



The Mistletoe Express

A Publication of Historic Mistletoe Heights

www.mistletoeheights.com

August 2006



Jim Bradbury

Letter from the president

Ding-dong the batch plant is dead. I'm sure that you've seen by now that Sunmount Corp., at long last, has withdrawn its request for a concrete batch plant at Vickery Boulevard just down the hill.

At least we have to give them credit for being stubborn and testing just how far two neighborhoods will go to oppose a common threat.

You'll recall that Sunmount was offered alternative sites when this dispute first arose. They declined and indicated that they would see this permit application through. The hard work and determination of our neighborhood, Berkeley Place, the office of Councilwoman Wendy Davis, the office of state Rep. Lon

(Continued on page 3)

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

August 15, 7:00 pm

Zoo Education Center

The developers doing the project East of Jerome will also be there to present their plans and answer questions.

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NO BATCH PLANTS NEAR MISTLETOE HEIGHTS (BUT FOR HOW LONG?)

By Jim Peipert

If you might have missed the news during this torrid summer, the neighborhood has prevailed in its fight with Sunmount Corp. over placement of a concrete batch plant near the intersection of Forest Park and Vickery boulevards.

Here's a recap of the news, as reported by the office of Wendy Davis, our District 9 City Council representative, and the Star-Telegram:

In a June 5 letter to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Roanoke-based Sunmount

withdrew its application to establish the batch plant.

The plant would have been used to mix sand, gravel and cement to make concrete for use in the widening and rebuilding of Rosedale Street.

But residents of Mistletoe Heights and neighboring Berkeley Place objected to the plant because of the prospect of harmful particulate matter being released into the air, noise and increased truck traffic on Forest Park Boulevard.

(Continued on page 6)

Pros and cons of the historic property tax exemption *By Heather White* (Page 4)



Summer is here, and it seems that things are just slowing down a bit. I am aware that there have been some code enforcement complaints about properties east of Jerome. While I have not heard anything official, it looks as though some lots have been mowed, and some debris has been removed from the lots. Remember that having grass or weeds over 12" in height can

illness. Watch the heat-humidity index, don't rely just on the temperature to determine if it's too hot for you.

Drink enough water, and avoid the sun if possible. Also keep an eye on children and pets, and make sure that they are getting enough water.

City liaison report
Mike Windsor

result in a fine and fees in excess of \$2,200. You can report high grass or weeds, or any suspected Code violation, to the Code Compliance Department at 817-392-1234.

Contact me at
(H) 871-927-8944,
(W) 817-377-0060,
or mdwindsor@charter.net

The City would like to pass on a number of summer safety reminders:

Slow down when driving on residential streets, especially at night. Children and pets often play in or near residential streets at night.

Have an adult watch children who are swimming. Drowning is a leading cause of accidental deaths among children in the summer.

Be careful about putting out bulky trash that might attract children. Appliances and furniture should have doors removed.

Watch for heat-related illness. Too much color in your face and too little color in your face can both be signs of heat-related



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(President's Letter - Continued from page 1)

Burnam and a few who gave far more time than they had, including Deb Nyul, Tom Richey, Randy Means and Phil Weston, all resulted in Sunmount giving up on what is an otherwise lock-dead-cinch permit for most contractors.

Special credit goes to Mr. and Ms. Mendoza, who remained stalwart supporters for all of us, even though the Mendozas tragically learned that they will lose their home to the Southwest Parkway project.

The statutes and rules in this area are heavily tilted in favor of industry and against citizen opposition. That makes this victory not only remarkable for our neighborhoods but a real accomplishment in the greater realm.

We have had several meetings with the city of Fort Worth about the need for more citizen involvement and participation in the process of locating batch plants. More batch plants will be coming when the parkway construction starts. Give yourself and all of those dedicated parents and grandparents who came to the meetings to participate in the process a pat on the back. At a time when there are good reasons to doubt whether getting involved will make a difference, this shows that it works and it works well.

