



The Mistletoe Express

A Publication of Historic Mistletoe Heights

www.mistletoeheights.com

October 2006



Jim Bradbury

Letter from the president

When we first heard about the prospect of a concrete batch plant, people banded together and stuck with it. In the end, the voices of neighbors won the day against money, machinery and politics.

That one is over but we have an even more worrisome threat. I'm sure that you've read in one place or another about the plans to permit and construct numerous coal-fired power plants around the state. TXU has announced that it wants to build 11 plants and other companies want to build more.

These plants and, particularly, their low-end technology represent a serious threat to our health that needs to be addressed thoroughly. If you've been paying attention this summer, you know that Fort Worth had an endless number of bad air days.

We have problems now and don't need to add to the problems until we begin to create some solutions. We consume power like no other country on the planet. To feed that demand, we're looking to Wyoming and Montana that both have coal deposits estimated to last more than 400 years. It's cheap energy, unless you count the costs to air quality.

There are many different technologies for burning coal. Like most things in life, the more sophisticated technology is cleaner and costs more. If you want to save money on the technology and plant construction, your air is going to suffer.

That's where we're headed right now. Unless pushed, the energy companies and Texas state officials, including Gov. Rick Perry and those at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, will follow the course of least resistance: low cost, expedited permitting and unhealthy air for decades.

The only answer is your voice. This is a high-stakes push to get these plants permitted and constructed before stricter regulations are put in place. Don't stop at writing letters. Make phone calls, talk with your neighbors and call TCEQ.

The most meaningful threat facing the coal plants is a group of mayors, including Laura Miller of Dallas, Bob Cluck of Arlington and Bill White of Houston.

(Continued on page 3)



Occasionally, you hear about someone running for office on the platform: "I will abolish the office if elected." The city liaison office could one day fall into that category.

Much of my "problem solving" involves getting on the city's Web site, www.fortworthgov.org, and finding out who to call or e-mail to report a problem.

City liaison report
Mike Windsor

All city departments are listed on one page at www.fortworthgov.org/dp/home.asp. From the list of departments, you link to most issues that you might need to address.

For example: Missing a street sign? Go to the Transportation & Public Works Department link, click on the Traffic and Street Signs link, and get the phone numbers for reporting a damaged or missing sign (817-392-8100). Lost your pet? Click on the Animal Services link, click on the Lost Pets link, and get a page of information on steps to find your pet. Virtually every city department and service can be accessed in the same manner.

The Association is lucky to have a number of committed people, with diverse backgrounds, who are willing to serve individually or on committees to address such major issues as traffic, Texas 121 and the concrete batch plant (to name a few).

So my work tends to focus on reporting the concerns of individuals to the proper city department, and sometimes following up on something that seems to have fallen through the cracks.

I can foresee a time when the city's Web site and savvy computer users render the city liaison job unnecessary. In the meantime, if you have a problem or complaint, please contact me at 817-377-0060 (work), 817-927-8944 (home) or at mdwindsor@charter.net



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(President's Letter - continued from page 1)

I hate to use this analogy, but it's fair and accurate. I've been to China several times in the past few years. Each time I visit, the air there is worse, much worse. Now, on some mornings here, the view from my downtown building looks very much like that in Shanghai. That is disturbing and it won't go away unless the people breathing that air do something about it.

We did it before and we can do it again.

We have had some homeless problems surface again in the neighborhood so keep up the efforts to watch for strangers and call the non-emergency police number to make a report. You need to request an officer to respond.

Our next meeting will be in November, so please stay tuned for the location of that meeting. In addition to other business, we will have annual officer elections. As you know, I will be stepping down as president and Tom Richey will be stepping down as vice president after many years of service.

Tom will continue to keep up with the Web site and e-mail groups. I plan to stay involved and assist the new slate of officers as they need help on specific tasks.

We do need new officers and volunteers to step forward to take on a role in the upcoming year. There's a fantastic group of stalwarts that has kept this association going for many years. We need to build a new line of neighborhood leaders to make sure that Mistletoe continues the good progress that we've made. Please give this serious thought and let one or more of the current officers know of your interest.

Last, we need a wonderful home to have the annual Christmas party this year. Please e-mail me or Tom to let us know if you'd be willing to host this event.

Have a good week.

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Here are excerpts and/or summaries of neighborhood e-mails since the last issue.

