



Mistletoe neighbors on Labor Day, amongst the at-risk trees along the Trinity River. Above, in the background are some of the free burr oak saplings given away.



live entertainment
+ potluck lunch
+ easy chairs
= happy holiday



Chesapeake officials hosted us on their land and provided displays of their plans and vision for the site, along with suggestion cards soliciting our feedback.

Holiday picnic amongst Chesapeake's Trinity trees

On Labor Day hundreds gathered for a midday picnic amongst the trees on the Trinity where Chesapeake plans to drill gas wells under land leased by Union Pacific RR to the north, Colonial Country Club to the south and adjacent neighborhoods.

Chesapeake acquired the land from a developer and plans to clear-cut a parcel out of the center of the approximately 8-acre tract for drilling. Trinity Trees [info at http://trinitytrees.org/blog/?page_id=3] formed to oppose the idea and search for an alternative site that



would save the trees. Several are thought to be older than the Republic of Texas.

On Thursday night September 6, hundreds attended a presentation and town-hall meeting organized by our city council representative, Wendy Davis, at Capstone Church adjacent to the wooded property. Chesapeake and Trinity Trees both made presentations followed by comments by citizens. Chesapeake's plan would spare 34 of the 35 significant trees by clearing 2.3 acres of smaller trees from the core of the 8-acre parcel.

From the editor:

Interviewing Heather White

After the last story about historic preservation and my column on the demolition came out in the August issue, the former MHA Historic Preservation committee chair, Heather White, agreed to let me interview her.

We talked about the MHA committee she served, the recent demolition, Mistletoe Heights history and her commitment to preservation. Part 1 is here; part 2 will conclude it next month.

Mistletoe Heights Association: Tell us about your **volunteer job** for Mistletoe Heights.

Heather White: Well, as you know, I was committee chair. We reviewed upcoming cases the HCLC [Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission] was going to hear. If people from the neighborhood had questions, we answered them.

Back at the beginning, we had no committee. When cases came up, neighbors would be notified, maybe someone would go down and speak about it. We formalized the process, began responding to every case, copied the applicant on our letter to HCLC. We knew we needed to have a consistent presence and voice.

MHA: How'd you get involved with this? And the neighborhood too?

HW: It seems like a long time ago! Our first involvement [as a committee] was the house that built next to Mr Jake's...in 2005. Discussions started I believe late in 2004, and early in 2005 we formed a committee and I agreed to chair it. I still remember the discussion—"You won't have to do all the work, we just need someone to chair."

I remember the very first thing I had to do was give a pep talk—convince everyone we really could make a difference. Which turned out to be quite true.

There was a significant gap between when provisional Guidelines came into play and our having a formal committee. Further back, the

house on the Drive demolition had happened right as I was buying my house, April of 2001, unbeknownst to me.

I think the historic overlay idea was already in process then when I moved here; not long afterward, provisional Guidelines took effect.

MHA: When did you start doing this work for MHA, watching over the Historic Commission's work for us?

HW: Once I started getting my newsletter and found out about what was happening, I went to a few meetings and contributed a bit to the Guidelines, but I never dreamed I'd have anything to do with enforcing them. My only concern at the time was that they be clear to the average person who's not familiar with architectural terms. It grew out of what happened on my block [2300 W Rosedale S] later.

My doing this was really ironic, because I'm so not a "rules" person. I do believe in doing the right thing, and there's no question in my mind that preservation's the right thing to do. Had I had any foresight at all then, I would have had a whole different set of concerns about the Guidelines' completeness, clarity of intent, and so on.

MHA: What do you think was lacking? In hindsight...

HW: It would have been extremely beneficial to have a clear discussion of what the intent was for the 2100 blocks, but that never happened. The reason I know it never happened, by the way, was the very different viewpoints held by different people who were intimately involved in that process, that became apparent here recently. It would have been so easy for our Guidelines to have taken square footage, for example, into account, and we could have debated it all back then. But all of those differences remained hidden.

MHA: Back to the start. You got involved with preservation standards because of your block? And then the neighborhood did too?

HW: Back when plans began for a new house on my block, that's when I got involved. And I might as well tell you that in the beginning I was scared to get involved. I wasn't sure what the repercussions might be, and I absolutely hated speaking in public. But the thought of a McMansion being built two doors down from me made me just angry enough to do it.

MHA: You mean speak up?

