



The Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.com

February 2010



Jim's ride across America

As we noted in the December-January issue, Mistletoe Heights neighbor Jim Peipert fulfilled a longtime dream this fall: Riding his bicycle more than 3,000 miles across the United States, from San Diego to St. Augustine, Fla.

Jim retired in June 2008 from the Star-Telegram, where he worked as an editor for 21 years. Before that, he was a longtime foreign correspondent for The Associated Press.

He chronicled his transcontinental bicycle journey in an Internet journal called Jim's Bike Blog, which he continues to produce, with musings on cycling, books, writers, Americana, Texana, travels, trivia and other stuff as it pops into his head.

The link to the blog is: <http://jims-bikeblog.wordpress.com/>. Or go to Google and type in: Jim's Bike Blog.

Editor's pick for Porch Tree winner

Melissa Kohouts, 2242 Mistletoe Blvd., cut down this imperfect perfect tree on a friend's farm and gave out similar trees to her entire block and beyond. We love the retro lights and the Charlie Brown-ish of it all. Thanks to everyone who put a tree on their porch.

We heard an elf dropped off cookies to everyone with a porch tree.



Letter from the president

By Jeff Davis

"The best laid schemes of mice and men go often askew," wrote the Scottish poet Robert Burns.

Just ask City Councilman Joel Burns. He was elected in good economic times, when urban drilling for natural gas wasn't on the radar screen.

What a difference a few years make! All Fort Worth neighborhoods are affected to some extent by the economy and drilling.

City services are fewer and costlier. And neighborhoods face the uncertainty of their quality of life because of the environmental impact of drilling and the certain effects of additional truck traffic.

The MidTown project is still coming along, although it, too, is affected by the difficulty of financing. The city has approved the final site plans, the developer has obtained tax increment financing incentives and the equity is in place. But finding a lender willing to finance two hotels in this economic environment is daunting.

The project is still moving forward though with the retail piece under contract and the office pad site very close to being under contract as well.

Like many of you, I continue to wonder what, if anything, will really happen! But, the Raymond Group, the developer, is making every effort to

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MHA Meetings and Events

MH neighborhood meetings:
Feb. 16 at 7pm at Jeff Davis' house, 2325 Mistletoe Drive.
Other meeting times: May 18, August 17, and November 16.

Stock Show & Rodeo
Through Feb. 7
817-877-2400

Craft and Vendor Trade Show
Feb. 13
972-748-2167,
www.vendorblenders.com

The Art of Necessity
Feb. 13
Log Cabin Village
817-392-5881
www.logcabinvillage.org

Bass Hall performances:

* An Acoustic Evening with Merle Haggard and Kris Kristofferson, Feb. 17, 817 212-2400
* Band of the Irish Guards/ Royal Regiment of Scotland, Feb. 22, 817 212-4325
* Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, Feb. 23, 817 212-4325
* TAO: The Martial Art of Drumming, Feb. 24, 817 212-4325

Cowtown Marathon

Feb. 27, 817 735-2033
Race begins in Sundance Square and laces through Fort Worth neighborhoods.
www.cowtownmarathon.org

Letter from the president, cont.

From previous page

finalize the financing, so let's hope that something works out soon.

The next neighborhood meeting will be Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at 2325 Mistletoe Drive. The other meetings for the year will be May 18, Aug. 17 and Nov. 16.

The committee on developing a better entrance to the neighborhood, headed by Mike Danella, continues to meet. Just the other day, he had a meeting with the principal architect for Gideon & Toal, who indicated that he would do much of the upfront design and research work at no cost and develop a budget and phasing approach to any improvements.

Apparently, the right of way adjacent to our neighborhood is owned by the Texas Department of Transportation, and there are a couple of large water mains in this right of way that will complicate any plans. But the committee will move forward on this important capital project.

YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS MAY BENEFIT FROM NEW 2010 TAX LAW CHANGES.

If you're looking for tax-free opportunities for retirement, now is a great time to talk because tax law changes have created new reasons to consider converting to a Roth IRA, including:

- No income limit on conversions
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Call today to discuss how this opportunity may benefit you.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.



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Yard of the month: 2333 W. Magnolia Ave.

The yard of the month award for February goes to Barbara Barnes at 2333 W. Magnolia Ave.

When Barbara was called to see if she would accept the honor, she exclaimed, "Are you sure you have the right house?" It's true that the winter months are not the prettiest or most colorful times for yards, but we assured her that, yes, we did have the right house.

Barbara's home is distinguished by its neatness and its sculptural quality. She gives credit to her longtime yardman, Frank, for its design and care.

Her home is a cream-colored bungalow topped with a red tile roof. Its squared shape is juxtaposed with the half-circle front porch and steps capped with a rounded awning. More geometric shapes appear in the elongated octagonal windows on either side of the door, and the casement windows. The driveway is inset with patterned brickwork echoing the roof color.

A mature Chinese pistachio bordered with liriope grows near the curb. Tree-sized yaupon hollies of different heights frame the home, and neatly manicured



waxed-leafed ligustrum, dwarf yaupon hollies and Burford holly, and Chinese fringe plants, all precisely trimmed, fill the front flower beds. Variegated liriope provides contrast at the edge of the beds. Crape myrtles and red-tipped photinia add interest at the sides of the house. Two pots of holly are on either side of the steps.

Yes, Barbara, your house is deserving of the honor. We appreciate your and your yardman's efforts to beautify our neighborhood. Thanks also to Calloway's Nursery for awarding a gift certificate to our winner each month.



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9/05

Hanging basket salad

By Dottie Guffey

Treat yourself to a loose leaf lettuce salad from a hanging basket -- even from a window box, wine crate or little red wagon.