If you read the minutes of the last meeting, you know that a Nominating Committee has been appointed to select a slate of neighborhood officers for fall elections. Both Tom Richey and I are stepping down at the end of our terms. I've really enjoyed the nearly two terms that I've served as president.

I love this neighborhood and how different we all are. There's great glue here holding all of us together. Fortunately, in the last two years many great volunteers have come forward to take on responsibility with the neighborhood. It's time for a couple of new leaders to step into the officer roles and take us further. Please give some thought, and when the voice tells you that you don't have time, know that you do. It doesn't take all that much time.

More important, the rewards are well worth the time that you do spend. True, having a Tom Richey as vice president makes it all easy, but the key is dividing responsibility. Be it known that I'm living proof that a person with a radio face and

a newspaper voice can still make it as president of the neighborhood. We're on a great roll and we need to keep it going. As we experience more and more development in our area, good leadership will be a necessity.

Tom Richey has submitted the following letter regarding his decision to step down and his offer to continue in a limited role with neighborhood e-mail and the Web site.

Friends & neighbors,

After due deliberation and lots of thought, I've found that there just are not enough hours in the day to do all of the things I have to do.

Since April, I've been involved in a work-related project that has eaten up most of the time I can afford, and will be continuing for some time into the future. As a result, my neighborhood involvement has decreased considerably.

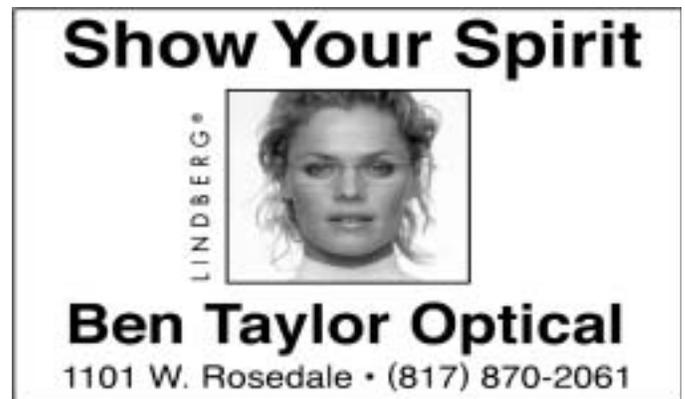
After three years as VP, of which I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute (well, almost every minute, maybe even almost every other minute), I really cannot remain past the current term.

We have dealt with some major issues over that time. I would like to say that the difficult times are behind us, but the pragmatic Tom says they are not — I know there's more to come.

So I would like to suggest that someone step up and take on the task and volunteer for the November elective process. We have an enormous amount of talent and vitality within the neighborhood. It's time for that vitality to be productive.

I will not be able to continue as an officer in the Association, but I would like to continue dealing with the neighborhood e-mail distribution list (even though I can only administer it during the late-evening hours), and I would be willing to operate as the neighborhood interface to the Web page (unless we have somebody who would like to take on that chore, that is...).

And, as past officers have often said, "I'll see you around the neighborhood."



Pros and Cons of the Historic Property Tax Exemption

By Heather White

After my last newsletter article, all the questions I received had to do with my passing mention of having gotten a tax freeze, so I thought I'd write about that this month.

My experience seems to indicate that there may be both pluses and minuses to doing this. I won't know until the 10 years are up what the total benefit will be, but I calculated the first year that I would save \$600-plus over the course of 10 years. Because my property value has continued to rise, it will be more than that.

Unfortunately, about half a dozen entities tax our property. The city of Fort Worth tax (not the Fort Worth school district tax) is the one that gets frozen, and it's about the smallest of those in terms of the bite it takes.

When your work is verified and the tax freeze takes effect, you still pay property tax to the city for the next 10 years. But the property value you're taxed on by that entity reverts to the value in the year prior to the year in which you applied, and it stays frozen there for 10 years. Your property tax to the several other entities continues on as though nothing had happened.

