



The Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.com

March 2009

The Craftsman-style fence

Editor

“The Arts and Crafts movement was more than a moving away from the ornamentation of Victorian period,” says noted landscape architect Jack de Lashmet of East Hampton, N.Y. “It was not so much a reaction against ornamentation, as so much of the Arts and Crafts period is about ornamentation, but rather an embracing of function and quality. It really is the precursor to Modernism. It’s the whole idea of a quarter-acre-lot home built with regard to craftsmanship and simplicity and the landscape architecture reflects this idea.”

A major element of the exterior of an American Craftsman-style neighborhood is our landscape architecture, which includes fences, gates, arbors, stairs and various hardscape. Nearly all of the early original Arts and Crafts fences are gone. So when we consider a new fence, we need to take our cues from landscape architects, style ideas from our home’s architecture, from trims, original shutters, porch styles, stairs and the overall setting, color and line of our homes. A new fence’s purpose must remain primary, whether it is to keep the dog in the yard, secure the safety of young

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Gardening in March

Dottie Guffey

“Find a little bit of land somewhere and plant a carrot seed. Now sit down and watch it grow. When it is fully grown pull it up and eat it.” (*Living on the Earth*, Stephen Gastein)

Gardening tips:

Although we most likely will have a late freeze, the warming season is so near and if you are like me you are excited about that and ready to give the gardening spots a facelift.

Plant trees, shrubs, dianthus, snapdragons, larkspurs and cool season vegetable plants or seeds. Plant cool season root vegetables like carrots, beets, radishes and turnips. Plant mesculin salad greens, Chinese cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower. Warm weather tomato, pepper and eggplant seedlings can be started indoors in a warm spot. If they are in starter pots place them right into the earth after the last freeze (usually after the middle of March). If a late freeze arrives after the warm weather plants are up, water the starter pots well and cover with large strips of brown paper secured with rocks or bricks. The paper can be found on 3’ width rolls at the hardware store for about \$8.00. If you don’t use all the brown paper in the garden, give the rest to the kids as doodle paper! I just tape it up on the wall and hand them all kinds of drawing materials.

Fertilize all planting areas with 100 percent organic cocktail of fish emulsion and compost tea.

Get an early start on eliminating soft **bugs** with insecticidal soap.

Prune roses and wisteria. If these plants have new growth at the time of a freeze, cover with a blanket, box or paper bag.

Let’s make an alley date for removing debris, planting and so much more after lunch on March 15 (rain/cold date March 22). If anyone has been digging like me, you can come up with propagations right from your garden that you can share with the alley. Bring plants, seedlings and ideas, and I will try and make it by your alleyway for a visit! And those of you who don’t have an alley, we can probably use your help.

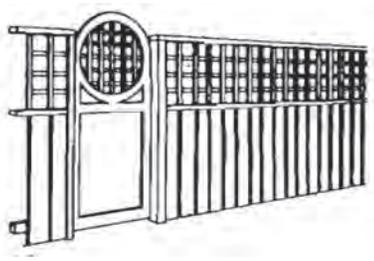
Craftsman fence continued from page 1

children, screen ugly views, create needed privacy or make boundaries for garden rooms, but there is no need to neglect style.

A “privacy fence” is an immediate best choice for creating privacy or to block unwanted views on our small lots. Lattice creates boundaries with subdued views. The solid fence with a lattice top is a particularly good combination for a Craftsman-style fence. Landscape architects of the period created the lattice not on the diagonal but rather in an upright square. The lattice boxes were open in a square pattern and could be either large or small squares or a combination.

Fences were often done with a pergola or entry gate depending on the style and placement of the home.

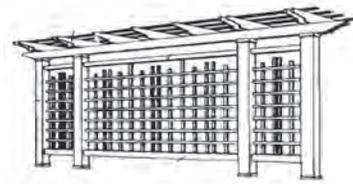
The Craftsman home was a reactive break from the Industrial Revolution with architectural emphasis on craftsmanship, landscape and a return to fundamentals. Our fences should embody the Arts and Crafts style to become one with the home and the landscape.



