South, just behind Mr. Jake's convenience store, to ensure that the house design is in accordance with the neighborhood's historical guidelines.

She also reported on training available for a baseline survey of the neighborhood to prepare a field guide to be distributed to Realtors.

The committee is also trying to find a way to be notified if a historically protected property changes hands. At present, there are many instances when no disclosure is required and notation of a property's location within the historical overlay is not in the deed records.

We need to continue our dialogue with Mr. Jake about the appearance of his store and the type of items sold there. We need a list of very specific suggestions, possibly approached from the standpoint of crime prevention. We

(Continued on page 8)

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(Minutes, continued from previous page)

should hold off discussions until after his daughter's house is built.

Wyatt Teague expressed appreciation for the work of the Historic Preservation Committee.

CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE — Samantha Bennett and Debra Windsor reported on Citizens On Patrol. Six people have expressed interest. They need to do ride-alongs. Oct. 15 is the next public session. The Crime Prevention Committee may have a general meeting before the holidays to inform people how to protect themselves and their property. They will send via the neighborhood e-mail list a message on how to report a crime.

CONCRETE BATCH PLANT — During the next two weeks, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality responses trigger a 30-day waiting period for a contested-case hearing. MHA President Jim Bradbury, Vice President Tom Richey, City Councilwoman Wendy Davis and the Berkeley Place neighborhood are involved.

NEW BUSINESS:

LILY B. CLAYTON CARNIVAL DONATION – Kathy McReynolds moved that we donate \$300 (Bumblebee level). The motion passed.

NEWSLETTER – Jim Peipert will assist Sevan Melikyan with production of the newsletter. Sevan is looking for writers to contribute occasional articles. Please contact him at (817) 921-2120 if you can help.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – Gerry and Meralen Tyson will play host to the party, to be held Sunday, Dec. 18, at their home at 1351 Mistletoe Drive. More information to follow.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS – Elections for new officers should be held by November. Anyone wishing to make a nomination should contact an officer of the association. It would be nice to have some new involvement.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS — Rose Lynn Scott is currently on a Hurricane Katrina animal rescue mission and will notify the neighborhood by e-mail if she needs to find homes for cats.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS—The following suggestions were made: improve entrance to neighborhood with signage, foliage, sprinkler system, and possibly extended signage to Jerome Street; paint retaining walls along

Rosedale Street; erect a fence on east side of Newby Park; plant trees in the Triangle; organize a festival to showcase the neighborhood, possibly combined with the annual garage sale; make better use of signs announcing events; installation of additional street lights on West Rosedale.

The project prompting the most interest and support was improvement of the entrance to the neighborhood. Kathy McReynolds moved to allocate \$4,000 to the committee to enable immediate improvements, such as repairing the sprinkler system and then, during six to eight months, come up with a conceptual plan for further improvements involving foliage and signage. The motion passed. Martin Herring is heading the committee and may involve the Berkeley Place neighborhood because the intersection of Forest Park and Rosedale is also the entrance to their neighborhood.

The association welcomed Fred and Kathy Semper (who are renting a home on Edwin) to the neighborhood.

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Eighth Avenue strutting its stuff, giving Camp Bowie, University Drive a run for their money

By S. Ray DeRusse

A new phenomenon is emerging along the Eighth Avenue corridor south of the Hospital District and north of Berry Street: Property owners are engaged in a frenzy of redevelopment and rehabilitation that brings a breath of fresh air to the city.

New businesses are cropping up everywhere.

To name just a few: 3H Hardware South has opened at 2217 Eighth Ave., and Butler's Antiques and Collectibles at 2221 Eighth Ave.

Sav-On office supply store has moved from Berry Street to a location near Braum's Ice Cream and Dairy Store. Elizabeth Anna's Old World Garden, an organic garden store, has taken up residence at 2825 Eighth Ave., Chicken-Seafood in the strip that had housed Ryan Place Jewelers, Cici's Pizza adjacent to the new Fiesta grocery and Kwik Lube next to an auto parts store.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is moving a congregation from Magnolia Street to a new development just north of the Eighth Avenue post office.