HW: Yes. And to work for the committee. While I was committee chair, speaking before the HCLC was a regular part of my job. At the beginning, Joel [Burns] was still chair, and he was very kind to me. Luckily my TV has been unplugged for years, so I never had to watch myself on it! So we started the committee and worked with the applicants to help them make changes to their plans so they'd be more compliant with our historic Guidelines.

MHA: So construction on Rosedale was the first test of our historic preservation guidelines & committee. That was a complex case.

HW: It was a protracted negotiation, but it was resolved. When it was all over, one of the applicants hugged and kissed me—he was thrilled to have his COA so he could get on with building the house, and we were happy to see the Guidelines work, and get us a better result. Not perfect; but much, much better. And I believe the applicant got a much more satisfactory house out of the process—more windows providing more light, for example. So it was a real win-win.

MHA: You recently stepped down from the MHA Historic Preservation committee. What contributed to your decision?

HW: Well, I work in Plano, and my company does not allow me to work from home. If I went to an HCLC work session and hearings, I had to take a vacation day off from work. It adds up. I was willing, but I did find the position [MHA committee chair] stressful and draining. People felt like they could pick up the phone and yell at me...

(continued, p10)

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Minutes of the Aug. 21 meeting of the Mistletoe Heights Association

President Hao Tran opened the meeting at 6:41 p.m. at Lily B. Clayton Elementary School.

Treasurer's report by Leslie Houston

As of July 1, the association had \$11,626. Requests for annual dues were to go out the week of Aug. 20.

Fort Worth Transportation Authority presentation on the SW-to-NE rail corridor by Curvie Hawkins

This would be a rapid regional rail service 40 miles long, going from southwest Tarrant County to Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. Construction should begin by 2010 and be completed by 2012. The rail system could use existing rail lines and would cost about \$10 million per mile for a total cost of \$400 million, using 50 percent federal funds and 50 percent local funds, which are already secured.

One station would serve the Medical District across from Newby Park, that is, north of Rosedale Street and east of Forest Park Boulevard. Other possible locations, still to be determined, include either north or south of the intersection of Berry Street and Cleburne Road or along Eighth Avenue in the vicinity of Elizabeth Avenue and Jessamine Street.

The rail system would go to D/FW's Terminals A and B and eventually link with DART at D/FW.

An environmental impact statement is expected to be completed by 2009. All concepts relating to this rail system will be presented to the communities affected and the public in general by means of several public meetings. For information about these and/or to get on the mailing list, go to www.sw2neRAIL.com or call the hotline: 817-215-8785.

Crime report by Kirk Byrom, NPO

Officer Byrom reported on incidences of crime in the neighborhood. To prevent theft of metal outdoor furniture (wrought iron), he suggested securing the items to your porch with a cable. The most common crime in the neighborhood is breaking into cars for electronic equipment and purses. The police non-emergency number is 817-335-4222.

Tillery Park report by Wendy Blanton

The renovation of the park will include a frontier theme, reflecting Fort Worth's heritage, and a number of the playhouses designed in the style of the houses in surrounding neighborhoods. There will be handicapped access.

The "Community Build" will take place Oct. 10-14. Volunteers are needed for four-hour shifts to work on the park, to staff the nursery and serve meals twice a day. Tools are also needed and will be returned in good condition.

Donations are still needed; bricks and pickets

(fence-style) and a cookbook are for sale. Help of any kind is appreciated. Contact Wendy Blanton.

Newby Park report by Patsy Slocum

Patsy reported that one table to accommodate the handicapped was donated and that the Parks and Recreation Department has agreed to install it for free. She suggested buying an additional table at a cost of \$600-\$700. A motion was made, voted on and passed to purchase two additional tables at a cost of about \$1,200.

Trinity Trees report by Jim Marshall

Chesapeake Energy has purchased an eight-acre parcel of land along the Trinity River in the vicinity of the Rogers Road bridge and plans to put a natural gas drill site on 2½ acres of it. This threatens a grove of old-growth trees, which greatly enhance the quality of life and visual beauty along the Trinity River hiking and biking trail that is enjoyed by many residents.

To help save the trees, learn more, view maps, print fliers, register for updates and post comments, go to www.trinitytrees.org.

Attend the Trinity Trees Picnic, Labor Day, Sept. 3, 11-2 p.m. along the Trinity Trail by the grove of trees.