Once you get a tax freeze, you're required to "reapply" for it annually. All this involves is the Tarrant Appraisal District sending you a confusing one-page form and you filling it out and sending it back before the deadline. There's always plenty of time, and even though I'm never sure that I've done it right, I've never had a problem. Perhaps they just want you to demonstrate that you're still alive and kicking.

There's no disadvantage in applying for the tax freeze. And if you're thinking about it, I'd recommend applying this year in order to lock in last year's property value, both for the frozen amount and the amount you need to spend to get the freeze.

According to Fort Worth's Web site,

this is "30% or greater than value of property." What this really means is 30 percent of the improvements portion of last year's property value (even though the land portion gets frozen too). That way, you can continue the process at any point in the future, as long as you still own your property.

What I did was put together my 10-year plan and get the whole thing approved at once, because I wasn't sure what I'd work on first. At the time, city staff required a certificate of appropriateness (COA) for this. Now, you only need one under the same circumstances that you'd need one anyway as the owner of designated property.

You get the greatest benefit, of course, if your property is undervalued when you apply for the freeze. In my case, I applied for the freeze the year that I bought my house under the previous owner's property value, which then doubled the next year.

My recollection is that my frozen property value is from the year I applied, but, currently, "pre-renovation value" is being interpreted as last year's value, according to Julie Lawless, the city's preservation officer. This is true whether you apply before or after doing the work — the value is last year's. So if you apply this year,

2005 values will be used. The only exception: If your 2006 valuation is lower, 2006 values would be used.

Once the freeze is in place, if your property value (land and/or improvements) ever drops below the frozen level for any reason (for example, fire or a successful valuation protest), just contact Historic Preservation Planning (Julie's office) to have the frozen amount lowered.

This works even if your total valuation has increased. All that needs to happen for you to get an adjustment is for either land or improvements to drop below the frozen values. (You need to contact Historic Preservation because its staff doesn't track these values following the freeze.)

When I turned in my receipts and my
(Continued on the next page)

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(Continued from previous page.)

work was verified, I saw my property value increase (coincidentally?) by an amount that reminded me very much of the amount I was required to spend ... and which I had been so kind as to make public.

For a couple of years, there was an obvious disparity between my tax value and others on the street (see tad.org to compare your value with others nearby). The latest round of raised property valuations appears to have resolved this to some extent. As you might imagine, I protested the coincidental (?) increase to no

avail. As those of you who have done this know, the homeowner doesn't exactly have home-field advantage.

I've heard from neighbors who've built additions that can be seen from the street that it has sometimes taken TAD years to notice them. But TAD notices a tax freeze immediately and knows the formula under which you got it.

Although the tax freeze lasts 10 years, you can apply (for the same property) only once every 20 years. If you haven't applied yet but already have spent the required amount, you can count money spent in the last five years, but you must have

had a COA for any work that required it in order for it to count toward the total.

Once you apply, you have as long as you like to complete the work, and you don't ever have to finish the process (by turning in receipts for verification) if you don't want to.

To apply, you can contact Julie Lawless (contact information on the back page of this newsletter) for the appropriate forms.

If you have any questions about the process that I didn't answer in this article, please let me know, and I'll answer them in a future newsletter.

Lightning strike a Lesson for Life

By Jim Bradbury

There are moments, places and people in life that make time stand still. When it happens, you forget that you're breathing, fold into the moment and realize that your grasp on the world is forever changed. It could be a birth, hearing the word cancer or watching a child drive off to college. The shock will pass with the days, but the connection to that moment never will.

It has been hot, painfully hot. Last month, we decamped to a splendid small village in southern Colorado in search of cooler temperatures, green trees and the slow life of fly lines and ice cream. The small town had an arts festival and an afternoon picnic.

Quite by chance, a familiar face appeared at the town's park. A Mistletoe Heights teenager just happened to be in the neighborhood and walked up to us just like we were at the Triangle.