“The gates and fencing were an extension of the house,” says de Lashmet. “The fences would have been plank wood with details matching details in the house, such as the roof line, wood, stone, shingle and house colors and stains. No chain-link, no white-and-green resin fences, no stockade fencing, and no pickets. They detract from the house. The fences of the period recall the house to which they connect. Materials echo the house, such as stucco, wood, stone, and the colors are earthen greens and browns, and again should extend the house architecture into the landscape.”

Diagonal lattice, cheap stockades and spider decks hanging off of second-story windows and doors are all wrong for our homes. Inappropriate landscape architecture plunked down without style consideration, looks like a tumor on a historic home, and before you know it, the neighborhood has metastatic fence, deck and gate cancer.

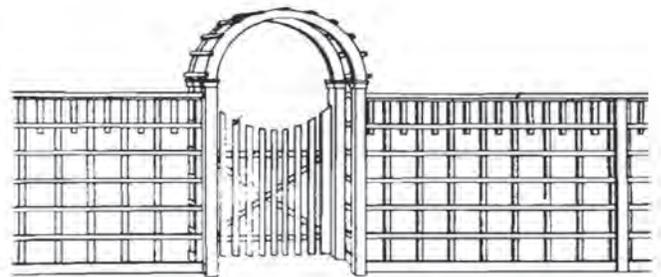
Another problem in choosing a fence is picking fencing that is too formal, frivolous or massive and fencing that is clearly of a different period to the house.



Take cues from the California fence builder Charles Prowell who owns Charles Prowell Woodworks. His Web site is prowellwoodworks.com. Take a look at the work of Peter A. Kirsch-Korff as well. One of our best sources for Craftsman fencing ideas comes from our own Japanese Garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Much of our period styling comes from a love of Japonisme, which greatly influenced Arts and Crafts.

Given our extreme temperatures, it is wise to seal your fence in a clear stain or to use historical stain colors to coordinate with the house and garden. Staining your new fence in browns, natural greens and earth tones will compliment the garden and the home. Coordinating a trim color from the home to the fence should be considered or using a natural wood stain from an exterior door. Or perhaps taking the trim on your home back to the wood and staining and sealing the trim to match your fence and vice versa. Take a look at the Gamble House at www.gamblehouse.org. The stains and colors you choose are up to you, but take a peek and see what some of the major craftsman landmarks are choosing.

You can also build these fences on your own with a little bit of planning and a friendly fire nail gun. A plain stockade adorned with craftsman style trimmings can make an inexpensive fence, look like a high end custom job. Fences can be created with high-end architectural features with a bit of forethought and it doesn't have to break the bank. An Arts and Crafts fence will enhance the overall monetary value of your Arts and Crafts home and extend your home's design into the garden and neighborhood.



The New Newby Park...



The concrete has been poured and the new Newby Park is underway! Patsy Slocum is applying for Public Art in the Neighborhoods with the City of Fort Worth to win a permanent art project for Newby Park. The neighborhood owes a great deal of appreciation to Patsy Slocum's tireless efforts in improving and maintaining this park for our community.

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Neighborhood Association Meetings_____

The dates for the Regular Association Meetings:

May 19th,

August 18th,

November 17th.

The time will be 7pm, and for consistency purposes all Regular Association meetings will be at Jeff Davis' home at 2325 Mistletoe Drive. The election of officers will be held at the November 17th meeting.

Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Garage Sale.

March is the month to clean out the garage and closets and get ready!

In these difficult economic times wouldn't you rather have some cash for your Texas shaped waffle-maker? How about sending your Grandma's full sized bed to a new home? Those sheets with the rust colored sunset? How about those dishes that you never use? Somebody wants them. This is it. Getting ready and organized starts today...okay, maybe tomorrow.

The Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Saturday, April 18

Rain date set of April 25th

Be ready to sell and be ready to shop. Don't forget you will need a Garage Sale Permit from the city

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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Letters to the Editor

My departed husband, Wyatt Teague, looked at our dilapidated garage and before he passed, he designed a beautiful garage and carport. He took into consideration our house and our neighborhood, and spent extensive time being sure the plans were historically acceptable.

We found a builder: Allied Builders Company, office #817-516-1164. Thomas "Sky" Skeie took my late husband's ideas and built a garage and carport that looks like it has always been there. The roof is the same as my roof, the brick is the same as my brick. I am very pleased with his work.