Attend the city-sponsored public forum Thursday,

(continued on p 14)

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9/05

From: Sherry Choate
[mailto:choate19@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2007 11:50 AM
Subject: Looking for a good housekeeper/maid

Does anyone have any references for a good maid/housekeeper? Please forward me any names and numbers, or feel free to call me and discuss perspective workers.
Thanks, Sherry Choate
817 475-3369 cell

From: Wendy Blanton
[mailto:wendy_blanton@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2007 9:37 PM
Subject: Poodle Pyrenees mix needs home

A Berkeley family is trying to find a home for a sweet dog they have been fostering. See his profile on petfinder.com
<http://search.petfinder.com/petnote/displaypet.cgi?petid=9040071>
Thanks, Wendy Blanton 2325 W Magnolia Ave

From: Tran, Hao [mailto:h.tran@tcu.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2007 6:16 AM
Subject: Piano Lessons
Husband and daughter would like to take piano lessons. If you know of someone who can teach in our home, please e-mail me. Thank you.

E-Chat



From: Annie Reed-Harrison
[mailto:anniebsquirrel1224@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2007 3:13 PM
Subject: stolen glider

Hello neighbors. I'm looking for some help and to make you all aware of a situation. This morning between 6:40 am and 12:00 noon at 1120 Clara Street, some persons stole our antique white glider off of our front porch with my car in the driveway. They just carried it down the front walk. It was one of the unique couch types with diamond cut outs on the back and bottom about five feet long. If anyone saw anything could you please call 1-817-408-0831, it's not long distance. The same incident occurred to us five years ago except that glider was larger. Thank you for your help.

Sent: Wednesday, August 22, 2007 9:49 PM
Re: Yard of the Month & where to send ideas: Suggestions & nominations should be sent here—mistletoenews@yahoo.com (newsletter email)

I will forward your ideas to the committee. They do the work of judging, interviewing and writing the story. Not me. Thx, Claudia Wilson

Then the chatter became about the chatter. See president Hao Tran's message in her column on the next page.

Go to more chatter on page 7 for an important message from the moderators of the chatter.



Have a real estate need? Rely on someone that understands historic properties. Having lived in Mistletoe Heights since 1994, I understand the value our homes contribute to our community. For more information and a **complete MLS** listing of homes available in your area, visit my website: www.cbdfw.com/michaelphillips

I look forward to assisting you with your real estate needs.

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The past few weeks brought a surge of comments and opinions regarding gas drilling posted to our e-mail system.

Hao Tran



Letter from the president

Although our discussion was healthy and strong, we also heard opposing views questioning whether e-mail is the appropriate venue for such discussion.

In Mistletoe Heights, we have a volunteer moderator who monitors incoming e-mail messages sent to info@mistletoeheights.com.

Frankly, this thankless volunteer task is intended for forwarding emergent news and announcements for our neighbors.

But in recent weeks, we have virtually killed the messenger with comments perhaps not jabbed directly at the messenger. Nevertheless our volume created an unduly amount of work for her, to post our exchanges in a timely way.

We want your comments and input on this important topic. It has the potential to impact us in many ways, and it would be remiss not to make sure we're well informed and have the opportunity to fully discuss options presented to us.

Those of you who attended the Aug 21 MHA meeting heard a very thorough summary of the Gas Lease Committee's recommendations. If you would like a copy of the presentation, please send me an e-mail <h.tran@tcu.edu> or call me at 817.903.0321. Also I will be happy to meet with you and answer any questions.

To diminish traffic generated for gas drilling concerns on our e-mail system, I am creating two tools to help us share our concerns.

1. A short survey to poll everyone's opinions.

This is anonymous, quick and simple. I will collect the data, summarize and share responses with the neighborhood. It is also voluntary. The online survey will close on September 6 to provide timely results.

I am reprinting this survey here for those who do not have electronic access, and I will keep it open until the end of September for responses sent by mail to:

Newsletter Editor
2225 W Magnolia
Fort Worth TX 76110

(continued, p 8)

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Gardening in the neighborhood

with Patsy Slocum

School has started, and our glorious fall weather is just around the corner. Now's the time to enjoy being out of doors and to appreciate our lawns and gardens.

It's also time to start clearing out the dead leaves and debris from the flowerbeds and make ready for some fall color. Several plants, such as iris and day lilies, can be dug up and transplanted now.

Our recent hot spell has hurt some of the annuals, even to the point of having to replace them in the beds.

The local nurseries and garden centers are getting in their fall favorites, and it's not too early to think about pansies, as they usually do well from fall into early spring. Many varieties of mums are available to liven the landscape. The cannas have done well this year, but they need to

be deadheaded once in a while, and they'll bloom until the frost comes.

The caladiums get leggy about this time of year, and they can be pulled up by the roots, allowed to dry, and saved in a frost-free area to replant in the spring. I store mine in a heavy paper bag in the garage.