Want to get on the MHA e-mail list? You can e-mail Tom Richey at vicepresident@mistletoeheights.com or you can go to the MHA Web site, www.mistletoeheights.com, and find the join-up link.

Kittens Available:

Our adorable, healthy kittens are ready to move from 2305 Irwin St. One was tested by a vet and got a clean bill of health. He said that all in the litter are healthy since one is disease-free. They were born in our home on July 14. They are very active, playful, and have been around people all of their little lives.

These portraits were made a few weeks ago so these 2 orange males, and the black & white female are larger & fluffier now!

It is our wish that these kittens be allowed to spend the rest of their lives indoors, protected from all harm.

Please call 817-926-8714 if you would like to come meet the kittens. Please feel free to tell your friends!

Sincerely, Sue and Duncan Duvall

Dear Neighbors,

The Paschal High School Band Boosters would like some neighborhood help recruiting potential vendors for its 2nd Annual Holiday Gift Market, which

will be held at the school from 9am-4pm on Saturday, November 18th. Anything you can do to help spread the word would be greatly appreciated! And don't forget to mark your calendars to come and shop!

Thank you, Elizabeth Farmer

E-Chat



PASCHAL HIGH SCHOOL HOLIDAY GIFT MARKET

Seeking MERCHANTS, ARTISTS, and CRAFTSMEN for our 2nd Annual Holiday Gift Market. This event is scheduled for 9am to 4pm on Saturday, November 18th, and will offer an exciting mix of unique gift items, as well as delicious home-baked goodies, live music, and a visit from Santa to top off the fun! Come showcase your goods and support the fabulous

Paschal High School Band! Contact Tess McDonald for an application. 817/923.7751 or tessmaster55@yahoo.com

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Gardening with Patsy Slocum

Most folks don't think of fall as an ideal planting season, but it's really a great time for lots of plants, including many trees and shrubs, to be moved from one place to another.

Now's the time to divide and replant perennials, set out spring bulbs and bring new plants into your yard. Fall bloomers, such as chrysanthemums and asters, should be started in the spring so that roots are well-developed by blooming time.

There won't be a large selection of perennials in the garden centers, and what you find may be root-bound after residing in pots all summer. But you'll probably find some bargains. In our area, perennials have plenty of time to grow a bit before the first frost.

In planting these, make sure the roots are loosened, as they're probably growing in circles in the

pot. Plant them in well-tilled soil, making sure that the soil level is the same as in the pot and add water. Water every few days or so, but don't fertilize until the spring, and mulch well.

In your own garden, you'll probably find perennials that are overcrowded. As perennials age, the center of the clump may become woody and unproductive, producing small flowers and faded foliage.

When a clump of perennials is dug, cut through the ball with a sharp shovel, and divide the plants. These separated divisions can be replanted as above.

Spring-flowering bulbs are available in the garden centers now. Tulips should be stored in the refrigerator for a few weeks before planting. Other bulbs can be planted directly now.

Some of the early bloomers are snowdrops and crocus, with tulips, hyacinths and daffodils showing up later. A little fertilizer once a year along with mulch keeps bulbs happy.

Fall Planting



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For information:

Beth Mills at 817-923-7900

or Betty Arvin at 817-924-7088



Mistletoe Heights History

By Wyatt Teague

Part eight of a series

neighborhood. This transfer of property was a 150-foot-wide strip from near what would be the intersection of Pennsylvania and 12th avenues, if both were extended, southwest to a point at about University Drive and a line about parallel to the extension of Irwin Street.

At that time, no thoroughfare paralleled the railroad. That was not to be until the spring of 1890, when an 80-foot right way was deeded to the county (running from the north line to the west line of the E.S. Harris survey) on the north side of the railroad. It got the name of "Benbrook Road." We know it now as basically "West Vickery."

There's a tract of land (about 103 acres, more or less) that contains the Sangomo Park addition, which was in the district courts for at least 10 years. I'm working on how and when the Sangomo Park addition was developed. I have the survey and notes for the development of Mistletoe Heights addition but I haven't yet arrived at that time frame in this history narrative.

More anon

Going back to part seven: On Dec. 21, 1878, Thomas W. Lake conveyed to the Texas and Pacific Railway, for the sum of \$145, the right of way for the purpose of building a railroad. The deed was filed and recorded Jan. 29, 1879.