Showtime Antiques' Bill Cutler (who is also affiliated with Butler Antiques), is looking for more properties but wouldn't divulge what's being contemplated. He would say only, "We are always looking for new opportunities but are mindful of local community input and participation; to that end we are providing on-site craftsman spaces for metal, ceramic-clay, painting, antiques repair and other artisans."

There are many signs that this area near the historic neighborhoods of Mistletoe Heights, Berkeley, Fairmount and Ryan Place will resemble the desirable areas adjacent to downtown Dallas and Austin.

It may experience some inflation of property values but the burden may be a balancing act of economic factors worth

the cost for nearby residents and the city as a whole. These types of development drive local economies, but what makes this unique is the long-term vision of these merchants.

The Medfords, who own several properties, including the property housing Sav-On, are planning a development for their dental practice on Eighth Avenue, which should

bring many bright smiles to the area.

What can the city do to assist and incubate these successes and make the vicinity pedestrian-friendly?

As one with a background in architecture and urban planning, I suggest that the railroad tracks and empty fields to the east and across from these merchants could use some incentives for development of high-density housing, such as condominiums or town homes. This type of development has been very successful in Austin – for

example, the Rail Yard Project.

In addition, the city could repair many of the streets leading into Eighth Avenue and it could provide more bus stops and stop lights. The more businesses that crop up on Eighth Avenue, the more vehicles will be coming in and out of driveways, creating a potential hazard.

Perhaps the Eighth Avenue corridor can be a model for other forward-thinking but depressed pockets of Fort Worth. Residents should take a few minutes to stroll the amenable areas of Eighth Avenue as they take shape and evolve into something wonderful before our very eyes.



The original storefront of the Butler Antiques and Fine Collectibles at 2221 8th Ave. This over 6,000 SF shop opened on June 1st 2005. The building originally housed the Pulliam Pools facility which has relocated to Alta Mesa.

There are many signs that this area near the historic neighborhoods of Mistletoe Heights, Berkeley, Fairmount and Ryan Place will resemble the desirable areas adjacent to downtown Dallas and Austin.

S. Ray DeRusse graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1981 with a bachelor of science in architecture and has practiced architecture in Dallas and Austin. He moved back to Fort Worth in 2001 and plans to expand and pursue his hobby in planetary science and meteoritics.



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Treasurer's Report: August 2005 Cash Flow

By Alex Blanton

INCOME

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|---------------------------|----------|
| Advertising | \$510 |
| Dues | \$0 |
| Interest | \$1.45 |
| Special Advertising | \$0 |
| T-Shirts | \$0 |
| Totals | \$511.45 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Decorations | \$0 |
| Improvements | \$0 |
| Landscaping | \$0 |
| Newsletter | (\$449.24) |
| Office | (\$60) |
| Donations | \$0 |
| Social | \$0 |
| Welcome Baskets | \$0 |
| Water | (\$236.41) |
| Totals | (\$745.65) |

NET CASH FLOW (\$234.2)

NET ASSETS \$11,033.43

APPROVED ALLOCATIONS

\$5,000 for the MHA Guidebook
\$4,000 to improve the entrance to the neighborhood

Summary:

An update on dues. Although we receive the random dues check every now and again, I believe we have received 99% of the dues we will collect this year. The total amount collected was \$4,227. Thanks for the great response. We collected quite a few comments, all of which will be included in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

See you around the neighborhood,
Alex Blanton

I love my "gray Taco Bell"...

The gray mission-style bungalow on Harrison Avenue has been my home for almost 30 years. And Mistletoe Heights has always meant much more to me than just a convenient place to live.

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Katrina Pet Rescue

by Rose Lynn Scott

Just a quick note to all pet lovers in our neighborhood. I just returned from Gonzales, La., where I spent a week at the Lamar Dixon Expo-Center, a giant fairground/horse arena being used as a refugee center for Katrina victims — human and animal.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Humane Society of the United States headed up the largest pet rescue operation in history. Volunteers from all over the world arrived, at their own expense, to help rescue and care for the thousands of pets left behind in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Some of the volunteers were Katrina refugees themselves and came to help while trying to forget about their personal losses. Nearly every state was represented by animal rescue groups and humane societies.