It is also time to think about planting bulbs in a month or so. Tulip bulbs need to be stored in the refrigerator for about six weeks before planting. The garden centers are stocking bulbs, and it's a good time now for a better selection. The tiny Anemone bulb produces an amazing mass of color for its size.

It's also not too early to start forcing a pot of daffodil bulbs, as they need to be stored in the refrigerator for about 10 weeks after potting.

Happy gardening!

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Calendar

OCTOBER

Tuesday, *October 2, 8am–2:30pm*

Design for Density (urban development)

Registration fee \$40; contact Fort Worth South at 817-923-1343 for info.

WHERE: Fort Worth Convention Center Rooms 201-203

Wednesday-Sunday, *October 10-14*

Build Tillery Park Playground

Wednesday, *October 31, Hallowe'en*

Pumpkin judging & trick-or-treating

NOVEMBER

Saturday, *November 3, 9am–2pm*

Texas Recycles Day, Free Shredding

Questions? Call 817-392-6385

WHERE: Vista Fibers of Fort Worth 1100 NE 23rd, Fort Worth TX 76106

Thursday, *November 22*

Thanksgiving holiday

DECEMBER

Streetlight decorating to be arranged.

Neighborhood Christmas Party

WHERE & WHEN: ??? Date and volunteer host home needed!

September's Yard of the Month goes to 2326 Harrison.

For the last five years David and Julie Grant have worked to create a tranquil yard to enjoy with their two children, Aiden and Ellie.

Their ongoing project changed all the landscaping, except for the nandinas. These hardy plants were in place when the Grants moved in.

Since then, they have expanded the beds and added stone edging.

They planted perennials, such as Indian hawthorne, Salvia Greggii and Texas sage. Right beside the front porch, they placed annual flower beds to add spots of color at the home's entrance.

The Grants planted oak trees in the front yard. These young live oak and red oak trees could someday shade the whole front yard.

The graceful plantings continue down the side yard in beautiful beds. More work in the backyard



2326 Harison Yard of the Month

can be seen in the brick patio they created.

Congratulations, David and Julie Grant.

more chatter

From: Tom & Eileen Richey
[mailto:tifrichey@airmail.net]

Sent: Sunday, August 26, 2007 12:20 PM

Subject: Email Distribution, Encore une fois finale temps

I have been following the discussion with some interest and feel that now is a good time to respond. Approximately three years ago Ken & I decided to develop a neighborhood web page and email distribution system.

When we did it, we decided that the email distribution network would be used for announcements, emergencies, lost pets, threats to life and limb, criminal activity etc. It was never meant to be used as a public forum or a discussion page or anything of that type. At the same time Ken spent a lot of time and effort creating a bulletin board on the web page with the intent of providing a site for discussion and debate. After about a year's time and virtually no response on the board, we shelved it.

We decided from the onset, that the email system would not be direct delivery but rather we would have a moderator, who would look at each incoming piece of mail and distribute them according to a set of guidelines. The reason for

that decision was that we saw what frequently happens with group mail systems, that sometimes people don't think before they press the send button and to be honest, some people relish starting controversy. The guidelines used for the past three years are as follows:

1. No political messages
2. No religious messages
3. No commercial messages (and that includes stuff for sale, houses, etc). The only thing allowed is sales hosted by charitable organizations, schools, garage sales and the occasional "I'm moving out of MH & I need to sell my stuff so I'm selling it cheap".
4. No negative messages about neighbors, no attacks on neighbors
5. No taking sides on neighborhood disagreements
6. The editor/moderator can ask a submitter to reword a message to make it acceptable
7. The editor/moderator has the final say on what is sent out
8. Members may be removed for consistent violation of the above
9. When responding to an individuals request (such as a painter or plumber etc), respond directly to the requestor. Do not "reply" to info@mh. (I had no success in people following this rule)

(continued, p 13)

Access the survey online at

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=d3EDfDvJWvUDqnlWfibOwQ_3d_3d

Or complete it below and mail to: *Newslettter Editor*, 2225 W Magnolia, Fort Worth TX 76110

Survey on gas drilling

1. How long have you lived in Mistletoe Heights?

- ☐ Less than 5 years
- ☐ 5-10 years
- ☐ More than 10 years

2. Are you in favor of urban gas drilling near our neighborhood?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Undecided

3. Please rate the following concerns.

600' restriction of drilling sites

- ☐ Extremely Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Doesn't Matter
- ☐ Deal Breaker

Noise restrictions to 5 dB above ambient

- ☐ Extremely Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Doesn't Matter
- ☐ Deal Breaker

Restrict truck traffic through neighborhoods

- ☐ Extremely Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Doesn't Matter
- ☐ Deal Breaker

No eminent domain use (for drill site or gas pipelines)

- ☐ Extremely Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Doesn't Matter
- ☐ Deal Breaker

4. Please provide comments or questions.

2. After the survey is complete, I will create a separate e-forum on this specific topic for those who want to further discuss the issue online.