Now, my garage is a source of pride. Please drive or walk by 2200 Edwin and look at it. I am a corner house, so it is easy to admire it. This is an example of honoring the history of our neighborhood. I am so very proud of my husband's design and also Sky's skill.

Joy Teague
Edwin

Letters to the Editor Continued on page 7



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Traffic Committee

At the last neighborhood association meeting our City Council-member Joel Burns addressed the crowd and fielded several questions relating to traffic. In response to the questions he asked us to form a traffic committee to come up with unified recommendations, and then he will facilitate meetings with the respective departments within the city to address our concerns. Following the meeting an e-mail was sent to announce the forming of a traffic committee. The first meeting was held March 4th, 2009.

We look forward to the findings, recommendations and progress of the committee. Thanks to the Mistletoe Heights residents that have volunteered to help on this committee. As a neighborhood we depend on volunteers! If you would like to help out with the traffic committee please look for notifications across the neighbor e-mail, or email inquiries to mhtraffic@sbcglobal.net

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March 17th

Secretarial Minutes from the February 17th General Meeting taken by Mecca Given

This year's first quarterly meeting of the Mistletoe Heights Association convened at 7:14pm, February 17th at the residence of MHA President Jeff Davis. Order of Business.

Joe's Run On Saturday, March 28th, 2009, the **Annual Joe's Run** kicks off at 8:00 AM - with many changes. This year Joe's Run is pleased to announce that RadioShack has signed on as title sponsor. The popular 5K run/walk has added a 10K run. All this benefits Samaritan House, a residential facility for men and women living with HIV/AIDS. This year, the Run will be chip-timed with the new ChronoTrack Timing System used at major marathons around the country. To register before the race, stop by Samaritan House at 929 Hemphill, or register online.

Neighborhood Community Relations Larinda Smith came to visit with the MHA from the City of Fort Worth. The City of Fort Worth now has a department called Neighborhood Community Relations, it is a navigation system designed to help you find the best way to get answers for your questions or issues.

For example; if you wanted to have a block party you would contact the Neighborhood Community Relations and they'd help send you in the right direction and in turn stream line the process of navigating city departments. Larinda Smith's phone number: 817-392-6690.

Councilman Joel Burns Spoke regarding the Zoo contract. He told us that he asked the city to put the zoo contract negotiations on hold until June and the city agreed. Joel Burns also said, "I commit to you that you guys will know when these meetings take place."

City Transportation Works Jim Walker, Director of Transportation Works for the City of Fort Worth, told us the good news is that they are asking for \$500,000 out of the stimulus package to use towards the repair and improvement of sidewalks. But the bad news is presently there is no money for sidewalks. If you want to know if your sidewalk has been rated to determine if it will be redone, please call 817-392-8009 to inquire.

MHA Traffic Committee Per city request MH is putting together a traffic committee to relay information and problems the neighborhood has to the city. The committee chairman is James Huling. Members that signed up for the committee: Stephanie Mischke, Michael Daniella, Mecca Givens. Additional members are welcome to attend. Email notification of the times and meeting places will be sent out on the MH e-mail blasts.

Newby Park Playground and Park Patsy Slocum showed the plans for the new Newby Park Playground. A motion was made by Kathy McReynolds for Patsy Slocum to make an application for public art to be placed in Newby Park.

Mistletoe Heights Entrance Sign There was a discussion of improving the MH entrance sign.

Mistletoe Station- Houses on Morphy Fran McCarthy told the meeting that the developers have been asked to submit a letter detailing changes they plan to make to the property. He told the association that he was meeting with the city to discuss the alley, drainage and lack of room for a driveway. He said that he would be drafting a letter to be approved of by the Historic Committee.

XTO Site The XTO site will be north of I30 for the Mistletoe Heights neighborhood.