Pets were housed in cages in 1,000 horse stalls in the six huge barns on the grounds. Generous pet food companies donated plenty of food for all the animals.

Quite a few veterinarians came, many bringing their staffs with them. Aided by other animal control officers, medical doctors and nurses and volunteers, they set up an

intake/assessment center that looked at every animal on arrival. Pets were scanned for existing identification microchips. Some had emergencies that required IVs or surgery, others needed food and water immediately. Several animals had lost their hair from swimming in or being exposed to the “toxic stew” that much of the flood waters became. These animals received immediate treatment.

A vaccination center was set up, with veterinarians and volunteers vaccinating up to 1,500 dogs in a single day. Volunteers would walk the dogs on a leash into the vetting area following duct-tape arrows on the floor. They would give each dog a treat, and then the vets would inject them with a full complement of vaccines — rabies shot, ear treatment, flea treatment, a squirt of medication up their nostrils, and finishing with insertion of a microchip in their backs. Then a volunteer would take a Polaroid photograph, followed by another doggie treat.

Any dogs with other symptoms or diseases were given further treatment. All pet handlers wore Latex gloves and sterilized their hands after handling each animal. Dedicated

volunteers walked the dogs on around-the-clock schedules, picking up the poop, giving treats and reporting any visible problems immediately. All dogs got a good bath, too.

Cats received similar medical treatment. Afternoons were always in the 100-degree range. Icepacks and frozen water bottles had to be placed on the panting cats. Their fur was also sprayed with water to help cool them down. Hard to imagine, but the cats really appreciated this. As we placed tiny kittens on the frozen water bottles, you could see them visibly sigh with relief.

All the animals desperately begged to be petted and talked to. Many of the cats were not eating, until volunteers took them out of their cages, held them and petted them and talked to them. Then, when put back in their cages, they would eat.

Every kind of pet you can imagine was there — kind of an overloaded Noah's Ark. In addition to mainly dogs and cats were horses, mules, donkeys, goats, rabbits, pigs, turtles, ducks, geese, chickens, snakes, birds, gerbils, fish, hamsters, ferrets, spiders and more. Specialists for every type of animal were on hand, volunteering. The horses were given exceptional care by a great group of cowgirls from Colorado, Montana, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Pet rescuers picked up pets in New Orleans on the street and off roofs, and then started going into the abandoned neighborhoods looking for animals left behind in homes. They were also going to specific addresses called in to a Pet Rescue Hotline by frantic owners unable to return to their homes. Most owners thought they would be gone for only a couple days, not realizing the ferocity of the coming hurricane.

Many animals were trapped in homes, clawing at windows trying to get out. Rescuers would walk or paddle their boats through abandoned neighborhoods, barking like dogs, and then listening carefully for responding barks. They found quite a few dogs this way. They would also go into abandoned homes and find animals that had already died, but, surprisingly, many that were still hanging on to life nearly three weeks after the storm. We were supposed to accept animals only from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., but every night 300 to 500 more pets came in after hours, causing the volunteers to work around the clock.

Early on, pets were transported out on 18-wheelers and airlifted to other shelters around the country, due to the sheer volume of animals and also the heat. A Web site, petfinders.com, will be posting the photos of the thousands of pets that came through this shelter in hopes of reuniting pets and their humans. For those who never find their pets, hopefully they can take some solace in the fact that their pet probably did not die a miserable death by starvation. They received great, loving care and will be placed in good homes.

It was interesting to see the super-friendly dogs and cats that, prior to this disaster, probably would not have

been so friendly to strangers. These animals KNEW that these people were there to help them survive.

Day and night, frantic pet owners who had transportation would come looking for their pets. We celebrated with them when they found their animals. We cried with them as they told stories about pets they didn't find.