Neighbors will be able to go there to provide comments. It will be a central location where the focus will be *only* on the gas lease issues.

Neighbors can freely provide comments and have conversational exchanges.

I affirmatively advocate the democratic processes that engage our neighbors in many conversations and discussions. Mistletoe Heights is blessed with a high level of intelligentsia which reveals itself in our "village" culture of mutual respect and kindness.

I hope that this will diminish the e-mail congestion on our e-mail system but yet allow for a venue to discuss this important concern.

Thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility of caring for this neighborhood.

Hao

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If we build it they will play!

A Tillery Park update by Wendy Blanton

It's full-steam ahead for the Tillery Park renovation project!

At the executive committee meeting in August, it was reported that fundraising yielded \$75,000. Fundraising efforts are continuing with hopes of including all elements of the park design in the final construction.

Donation options include purchasing inscribed bricks for the walkways (\$65-\$100), personalized pickets for the fence surrounding the tot-lot (\$30), or a copy of the Tillery Park cookbook (\$20).

The cookbook includes 300 recipes contributed by the Fort Worth community and restaurants and chefs. It will document the history of Tillery Grocery and neighborhood landmarks with black-and-white photographs.

Individual pieces of equipment also are available for sponsorship, and general sponsorships of the park are available at many levels. Order and donation forms are available online at tillerypark.org.

The design of the park was fine-tuned at a July 14 workshop attended by City Councilwoman Wendy Davis. Elements of the park were downsized to meet the city's criteria for designation as a neighborhood park.

To meet the 60-person capacity limit, two swing sets and the western frontier structure were condensed and the sandbox and mister stations were eliminated.

In response to concerns of increased traffic on Rockridge Terrace, Harold Pitchford of the Parks and Recreation Department agreed to close off access to this street from the Tillery Park parking lot.

Elizabeth Anna's Old World Garden is providing landscape design services, and workshop attendees heard her vision for this community green space.

A cleanup project scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15, was to clear out the dense vegetation that surrounds the park.

Many volunteers are still needed for the park construction Oct. 10-14. This date is rapidly approaching and the time to sign up is now. Volunteers are needed to fill 2,000 time slots, whether skilled or unskilled. In addition to swinging a hammer, volunteers can help with childcare, registration, serving food and many other activities. Please check your calendars and see the volunteer form included in this month's newsletter.

The committee is also looking to borrow tools for the build, which will be labeled and locked up when not in

(continued next page)



use. We guarantee that tools will be returned in as good or better condition than they were when borrowed. Please see the list of tools needed on the back of the included volunteer form.

One final note: This project is really about community. It was designed based on the “dream park” ideas put forth by Lily B Clayton students. It will reflect the unique flavor of Fort Worth as well as the architecture found in the neighborhoods surrounding Lily B.

The Oct. 10 community build is a modern-day barn-raising to bring the community together and get kids vested in *their* park that they will enjoy and take care of for years to come. We'll get as much out of it as we put into it!

For more information, visit www.tillerypark.org or contact Jennifer Tayag at jennifer.tayag@sbcglobal.net or 817-926-2065.

(Heather White interview continued from p2)

MHA: You mean people like your neighbors, in Mistletoe Heights?

HW: Yes, my neighbors. And some people felt they could come to committee meetings and yell and express opinions heatedly there. I also felt that there did not appear to be consensus for upholding the Guidelines. I had put a lot of personal effort—and other committee members did too—into ensuring that we had a presence at HCLC, and that they took us seriously. We were able to get them to enforce our Guidelines. It was happening.

It was distressing to me to see other considerations and priorities take precedence over the neighborhood standing behind Guidelines that the majority of the district, myself included, voted 'yes' for.

Now if I had been asked to vote for a district whose Guidelines would be pretty much meaningless, but would give whoever in the neighborhood had the most influence at that time the power to randomly determine what happened next, my vote on that question would have been a definite no.

