



# The Mistletoe Express

A Publication of Historic Mistletoe Heights

www.mistletoeheights.com

February 2007

Hao Tran



## Letter from the president

Brrrr ... slish-slosh ... bam! The sounds of a rare winter snowfall. Children throwing snowballs and sliding down slick hills make for wonderful memories. Happy New Year to all. We're beginning the year with several topics of discussion.

The neighborhood steering committee on gas lease proposals is still diligently working with Colt Exploration. Some revisions were made in lease language that didn't particularly address the committee's two primary concerns — the methods of operation and inclusion of all of Mistletoe Heights. The committee hasn't yet made any firm recommendation on the acceptance of the proposed gas lease contracts. I understand that some anxious residents haven't made up their minds. Please consider carefully any contracts that may be offered.

The next topic is the ongoing development east of Jerome Street. As you may know, several houses on Harrison Avenue have been considered for demolition. Two, at 2112 and 2116 Harrison, have been approved for demolition. However, the house at 2126 Harrison may have some historical value. Our Historical Preservation Committee has toured the house and will provide a collaborative summary of its findings.

(Continued on page 2)

## Gas Drilling A pact with the devil?

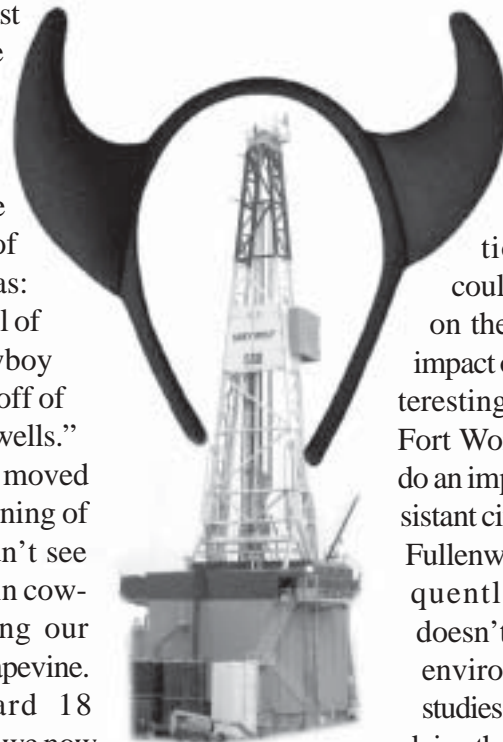
By Alexia Strout-Dapaz

When our East Coast graduate buddies found out we were moving to Texas (eons ago), the first thing out of their mouths was: "Texas, where all of the guys in cowboy boots are living off of their oil and gas wells." But, because we moved during the beginning of the bust, we didn't see many rich guys in cowboy boots during our early years in Grapevine.

Fast forward 18 years, and ... are we now going to have our very own "rich guys in cowboy boots living off of their gas wells" in our peaceful hamlet of Mistletoe Heights?

Frankly, when I envision the image of gas wells in my neighborhood, my blood pressure starts to rise. People, this is an outrage! That a historic neighborhood would be considering allowing gas wells in the area is beyond ludicrous. It is an abomination and pure folly!

To begin with, consider the environmental impact and damage that are



inevitable with drilling. Believe me, as a former employee of an oil and gas drilling and exploration company, I could write a treatise on the environmental impact of drilling. It's interesting that the city of Fort Worth chose not to do an impact study. As assistant city attorney Sarah Fullenwider put it so eloquently: "The state doesn't require us to do environmental impact studies, so we will not be doing them."

When you're being flirted with by easy money, who the heck cares about environmental impact?! Who wants to be bothered by the inconvenient truth of our individual and collective carbon footprint? Isn't the Earth our plaything and meant to be consumed and destroyed much to our mindless delight?

(Continued on page 6)

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
MEETING & POTLUCK**  
February 20, 2007, 6:30pm  
Fire Station #8 on Rosedale

(President's Letter - continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, two new "historically correct" homes will be built on vacant lots on Morphy Street. The developer has shown me these plans and I invite all to review the renderings. The Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission and city planners have reviewed these plans and they appear to be in sync with Mistletoe Heights' historical guidelines.