You'll need a package of mesclun seeds (that include red leaf lettuce), sphagnum moss sheets, wire hanging basket and organic potting soil. Line the wire basket with sheets of sphagnum moss and fill it with the soil.

Sprinkle the seeds directly on top of the soil as lettuce roots require only a few inches of soil. Keep the soil and moss moist by misting daily. It also likes to be put out in the rain.

Keep the basket of lettuce above 50 degrees. (Bring indoors when another freeze comes along.) If you wish to leave the salad outdoors, wait until four weeks before the last freeze to plant. No fertilizer is necessary.

When the lettuce matures, snip the leaves with scissors. Enjoy the fresh crisp lettuce with cherry tomatoes, berries and garnish with sunflower seeds, and grated or crumbled cheese (I like Gorgonzola) and your favorite fruity salad dressing.

February gardening tips:

1. Clear garden of spent plants.
2. Severely prune roses to healthy stems of about six inches.
3. The old wood produces the wisteria flowers, so trim the scraggly nodules from the main lead vines so they will put on a beautiful show late in the winter or early spring.



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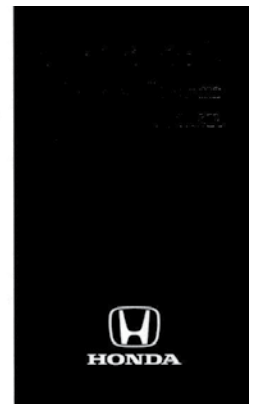
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Join the new Mistletoe Heights e-mail list

By Richard Yantis

Thanks to M.H. Webmaster Scott Ewing, the neighborhood e-mail list has moved to a new platform.

This new service eliminates the previous restriction on the number of e-mails that could be sent. It also has other advantages: When replying (using "reply," not "reply-all") to an e-mail, the response will be sent only to the original sender. To send a response back to the entire neighborhood list, simply use "reply-all."

To filter out the large amount of spam that e-mail lists can attract, we use volunteer neighborhood e-mail monitors. The previous service placed that load solely on our monitor in past years, Laurie McCoy. The new service allows us to have volunteer monitors to spread the load and reduce delays if one monitor is unable to get e-mail for several hours or days. Our new e-mail list coordinator is Richard Yantis. The other monitors are Karen Parrish and Jeri Jo Blackmon.

To post an e-mail to the new list, use this address: residents@mistletoeheights.com. You must be a member of the list to send e-mail to the list.

To subscribe to the mailing list, go to www.mistletoeheights.com, click on "Email List" and follow the instructions. If you were a member of the previous e-mail list, you should have received an invitation via e-mail and are probably already signed up. If you're unsure whether you are subscribed, go through the subscription steps and the service will either sign you up or tell you that you're subscribed. Before your subscription

is final, you'll be asked to provide your name and address to limit the list to just our neighbors.

Be aware you may need to add residents-bounces@mistletoeheights.com to your address book so that the incoming e-mails are not treated as spam.

Here are the current guidelines for the Mistletoe Heights e-mail list:

What: MH Email Distribution List (residents@mistletoeheights.com).

Purpose: The e-mail distribution list is used for announcements, emergencies, lost pets, threats to life and limb, criminal activity, etc. It may be used for thoughtful, civil discussion of neighborhood issues.

Moderator: The e-mail list is not direct delivery, but rather has one or more moderators. The moderators look at each incoming e-mail and distribute it to a set of guidelines.

Replies: When "reply-all" is used, the reply will be sent to the whole list (through a moderator). When an individual reply to the sender is used (not a "reply-all"), the reply is sent to the individual sender only and is not sent to the whole list, and is not even seen by the moderators. (Note that this is different from the way the previous info@mistletoeheights.com e-mail system worked.)

Guidelines:

- ✓ No political messages.
- ✓ No religious messages.
- ✓ 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."

- ✓ No negative messages about neighbors.
- ✓ Discussion on neighborhood issues should be civil and respectful. Each e-mail should have a purpose in improving our neighborhood, moving a discussion forward, not just "piling on" to a point that has been made. It shouldn't be used for "venting" frustration in the absence of a positive contribution to an issue.
- ✓ The moderator can ask a submitter to re-word a message to make it acceptable.
- ✓ When responding to an individual's request (such as a painter or plumber, etc.), respond directly to the requestor. After the requestor has received the responses, they may then send a note back to the list summarizing the responses in a single email, so all may benefit.
- ✓ Members may be removed for violation of the above guidelines.
- ✓ The moderator has final say on what is sent out. These are only guidelines. The moderators may use their judgment in stepping outside the guidelines if they consider it in the neighborhood's interest.
- ✓ The moderators may adjust these guidelines over time to improve the list's benefit to the neighborhood, and we ask for our neighbors' patience as we do so. Comments may be sent to moderator@mistletoeheights.com.

Free Neighborhood Ads

Garage apartment available Feb. 1. Contact Jeri Jo Blackmon for more details at JeriJo@Charter.net or 817-923-4393.

If you are interested in participating in or donating to The Presbyterian Night Shelter's Operation Move Out, please contact Heather White at 817-632-7415 or hwhite@pns-tc.org

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Treasurer's report

Sent in by Jeri Jo Blackmon

INCOME

Advertising Income - Newsletter	3,264.00
Dues	5,346.00
Interest Income.....	6.38
Total Income	8,616.38

EXPENSE

Bank Charges.....	4.41
Christmas Party - 2008.....	200.71
Christmas Street Lite Decor.....	371.75
Easter Egg Hunt.....	215.92
Halloween	50.00
July 4th.....	579.14
Lily B. Clayton	95.00
MHA Entry.....	64.86
Newsletter Expenses	5,259.01
Water Expense - Newby & Berm.....	2,360.21
Total Expense.....	9,201.01
	-584.63

The bank account balance at 12/31/09 was \$10,804.03.



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