It just happens that this teenager was not only from Mistletoe, but is, in fact, regarded as someone on the order of Elvis and Harry Potter combined by my two young Hes-

sians, whom he baby-sits while yours truly and "she who must be obeyed" drift off in search of drinks and dinner. This was a genuine coincidence some 10 hours away from Mistletoe.

We spent the next two days fly fishing, hiking and eating peanut butter sandwiches, staring at mountains and snow. Late one afternoon, we loped back into town for an ice cream at the town market.

While getting our ice cream, one of the store clerks mentioned that two people had been struck by lightning the previous afternoon while climbing West Spanish Peak. Then our minds began to work on us. We remembered that, at the park, our friend had told us that he and a friend were planning to climb West Spanish Peak.

We did what humans tend to do – thought it must be someone we don't know. In the next few hours, we began to remember hearing ambulances that day. Within a few hours of thinking about it, we were consumed with knowing what happened and about the welfare of the boys we knew. But before we did, it struck us that it didn't matter really whether we knew the victims or not. Someone, some set of family and friends, was undergoing a traumatic set of events.

By luck, I remembered where our friend told us he was staying while in Colorado. We all got into the truck to drive up to the area where he was staying to satisfy our growing concern. We didn't know any more than that two boys had been struck by lightning and were pitching back and forth between miracles and grim realities.

We found the place where we thought they were staying

(Continued on page 7.)

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(Batch Plant - continued from page 1)

“The delays of this permit have made the need for this plant-specific permit economically impractical,” said Sunmount’s letter to the TCEQ. It was signed by Sunmount secretary/treasurer R. Allyn Brown.

The June 9 report by Star-Telegram environmental reporter Scott Streater said that Sunmount’s decision to abandon the permit request was proclaimed by some residents and elected officials as “a major victory for property owners’ rights.”

The TCEQ already had decided that Sunmount could establish the batch plant, which would have been on the north side of Vickery about 250 feet east of Forest Park. But the decision was formally appealed by a household within the “affected” area, a circle with a 440-yard radius from the plant.

It turned out that the “affected” homeowners, Apolonio and Donna Mendoza, don’t even live in Mistletoe Heights or Berkeley. They live in the Summit Avenue area north of Interstate 30.

The TCEQ agreed to a “contested case hearing” for the Mendozas. An administrative law judge was set to hear the case July 12 in Fort Worth. But because of withdrawal of the permit request, the hearing wasn’t necessary.

Councilwoman Davis, in a June 16 letter to the neighborhood about the batch plant, expressed “heartfelt thanks” to the Mendozas, “who, as affected parties, labored through the process of opposing the batch plant.”

“This was no easy feat and it took its toll on the Mendozas as they worked to achieve the goal of fighting this permit,” Davis wrote. “They did so with dignity and they have my

utmost respect and appreciation for their efforts.”

Davis also thanked “the individuals and neighborhoods who worked so hard to make this happen.”

“It is truly an occasion for you to pause and to be proud of your efforts,” she wrote. “Moreover, it is noteworthy that, in this instance, the process worked and did so in our best interest.

“One person, even an elected official, could not have accomplished this goal. It truly took the collective efforts of all of us joining together, being persistent and tenacious, to achieve such a positive outcome.”

Jim Bradbury, president of the Mistletoe Heights Association, told the Star-Telegram that when he got word of Sunmount’s decision, “I nearly

wrecked the car. It’s just unbelievable, a great thrill.”

He was quoted as saying he believes that residents wore down Sunmount officials by filing the appeal, hiring environmental consultants and vowing to take the case to state court if necessary.

“I think they [Sunmount officials] were betting and seeing if we would quit, and we didn’t,” Bradbury told the Star-Telegram.

Bradbury and MHA Vice President Tom Richey spearheaded the neighborhood effort against the batch plant, attending numerous meetings and keeping neighbors informed by e-mail and through the newsletter.