When I bought my house, I knew a little bit about the City's preservation ordinance, but really nothing compared to what I know now. As soon as I found out about it, I knew wherever I ended up buying my house, I wanted it designated. Not just for the tax break, but because I knew I would put more into my house than I'd ever get back out. Especially since I'm at the edge of the neighborhood, I felt my house was a bit vulnerable, and I wanted to do everything I could to ensure that it would live on even when I'm not there, which I felt would make my investment worthwhile—an investment in the future. If you read the ordinance, you see that the protection for a house in a historic district is much stronger, at least in theory, than one that's only individually designated.

MHA: Can we learn from other neighborhoods' experiences?

HW: Yes. Did you know that our demolition Guidelines are word-for-word identical to the ones in Fairmount? And of course they have the exact same HCLC we do. In Fairmount, your house pretty much has to be a burnt-out shell of its former self before it gets demolished. Here, it seems to be more a matter of which block your house is on. I have no idea what the standard may be 10 or 20 years from now. So what's the difference? Which historic district you're in, that's all. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that if I could pick my house up and move it to Fairmount, it would be way better protected.

The good news is that Fairmount had a period at the beginning where unwarranted demolition was taking place, and they turned it around, which shows that it can be done. I don't think, though, that anyone should count on doing anything and everything now, and being able to fix it all later. That's not how precedents work. ...

(to be concluded next month)

In defense of the landmarks commission

By Wendy Blanton

Last month's newsletter reported on the demolition of houses east of Jerome Street and the editor's frustration with the way decisions are made by the Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission. In light of my recent experience with the commission, I'd like to offer an alternate view and, hopefully, shed some light on the design review and demolition process.

The process begins when a property owner files an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to make alterations to or demolish a building. The application is reviewed by the historic preservation planner in the city's Planning Department who consults the Mistletoe Heights Historic and Cultural District Guidelines to determine which parts of the guidelines apply.

She reports her findings to the commission and makes a recommendation on approval or denial of the application. If the applicant wishes, he or she can meet with the preservation planner even before submitting an application to get feedback on what the recommendation to the commission would be.

The application is considered by the commission at a hearing open to the public. The details of the applications are posted on the city's Web site in advance and the neighbors living closest to the applicant are notified by mail of the upcoming hearing. The hearing gives the applicant an opportunity to plea the case and lets interested parties voice approval or concerns. The commission weighs these factors into its decision, in addition to the support or opposition of the neighborhood association.

The commission really does listen to the wishes of the neighborhood. I was at the hearing at which the demolitions were approved and one member of the commission stated that she would vote for the demolitions on the condition that it was supported by the Mistletoe Heights Historic Preservation Committee.

A side note on the commission: It's made up of nine city council appointees who, with the exception of the commissioner, are not financially compensated for their time.

As concerned neighbors, we have several opportunities to get involved in the process if we so choose. We can keep abreast of upcoming applications and attend hearings to voice an opinion. If we can't attend in person, we can send a letter or e-mail to the commission (via Liz Casso

at liz.casso@fortworthgov.org) before the hearing.

We can also join the Mistletoe Heights Historic Preservation Committee. It's open to anyone who volunteers to be on it and I hear that it's looking for a chairperson. As a last resort, we can change our guidelines, as was suggested at my hearing when a neighbor voiced her displeasure about the overlay to the commission.

My experience, though, was that the process worked the way it's intended to. I applied and was told by the city's historic preservation planner that

my proposed change of materials did not fit into the guidelines and could not be recommended for approval.

My neighbors and the Mistletoe Heights Historic Preservation Committee voiced their support by writing letters and appearing at my hearing. The commission weighed these factors and approved my application. We *do* have a say in the decisions that are rendered and, in my case, those who got involved made a difference.

(Wendy Blanton lives at 2325 W Magnolia Ave.)

The train is coming!

At our last meeting Mistletoe Heights neighbors got a glimpse of the future, on wheels. Transportation in 2012 will bring light rail into our vicinity and give us a way to take a train to the airport, headed north, or get to far South Hulen in the opposite direction.

City representatives, along with Curvie Hawkins and Dennis Wilson of The T [Fort Worth Transportation Authority] updated us on this ambitious and well-funded project.

Well-funded means about half the money to build this transit system comes from federal funds, the balance is local money, and we have that covered. A Tarrant County bond election provided \$20 million. The T has funding. The city of Grapevine wants it there and voted a 3/8% sales tax for it. Other entities will pitch in, including the city of Fort Worth which will forego certain street fees.

Ambitious means completing the environmental impact studies by spring, starting construction of 12 new train stations in 2010, then it's up and running in 2012. That's only five years away. Over the next few months, The T wants citizen input to help them make design decisions for the project.