On Wednesday night, an elderly woman, herself a Katrina refugee staying at the Lamar Dixon Refugee Center, found her cat. She spent that night in Barn 1 in a horse stall, sleeping in a folding chair next to her cat's cage, her fingers sticking through the wires of the cage and her cat snuggled up to her hand. The next day, the woman and her cat were relocated to a relative's home.

A huge, air-conditioned tent (usually used for weddings and elaborate parties) with 400 cots was a lifesaver at night or whenever we got to sleep. Many volunteers brought tents or RVs, too. What a wonderful group of roomies! This was an experience never to be forgotten — heart-warming and heart-wrenching at the same time.

Pets are family members, too.

P.S.: This rescue will continue at this location until Oct. 15, and then will relocate.



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Autumn means more than leaves turning red, football games and a new wardrobe; it also is a reunion with routine. The empty nest, so to speak, is welcomed with its familiarity and comfort. With the end of extended vacations and long, hot summer days, we welcome the rhythms of home and the gardens that frame our place of rest.

By Elizabeth Samudio

It's nurturing after a long day to pull into your drive and be greeted by what I call an "invitation garden," full of sages, parsley, yellow snaps and bronzed foliage.

Yet, because of mass commercial pressure to install our gardens in the spring, so many of us miss out on our best season to plant. Many are aware that fall is a great time to plant trees, but not so aware that it's equally advantageous to install roses, perennials and cool-weather color.

I love it when clients say, "We want our gardens to look as fun as our parties, and the yard guy wants to plant pansies, again."

I'm not knocking pansies; they're one of my favorite childhood blooms, since they grow wild in the Pacific Northwest. As a little girl I picked handfuls in the fields near my grandparents' home. When my grandmother explained to me, "the more you pick, the more they bloom," I delighted in pinching off their smiling faces.

Practically speaking, pansies don't grow well in the shade. They like the cool but love the sun. In shade, use a mix of ferns, club moss, lamium, huechera and cyclamen for cool color. This evergreen mix looks lovely in the fall, winter and spring.

Just remember, plants need more water in the icy winter months. I know this sounds odd, but I have customers who buy plants from me and ask if their choices will live through the winter.

I explain the importance of organic soil preparation, and jokingly toss out, "Oh yeah, by the way, they need water, too." Then a puzzled look crosses their faces.

Yes, by all means, water in the winter. Just as freezing weather pulls the moisture from our skin, the same happens with plants. So, those who wonder why your gardens don't come back in the spring, it may be that they freeze dry in poor soil.

Here's a tip: Watch the forecast and give your plants a good soak before it freezes. Perennial gardens benefit from a good

dose of winter. As in life, some of the loveliest blooms are set in cold, dark days.

My favorite cool-weather flowers are a mix of snapdragons, English daisies, lamium, alyssum and a few violas (the petite-looking pansy). These hardy little plants are easy to nestle in among existing perennials and work beautifully in entryway containers.

What I like most about this Old World fall planting is the magnified beauty it brings in the early spring. So why not cash in on one of Fort Worth's best assets — fall planting?

As a transplant from the Northwest, I was first introduced to Texas fall gardening while attending a workshop at Weston Gardens. It makes perfect sense. Landscape done in the fall has until February to adjust, whereas plants that go in during spring may have just a couple of months before summer roars in like a lion.

In a nutshell:

■ Fort Worth's climate is best suited for

autumn landscape and gardens.

■ Plant trees, perennials, roses, sages and cool-weather flowers.

■ Uncommon color that thrives fall through spring includes snapdragons, English daisies, violas, kale, alyssum and lamium.

■ Autumn naturally brings us home to our gardens.

Most important, autumn is like a familiar blanket wrapped around our life and nested in nature. It's here that so many of us collect our thoughts like fallen leaves. Fall foliage bursting out at entryways and in private gardens makes us feel good and sets the tone for family and friends.

Elizabeth Samudio and her husband, James, own and operate Elizabeth Anna's Old World Garden, a totally organic garden store and a landscape design and installation company at 2825 Eighth Ave. Elizabeth has installed numerous gardens throughout North Texas.



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2300 Mistletoe Dr 3bedroom/3bath/2parking \$595,000

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