Last, Berkeley Place residents Jennifer Tayag and Carol Jones are leading Friends of Tillery Park. The group has been awarded a \$25,000 matching grant from the Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department to beautify and renovate historic Tillery Park. This grant is part of a city-wide park department program to improve the city's parks.

Several other neighborhood organizations have been awarded similar grants. The Web site is [www.TilleryPark.org](http://www.TilleryPark.org), at which you can find more information about the project. On Feb. 1, Design Day will launch this project and surrounding neighboring communities are asked to provide input on its design. So, kids, get out your markers and pencils and start creating your "dream" park.

Those of you who have an e-mail address, please send it to [info@mistletoeheights.com](mailto:info@mistletoeheights.com) so that you can be added to the electronic distribution list. Technology has made communication fast and convenient. We still have the newsletter, but the e-mail list has served as a supplemental means of communication for more urgent news such as crime notices, lost pets, etc.

**Our next neighborhood meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. at 2320 Harrison Ave.** (but I would love to have volunteers for subsequent meetings). I promise to have food at all the meetings during my term and it won't be cookies or punch. It could be my grandmother's egg rolls or my own coconut lychee ice cream. Bet you haven't had that before.

See you all soon.

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Here are excerpts and/or summaries of the 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](mailto:vicepresident@mistletoeheights.com) or you can go to the MHA Web site [[www.mistletoeheights.com](http://www.mistletoeheights.com)] and find the join-up link.

**Subject: Car break-ins**

Someone got into my car that was parked in front of our house a few days ago. It wasn't locked because the convertible top is worth more than anything inside the car. They went through the glove

compartment and took a pullover jacket and a black ball cap from behind the seat.

Today we noticed that someone had gone through our unlocked van in back of the house. This has been within the last couple of days. They went through everything and took a cellphone headset and another electronic device for which they would have no use. Nothing else was bothered, but there wasn't much of value there anyway. It looks like a pretty unsophisticated operation, but they got us twice at 2340 Mistletoe Ave. I have called the police just to get it on record, but I asked that no one come out to investigate. So, watch out, and do call the police even if nothing of consequence is taken. Jeff Gibbons

**Subject: Theft from mail box**

A Fort Worth Day Labor Center employee delivering fliers took the Christmas cards out of my mail box that goes into the house. I heard the mail box flap and went to get my mail delivery. There was no mailman in sight and no mail delivery truck. There was a man crossing the street from my house. He took the mail and tore open a couple of envelopes as he was on a neighbor's porch then threw them down. I went over to see if it was my mail and it was. He decided there was no money or checks in the envelopes, so he threw the others on the next neighbor's front porch. There were 7 envelopes in all. Mr neighbor, Robert,

got in his car and found the truck and supervisor and told him what happened. I called the Day Labor Center telephone number and reported it. The supervisor came to my house and offered any help we might need. I called the neighborhood police office, but got a recording. Barbara Sutter 2316 Harrison Ave.

## **E-Chat**



**Subject: Re: FW: Theft from mail box**

I live across the street from Ms. Sutter and she may not be the only household to have a theft from their mailbox. I found a ripped-open envelope from another household on our block. When I returned the envelope to the owner, they had no explanation but indicated that the envelope did not contain any money (or checks).

Also, on Saturday, I was doing some yard work (raking leaves) in the backyard when a stranger suddenly walked in on me. He apologized for coming onto our property and began the tale of "running out of gas and if I could help." I just waved him off, but should have called the police. I do not think he could have seen me from the street and I suspect he was going to take a look at the open garage. I describe him as a white man, dark hair, wearing a green baseball cap. John Hastings 2323 Harrison Ave.

**Subject: Car Windows**

Has anyone else had a problem with car windows being shot out recently? Looked like a BB or pellet gun. Police said to file a report if I wanted to, found a bullet, or if it continues. Ben Guttery 1211 Clara St.