Train stations and tracks

Like the Trinity Railway Express, this transit system will run on existing track maintained by rail freight lines. Two stops will almost certainly be the existing downtown TRE stops—the line's terminal end at the T&P station and the Intermodal station.

Southwest-to-Northeast Rail Corridor

MEDICAL CENTER STATION AREA



Proposed train station may be built north of Mistletoe Heights. (slide #4 from their website, at 'Maps & Pictures')

The other 12 stops planned now include Sycamore School Rd at Altamesa, I-20 at Granbury Rd, Berry/TCU, Medical, 7th St downtown, Northside Main St, Beach St, Haltom City, North Richland Hills, Grapevine, DFW Airport north and DFW south.

Your train stations

Two of those new train stations will be near our neighborhood. Three are on the drawing board now, but *only two will be built*. At the presentation we saw stations designed for:

- Berry Street at Cleburne Rd
- The 8th Avenue train yard (west of Elizabeth Blvd junction)
- Medical District (north of W Rosedale, across from Newby Park)

That last one borders our neighborhood and proposes a parking lot in our neighborhood—on land between Newby Park and Bishop Ranger's historic church. Access to the parking lot appears to be via Mistletoe Blvd.

(continued on p 13)

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(E-chatter, continued from p 7)

I acted as moderator and during that three year time period, I received many emails that violated one or more of the above guidelines and informed the sender that the message would not be delivered and why. I received some vitriolic messages, as a matter of fact, that I would be embarrassed to admit came from residents of Mistletoe Heights. They were NEVER distributed. A few messages did go out that I wish I could undo however.

I asked over that time period, several times for volunteers to assist with the web page and with the email distribution. I received silence. Now, after three years, being as my time has grown less and less available (and Ken moved away almost two years ago), someone has finally stepped up to handle both ends of the task - two volunteers from 475 households.

The bottom line is this: the email system is not and never has been a forum or discussion page, but rather a method to disseminate information fairly quickly. It involves a lot of work by a moderator, and as far as I am concerned, I would not allow it to be without a moderator (I have seen all of the emails that come in and frankly some of them were frightening in their anger and spite). The system has successfully operated in this manner since its inception. The operation of the email system is not open to debate or vote, it is what it was designed to be, no more no less. If this is unfavorable to anyone, my suggestion is to create a blog site, discussion forum, or email system that pleases you.

Tom R.

**Jamie and Laurie mccoysintx@charter.net
Monday, August 27, 2007 12:51 PM**

Greetings, Neighbors! Thank you so much to Tom Richey for his recent email about the history of the email group and the posting of the guidelines. I hope everyone has had a chance to look them over.

Going forward I will do my best to distribute emails that adhere to the guidelines. For the most part, emails that are sent will be mainly informational, relating to announcements, emergencies, lost pets, criminal activity, etc.

Regarding the urban gas drilling issue, you can send your comments directly to our neighborhood

president, Hao Tran, at h.tran@tcu.edu. She is busy working on the survey results and is in the process of creating a separate forum for discussion on this important topic. (Thank you, Hao!)

If someone else would like to start a blog/forum/chat/Yahoo group, etc., for other topics, I would be glad to send that information out to this distribution list.

I appreciate your support, and I am glad to be able to be involved and to be of service to our neighborhood in this way. Thank you so much!

Laurie A. McCoy, MH Volunteer Email Distributor
2301 Edwin St.

(Light rail coming, continued from p 11)

Proposed light-rail route

View the proposed route map and get more details at the website, where your comments are also invited in several categories. [links at end of this story]

If you view map details online you will see only two stations near us, labeled "Berry/TCU" and "Medical". Eighth Avenue/Elizabeth Blvd is not listed as a stop. Go to 'Maps & Pictures' and slide #3 to see the Eighth Avenue stop and the Berry Sreet stop proposals together.

Q&A from our meeting

See other FAQs at their website. Our questions:

How often will it run? Estimates only. At peak times, every 20 minutes. Off peak, hourly.

Will it run Sundays? Yes.

Who will use it? Planners are modeling runs for how and when it will be used.

How quick will the trip be from here to the airport? About 30 minutes.

How will the new Highway-121 tollway affect the train? They will merge at the northside station and at the south terminal at the end of the train line.

Will this line connect to DART? Yes, DART plans to extend a line directly to DFW Airport, and these will intersect.

How safe will this be for crossings, and how quiet? The existing freight-line routes have crossing gates in place for safety. No horns or warning whistles will sound.