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Letters to the Editor

My name is Tara Abbott and I own the house directly across from the new home built on 2116 Morphy. My address is 2131 Harrison Avenue. Our part of the Mistletoe Heights neighborhood has been harassed since the beginning of this project. I have had to counsel with an attorney to make it stop. I have been victim of constant harassment and my renters living at 2131 Harrison have been victim of constant harassment. I have lost renters because of my former tenants being constantly bothered. They rang the doorbell of my tenants and told them to immediately take out all of their personal belonging and things out of my garage as it was about to be demolished. My tenant had high end carpentry equipment and became afraid of losing it under the threats. The developer/agent tried to say that the former owner had given him rights to the property which was not true. Can you imagine living under anything like this? Needless to say, I lost my tenants. Why should they suffer such harassment when they do not even own the property? They would try to strong arm me also. I suffered phone calls from the developer/agent that I had to call him back immediately that it was urgent. When the real problem was with what they built and not my property. My house is a contributing historic home and will remain so as long as my home is equal to all of your homes under the law. Or are the homes here not afforded the same rights under the law? I want all of my property and I refuse to be bullied by builders who have made a mistake in calculating what they should have built. In this time I had my air conditioners stolen, my windows were shot out, rocks were thrown through my windows. They will say it has nothing to do with them but what do you think? Coincidence? I could let this absolutely kill me but I am not. They tried to take so much of my time that I could barely move forward with daily living. Then about eight months ago it all stopped. I have heard nothing but now it is my understanding that they plan to say that there is enough right of way for cars to pass in the alley behind what they have overbuilt. I am being positioned to suffer the loss of my rear property at sometime down the road for their lack of thinking when building this home. I heard now people in our neighborhood meet with the city on behalf of our neighborhood and builders and suddenly there are no problems with the alley width and rear yard setback that they had so much issue with ever since they overbuilt. So am I to believe they were absolutely so upset to get my property and now everything is fine and they are not needing the land? Do you believe that? Does anyone here even care because it is not happening to you? I want every single person in this neighborhood to know that I am not giving up the rear of my property because of bad planning on the developer's part. This may be not the wealthiest part of Mistletoe but we are equal under the law. Take a look and

you can see what the plan is for me. The builder should have created an overall plan that worked with the historic properties that exist. My garage has been there for 85 years and if it is over the line it has been so for nearly a 100 years. But that is not enough when you know the right people. I am putting in my P.O. Box to reduce harassment but would love some support. Please contact the Councilman Joel Burns and tell him you support me in all the terrible burdens I have suffered, the anxiety and fear. I urge you to write the HCLC on my behalf. How can more than one car ever go down the alley without my losing part of my property? How is it that my historic home, land and garage is challenged for some new house that does not even fit in the neighborhood and over built on the lot? They made their mistake with arrogance. Would you accept this? Make the developers fix their house, don't leave my property and other people's land at risk because of the lack of bad planning, and they just aren't very nice people.

Sincerely,

Tara Abbott, P.O. Box 48273 Watauga, Texas 76148



Ever drive near Morphy Street (off Jerome) on the east side of Forest Park? If you have, are you as disgusted with the new construction at 2116 & 2112 Morphy as I am? The first house is built where no self respecting sized car could possibly get into the alley garage. The houses do not have any rear yard and they are supposed to have a five foot rear yard. The alley going east has been refigured, so from Jerome to the railroad tracks, properties will be forced to dedicate the back of their land to the city to make this alley function, allowing future homes access to their garages. That's fine for developers but what about the people who own property there? Are they supposed to give up their land to help a development without an overall plan? How can two cars possibly even pass in this alley even if all that is dedicated to the city or taken from homeowners is allowed? Is this what you want for our neighborhood? I do not. Zero lot lines and houses built within 10 foot of the lot line in front; houses that might be favorable in a new neighborhood but certainly not in our

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Yard of the Month

The Yard of the Month committee has selected 2239 West Magnolia Ave. as the recipient for March.

This warm and inviting gold and brown Arts and Crafts-style house belongs to Thomas and Marjorie Day. The Days have spent many thoughtful hours selecting plants that are adaptable to shade and have a color scheme of burgundy, gold and brown to accent their house. A large pecan tree stands near the curb, with giant liriopie and big blue liriopie below. A young Japanese maple and a more mature bur oak are planted on the opposite side. "Little Gem" magnolias of the upright variety that will stay small are included in two locations in the landscape.