**Subject: Update on the dog that we found.**

From: Sarah Murphey [[murphey2@hotmail.com](mailto:murphey2@hotmail.com)]

Regarding the Jack Russell mix that I found at the 2200 block of Irwin and Forest Park: Alan and I were unable to keep the dog inside because we have two cats who do NOT like dogs. We kept him in the backyard for a few hours, but because it is not really a dog-friendly back yard (not much room to run around), we took him to Alan's parents' house in Berkeley. He stayed inside with Alan's parents and their two dogs, and was really sweet and well behaved, but was exhibiting signs of worms. Alan's mom discovered that the dog did in fact have worms, and then

noticed that he had fleas. As much as they liked the dog, they were just too worried about the health of their own dogs (especially the 2-month-old Boston terrier that they just brought home) to keep him at their house. Since we still had not found the owners, and the leads that we had gotten through the e-mails turned out to be dead ends, we came to the difficult conclusion that, as the owners must not be receiving these e-mails and that we were unable to keep him ourselves, he would have the best chance of being reunited with his owners and would be treated for his worms and fleas if we took him to the humane society's lost and found. They will hold him in the lost and found for 72 hours, after which time they will evaluate him for adoption. So, if you hear ANYTHING about anyone missing a dog, please tell them about this little guy!! He is at the Humane Society's lost and found on East Lancaster and will be there for the next three days. They require some sort of proof of ownership, such as a picture or a vet record to claim the dog. The most frustrating part of all of this is that the dog was wearing a harness, but not a tag. PLEASE make sure that your dog is wearing a tag so that if he ever gets out, we can return him to you quickly. I only wish that he had been wearing one. Sarah & Alan

### Subject: Trinity Park road project

According to this morning's Star-Telegram, the proposal to put a road through the northern part of Trinity Park is dead. The road appeared primarily designed so that the residents of the So 7 development could go south on University and avoid the intersection at University and Camp Bowie. The project apparently died due to lack of funding and community opposition.



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### Friends of Tillery Park

January 2, 2007 -- Friends of Tillery Park has been awarded a \$25,000 Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department matching grant to beautify and renovate historic Tillery Park. This grant is part of a citywide park department program to improve the city's parks. Several other neighborhood organizations have been awarded similar grants.

Jennifer Tayag, president of Friends of Tillery Park, said, "The matching grant program will allow for the much-needed replacement of the existing playground equipment and improvement to the landscaping within Tillery Park. The project is a community-built approach and will require many hours of volunteer work and matching contributions from a variety of sources. The renovation project is a joint effort with the local business community and all residents in the surrounding neighborhoods." The park is located directly off Forest Park Boulevard to the west.

Leathers & Associates of Ithaca, New York <[www.leathersassociates.com](http://www.leathersassociates.com)> has been retained to assist in the community-built project. Leathers, a nationally recognized playground design group whose playground design and community playground concepts have been featured in Smithsonian Magazine, Readers Digest and on Sesame Street, has successfully completed over 1,700 playgrounds worldwide.

(Continued on the next page)

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February 1, 2007, marks the official kickoff of the project as the community hosts Design Day. John Dean, a Leathers & Associates designer, will spend the entire day meeting with children and other members of the community, listening to their ideas and creating a customized design for the park.

Friends of Tillery Park is a charitable organization formed for the sole purpose of renovating and beautifying Tillery Park. As of the date of this press release the organization was pending 501(c)(3) classification.

For further information contact:  
Jennifer Tayag, 2213 Hawthorne Ave., 817-926-2065  
Carol Van Zandt Jones 2036 Glenco Terrace,  
Fort Worth, TX 76110 817-296-4680.