I couldn't find a survey "field note" to give the exact location with the exception of this passage: "grant, bargain, convey and relinquish to the said company over said lands, the same to extend 75 feet in width on each side of the center of the track of said road together with the use of the water, stone, gravel, etc. pertaining to the land so granted and conveyed.

I hereby empower said company to enter upon, survey and appropriate said land and its appurtenances without further contract or consent on my part."

We know that the railroad runs southwest/northeast at the north end of our

Gary L. Nichols
Attorney At Law

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Yard of the Month: 2207 Clara St.

By Jack and Lorri Kendrick

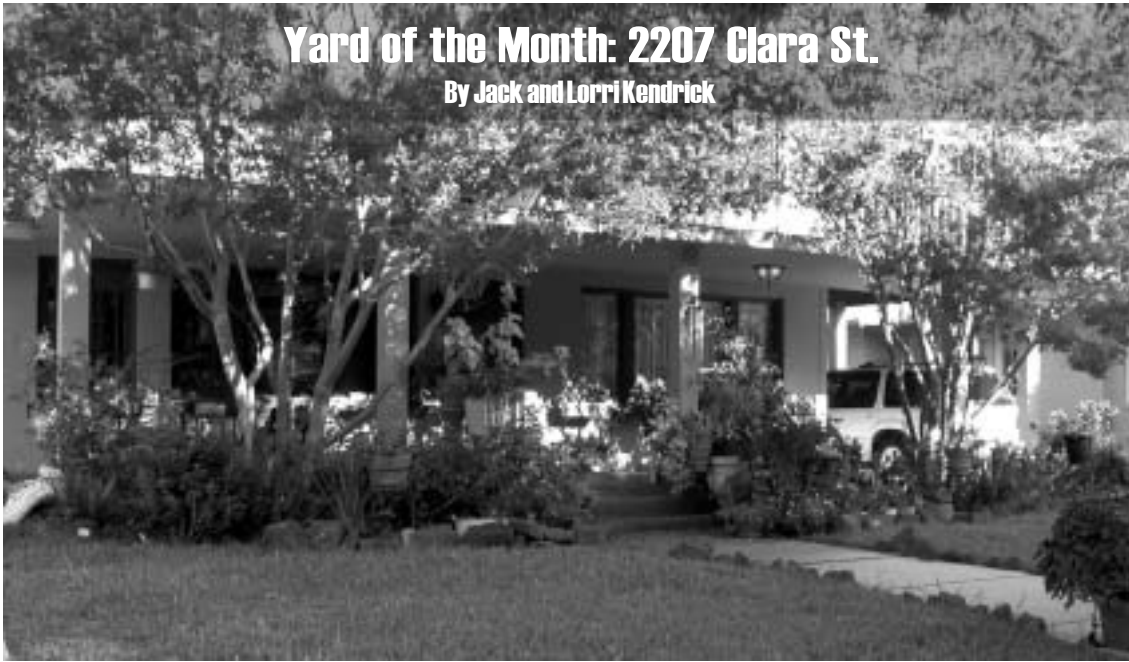


Photo: Lorri Kendrick

As the blooms of summer fade and we wait to plant our cold-weather flowers, the yard at 2207 Clara St. serves as a colorful reminder that flowering plants aren't the only way to bring visual interest to a landscape.

This yard presents a kaleidoscope of textures, sizes, shapes and colors, primarily through the use of plants with rich and variegated foliage.

The gray-green side of the palette comes from broad, fuzzy-leaved lamb's ears and succulents with sharp, glossy growth, while native fountain grasses provide delicate waving height in greens and purples. These purple tones tie in with the deep burgundy tones of the plantings flanking the front walk.

The new homeowners have sharply trimmed back existing hedges and filled the resulting spaces, as well as much of the rest of the yard, with a multitude of potted plants of various sizes, shapes, colors and heights.

Warm terra-cotta rocks line the walk and the beds. The end result is a delight to the eyes, and a pleasant reminder that colorful foliage can keep your yard looking wonderful even in these transitional seasons.

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Mary Kay Cosmetics Paula Cady Russell at 2201 Mistletoe Blvd. is a Mary Kay consultant. Call her at 921-6377 for a free makeover, gift service or if you've "lost" your consultant.

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Paschal High School	922-6600		
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