Planted in the east bed are Huechera "plum pudding," "pistache" and "obsidian," Autumn Joy Sedum, ornamental cabbage and orange, burgundy and purple pansies. Oxalis triangularis (purple variety) and Oxalis vulcanicola (burgundy with yellow flowers) have also been added in front of white iris. The west bed contains Burford holly, an Emperor Japanese maple, a Little Gem magnolia, Huechera plum pudding, obsidian, caramel, miracle and golden tiara hosta. The front bed has dwarf Buford hollies, Huecheras and dead nettle and a young Japanese maple. The beds contain red mulch to bring additional color to the shade. A dry riverbed compliments the garden style and creates a water runoff from the roof with stones that match the color theme.

They designed a Craftsman-style fence with an upright square lattice to extend the lines of the house. They stained elements in the fence a brown similar to the house and changed the exterior lighting to a Craftsman style. We send our compliments to the Days for their conscientious landscape implementation. We look forward to observing the seasonal changes in their garden. We want to thank Calloways' Nursery for providing a gift certificate to the homeowners.

Tom Thumb parking lot incident Be careful out there!

I wanted to let you know of an incident in the Tom Thumb parking lot on Saturday afternoon. I was loading my groceries into the back of my car at about 5:15. I turned around and a man grabbed my purse (which was still in the grocery cart -not a good idea) and ran. I ran after him, and several others who heard me yelling also ran after him. I think at least a dozen strangers came to my aid, for which I am most thankful. I am even more grateful that no one was hurt, as he did threaten two of us with a weapon, although we never saw a weapon and I believe he was unarmed. He was caught, handcuffed, and taken away by the Fort Worth police, which is a great ending. The icing on the cake is that he gave the purse back after a three-block chase. At least five or six vehicles were tracking him as he traveled on foot. The police caught him near the Texaco at Hulen and Bellaire. What this taught me was to accept the help that is always offered by our outstanding Tom Thumb staff. (They did offer to help me out three times and I declined, which I usually do when my children are not with me. I will never decline again!) I think that so many came to my aid because this is our neighborhood store, and everyone in this area is just tired of this type of thing happening. Still, the police said over and over how amazed they were at the group effort to go after this man, and that in these types of incidents it is rare that the thief is caught. I am so humbled that so many strangers would risk possible danger to help me. I am especially grateful for two brave young men, Matthew and William Summers, and Rebecca Guttery. Without them, I would not have had the courage to go after the guy, and he would not have been caught. Please feel free to forward this on. It is an important reminder for all of us to be watchful and diligent about our safety, especially in places that are very familiar like our neighborhood grocery store parking lot.

Sincerely,
Name Withheld

(Editor's Note: I have left out the victim's name as a courtesy, although the victim offered this as an internet forwarded email.

Letters to the Editor, continued from page 7

Historical District. We have seen no drainage plans. This future development toward the railroad track may turn into a lake. All those vacant lots with no future assured. What does this type of development do to the value of property in our Historical District? Let us raise our voices in protest-write a letter to the newsletter editor, call or e mail your Councilman Joel Burns at 817-392-8809, e mail: district9@fortworthgov.org.

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Neighborhood Police Officer

Mark Russell

Office 817-871-8885

Mobile 817-991-8472

Email: Markus.Russell@fortworthgov.org

Fort Worth Police Report 12/01/08- 2/17/09

12/10/08 Auto Theft @2200 Mistletoe Blvd.

01/11/09 Drug/Narcotic Violations 2122 Mistletoe Ave

01/16/09 Burglary of Vehicle 2201 W. Rosedale St.

01/26/09 Criminal Mischief 2217 Irwin St.

12/18/08 Assault by Contact/2000 Park Place Ave

12/16/08 Fraudulent Use/Possession of Id Information 2330 W. Rosedale St

01/12/09 Disorderly Conduct/1050 Forest Park Blvd.

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- The best way to exercise to lose pounds and inches and revitalize your body. (*It's not what the media would have you believe.*)
- How too much cardiovascular exercise can actually make you fatter. (*Not to mention . . . B O R I N G!*)
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Kim Speairs (mother of two)

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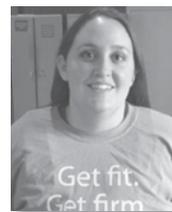
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Pam Musslewhite

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