For the record



Kate Blanton and Evan Claire Kendrick behind the biggest snow man they could muster before they came home for hot chocolate. (Photo: Wendy Blanto)

*Email your pictures of current neighborhood events - big or small - to the 'For the record' column at [twoearsup@charter.net](mailto:twoearsup@charter.net).*

## **UPCOMING NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER**

**February 20, 2007, 6:30pm**

**FIRE STATION #8  
on Rosedale at 12th Avenue  
(in the Truck Bay)**

The Fire Station # 8 is a great venue for our meeting. We will have more space to spread out and conduct our business and the station will provide tours and we can meet the firemen who service our neighborhood.

We will be in the truck bay with no seating so bring a folding chair and a dish to share.

The following are just some of the topics we will be discussing:

- Gas Drilling Leases
- Tillery Park Design
- Mistletoe Station Development (Harrison and Morphy)
- Victoria Gardens (north of Leslie/Mistletoe)
- Historical Committee Report

If there are other concerns, please let me know. I never decline a moment to share food and the opportunity to meet our firemen and see an architecturally built station. Hope to see you there.

Hao Tran,  
MHNA President

Find out more about the public art "United We Stand" displayed at the Fire Station # 8 by visiting [www.fwpublicart.org/nu\\_site/page.php/id/featured\\_project](http://www.fwpublicart.org/nu_site/page.php/id/featured_project)

(Continued from page one.)

Interestingly enough, the negligence and cavalier attitude of our City Council members remind me of the parable of the temptation of Faustus and his violin. Remember, he makes a pact with the devil. Familiarize yourself with this one, because, by signing a lease contract with a gas driller, you may walk in his shoes. Or, if you need a different image, think of Jerry Garcia in his rendition of the Grateful Dead's "Friend of the Devil" – "he took my twenty-dollar bill and vanished in the air."

If environmental impact doesn't outrage you, consider quality-of-life issues. A neighborhood is an interconnected system of human and animal bonds. What one neighbor does or does not do potentially affects another neighbor. A neighbor plants a trash tree, your roof could be impacted; a neighbor doesn't pick up after their dog, and you could end up with a smelly shoe ... and car.

Consider the noise and traffic level increases, the lights and sounds that will disturb your sleep, your safety and your peace of mind. All this havoc for a bit of lunch money? (This is what I recall our former Mistletoe Heights president saying in regard to the monetary gain.)

Please, before you decide to sign any prospective lease contracts, consider the puzzle piece you represent in the whole of Mistletoe Heights. Talk to other people, in other neighborhoods, about their experiences and regrets with gas drilling in their own neighborhood hamlets. How were they affected personally? How was their neighborhood impacted? Can their neighborhood ever recover? And, finally, who was killed or maimed as a result of the drilling?

Furthermore, consider the makeup of the Mistletoe Heights steering committee on gas drilling. What are the backgrounds of the members and what conflicts of interest are plainly evident? Consider familiarizing yourself with the results of gas drilling in Fort Worth neighborhoods with FWCanDo's DVD. (I have a copy that you are more than welcome to borrow).

Finally, familiarize yourself with the parable of Faustus, or listen to the Grateful Dead. Will you be the next, metaphorically speaking, to


make a pact with the devil? Remember, every neighborhood is an interlocking set of puzzle pieces. Use your piece wisely ... please.

P.S.: I may not have the most lunch money, but the little I have was not a result of destroying my neighborhood. Take you out to lunch sometime?

(Alexia Strout-Dapaz lives at 2201 Mistletoe Ave. Her phone number is 817-921-2321 home.)

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# Report on Jan. 20 meeting of the gas lease steering committee

By Mike Windsor

The Mistletoe Heights steering committee on the gas lease proposals met for a couple of hours on Jan. 20. Working with an oil and gas attorney, the committee had a contract addendum prepared for the lease that Colt Exploration had proposed.

The addendum addressed a number of concerns of the committee, especially issues of surface use and eminent domain. The addendum was sent to Colt for review. Unfortunately, Colt did not accept most of the limitations on surface use and eminent domain that the committee felt were vital to protecting the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Other companies, however, have expressed interest in obtaining leases in Mistletoe Heights, and the representative of one company has indicated that his company would be willing to accept more restrictive surface-use provisions. The committee hopes that additional communication with these

companies will produce proposed leases within the next two weeks.