Links:

main site <http://www.sw2nerail.com/default.asp>

FAQs <http://www.sw2nerail.com/faq.asp>

maps & pictures (on "Resources" menu, see diagrams of proposed stations here, Slides 3 & 4) <http://www.sw2nerail.com/gallery2.asp?GroupID=11899>

Minutes of the Aug. 21 meeting

(continued from pg 3)

Sept. 6, 6-8 p.m., at Capstone Church, 1700 Rogers Road.

MH Gas Lease Committee report by Norm Stemple

Norm gave a very extensive report about the Barnett Shale and its potential impact on our neighborhood.

The Barnett Shale is an approximately 5,000-square-mile natural gas formation laid down about 320 million years ago, stretching from Decatur to Hillsboro

and from Arlington to Palo Pinto. It contains an estimated 30 trillion cubic feet of original gas. Tarrant County lies in the "sweet spot," Tier I, which contains the highest expected output in the area. The United States uses 23 trillion cubic feet every year.

In 2002, horizontal drilling became the mainstream for development, presenting the possibility of drilling 5,000 feet from the drill site and 7,000 feet deep. Currently, about 6,000 gas wells are in the Barnett Shale. The average Barnett Shale well uses 100,000 barrels of fresh water (3-4 million gallons) to fracture the shale. After use, the water is saline and not potable and must be disposed of in a commercially permitted salt-water disposal well outside the city limits. Total Barnett Shale water usage accounts for 1-2 percent of the resource supply.

In November 2006, portions of Mistletoe Heights were approached about the possibility of drilling and since then several different companies have approached most residents. Some proposed drilling sites are: north of the Trinity River just west of University Drive (near the Trinity Trail; Midtown (northeast corner of Rosedale Street and Forest Park Boulevard); Mistletoe Boulevard east of the old Fort Worth Sprinkler building; Eighth Avenue near the Post Office and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

That same month a committee was formed. For the past nine months, it has researched and provided information for the neighborhood to consider.

Things to keep in mind about signing gas and oil leases are the use of water resources, environmental damage, noise and traffic, price fluctuation and taxes.

The committee has four basic recommendations:

1. No drilling within 600 feet of houses.
2. Noise restrictions to 5 decibels above ambient.
3. No truck traffic in Mistletoe Heights.
4. No eminent domain use for drill site or gas lines.

At present, no company is willing to meet these terms. Therefore, Norm said, "At this time, the committee cannot recommend supporting any of the leases presented because the terms do not adequately protect and ensure the quality of life in our neighborhood."

For further information, contact Norm Stemple at 817-926-6546.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Peipert,
Secretary



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Math Tutor:

Retired high school math teacher. Have been tutoring in the area for 13 years. Pre-Algebra through Pre-Calculus. Abbie Steffler 817-922-0780.

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No Time for Your Yard?

Give me a call! I'm your Mistletoe Heights neighbor and I can offer you competitive pricing and plenty of references. Call Daniel Tice at 817-797-0307.

Dreaming of a lush yet Texas-tough landscape?

Wanting to relax and unwind, enjoying the flight of butterflies & hummingbirds? Seeking the aromatherapy of a night-blooming garden? Call Alexia Strout-Dapaz at 817-921-4820 or email astroutdapaz@yahoo.com

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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guarantee. For information call Joan at 817.920.1440 or email 4paws4@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Free Asian jasmine

Come on over and dig it, in the beds marked with orange flags. My only request is that you be careful with the roots of the adjacent plants. Bring your sharpshooter, cutters, buckets and/or bags to carry the jasmine in. Call my cell at 817-507-7769 or e-mail questions to me at astroutdapaz@yahoo.com. With the cooler weather and the recent rains, the jasmine will transplant well. Happy digging! Alexia Strout-Dapaz 2201 Mistletoe Avenue

Helpful Phone Numbers, Emails Addresses and Websites

	Phone (817-)	Email	Website
City Code Violations	392-1234		
City of Fort Worth	392-2255		www.fortworthgov.org
Police - Non-Emergency	335-4222		
Garage Sale Permits	392-7851	http://www.fortworthgov.org/forms/default.aspx?ekfrm=34386	
Graffiti Abatement	212-2700		
Lily B. Clayton Elementary	922-6660		it.ftworth.isd.tenet.edu/116/
Paschal High School	922-6600		http://www.paschalhs.org/
Historical Preservation (Liz Casso)	392-8037	liz.casso@fortworthgov.org	
Southside Preservation Hall	926-2800	Hallyes@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

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