Once again, the committee believes that the quality of life in our neighborhood far outweighs the relatively small amount that residents will receive from gas drilling over the life of a lease. Therefore, restrictions on surface use and eminent domain are extremely important to any lease. Additionally, the committee wants to make sure, insofar as possible, that the company that obtains our leases can actually bring in a producing well in a reasonable amount of time.

As of this moment, no lease has been offered other than the initial Colt lease, and the committee is not willing to endorse or recommend that lease because it does not contain safeguards that the committee believes are necessary. This is a work in progress, and the committee hopes that the delay will be justified by a better lease.

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## Yard of the Month: 1424 Mistletoe Drive

By Jack Kendrick



Photo: Jack Kendrick

After the spring-like December weather, the extremes of January have left many of our neighborhood's yards in a real survival mode. With each new weather alert, more and more homeowners are protectively landscaping even their pansies with layers of blankets and sheets.

Fortunately for the yard-of-the-month committee, one yard has stepped up to the plate

in a most colorful way. The lush, deep green lawn at 1424 Mistletoe Drive stands out among the monochrome uniformity and really draws the eye to the two magnificent oak trees.

The homeowners achieved this verdant green effect in the dead of winter by overseeding a traditional St. Augustine with winter rye for an amazing effect of seasonal color.

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**DON'T FORGET!**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING**  
**and POTLUCK**

**February 20, 2007, 6:30pm**

**Fire Station #8 on Rosedale**  
**(in the Truck Bay)**

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<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>2300 W. Rosedale South</b>	<b>2200 Edwin</b>	
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<b>Street Rep Captains</b>	<b>2100/2200 West Magnolia</b>	<b>1200 Clara</b>	
Pat Hale (East) 924-5263	Sherry Choate 923-7335	Betty Arvin 924-7088	
Gaye Reed (West) 921-0009	<b>2300 West Magnolia</b>	<b>1100 Buck</b>	
<b>Welcome Baskets</b>	Susan Pressley 923-6061	Kate Herring 921-9027	
Joy Teague 923-2330	<b>2100 Harrison</b>	<b>1200/1300 Buck</b>	
<b>Advertising Manager</b>	Elizabeth Sims 926-3548	Simone Scott 924-3838	
Jack Kendrick 924-2800	<b>2200 Harrison &amp; Jerome</b>	<b>2100 Morphy</b>	
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<b>City Liaison</b>	Faye Dowdle 926-7571	Kim Musgrove 923-6785	
Mike Windsor 377-0060	<b>2100 Mistletoe Ave.</b>	<b>1200 ñ 1500 Mistletoe Dr.</b>	
<b>Historian</b>	Neataw Engels 927-2468	Rochelle Graham 927-2967	
Wyatt Teague 923-2330	<b>2200 Mistletoe Ave.</b>	<b>2300 Mistletoe Dr.</b>	
<b>Yard of the Month</b>	Richard/Christi Yantis 924-2857	Sandy Tarpley 924-9215	
Lorri and Jack Kendrick 923-5510	<b>2300 Mistletoe Ave.</b>	<b>Forest Park Blvd.</b>	
	Sam & Jack Bradbury 924-9869	Steve McReynolds 926-7955	
<b>MHA YEARLY DUES</b>			
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 Leslie Houston (call for address - 923-3161).	<b>Neighborhood Police Officer East of Forest Park</b>	<b>Neighborhood Police Officer West of Forest Park</b>	
	Officer Leah T. Wagner	Officer Kirk Byrom	
	Office 871-8885	Office 871-5471	
	Mobile 991-8473	Mobile 992-0185	
	Pager 998-0673	Pager 998-0689	
	Email: Leah.Wagner@fortworthgov.org	Email: Kirk.Byrom@fortworthgov.org	