But Wendy Davis cautioned that the win against Sunmount prompted

(Continued on the next page)

NEW NEIGHBORS

Wyatt and Joy Teague

Please welcome these new neighbors to our grand, glorious and historic (not to mention beautiful) neighborhood:

2213 W. Rosedale South: the **Ali family**; welcome basket delivered April 12.

2212 Mistletoe Ave.: **Julie and Mark Mathis**; Jennifer, 16, and Aaron, 12; delivered April 12.

2319 Harrison Ave.: **Jeff and Becky Mendenhall**, delivered April 13.

2201 Harrison Ave.: **Michael Applewhite**; delivered April 13.

2212 Edwin St.: **Mike Mathews**; delivered April 13.

2320 Harrison Ave.: **Alex Vogel**; delivered April 14.

2115 Weatherbee St.: **Jeff Meyer**; delivered June 10.

2108 Weatherbee St.: **AI Witt**; delivered June 10.

2133 Weatherbee St.: **Chris Fowler**, delivered June 10

2217 W. Rosedale South: **Sally Taylor**; delivered June 10.

2304 Mistletoe Blvd.: **Allen Waggoner**; delivered June 10.

(Batch Plant - Continued from previous page)

for her only “a temporary sigh of relief.”

“As our city grows, so do our mobility needs,” she wrote in her letter to neighbors. “More roads are planned and others are in the works. You will need to make your voices heard in order to protect the neighborhoods we cherish so much.”

One major concern in the neighborhood was that a concrete batch plant at Vickery and Forest Park — if established — would likely remain in place for use in the Southwest Parkway project, which will take years to complete.

As Davis told the Star-Telegram: “I fear we’ll probably find ourselves in this same situation over and over where we’re David to the state’s Goliath.”

(Lightning - Continued from page 5)

and I said that I’d go up and check. Breath is never harder to find than walking up to a doorway, knowing that you may face a parent who has just lost a child.

I knocked and the parents came to the door and remembered me. I asked: Was the lightning ... was it the boys? They said yes, and my heart stopped.

They explained to me in great detail what had happened the day before and

showed me the clothes the boys had been wearing. The clothing and shoes looked like they had exploded. In all of these minutes, the telling of the story had diverted the parents from mentioning that both boys were indeed alive and being monitored in a hospital. When the blood had run completely from my face, the mother realized my predicament and said, “They’re fine.”

Unbeknownst to me at that time, both boys were giving interviews to newspapers, and radio stations, leveraging their position to obtain Popeye’s chicken from the nurses. You may have read this story in the Star-Telegram on July 4. If you did, you may have missed the connection. One of the boys was Ernie Elbert who lives on Mistletoe Drive with his parents and sister.

Ernie and his best friend, Zach O’Neal, set out that morning to climb West Spanish Peak — no small feat. They followed all of the rules and left early. When they hit the top they called Zach’s parents to announce their achievement.

The next call was Ernie screaming into the phone that Zach had been struck and that he was unconscious. What happened next has not left me and probably never will. Actually, the lightning strike was

so intense that it passed through Zach to Ernie, blowing out Ernie’s shoes.

Ernie, now alone on the top of a 13,000-foot mountain, began giving CPR to his best friend, after a very long prayer. Zach came back. Ernie then grabbed his friend and began walking him down the rock to try and reach help. Zach’s shoes had been destroyed so Ernie gave him his. Help did come and in short order the boys were taken to the hospital.

This is Ernie’s story and not mine. I feel a little guilty telling it, but what happened that day is something that everyone needs to think about. Sometimes you get into deep trouble even when you do everything right. When you do, knowing who you are and having a clear head is the only thing of value. Knowing a little CPR can mean everything and, last, there is no substitute for a friend.

Ernie, this one is for you. Zach was lucky to have you there and we’re lucky to have you here.

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Because of increases in the cost of material, the total out-of-pocket cost of the pavilion exceeded the budget. As a result, some planned amenities, such as picnic tables, benches, and more landscaping, were not purchased.

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On Dec. 21, 1878, Lake conveyed a part of the property to the Texas and Pacific Railway for construction of a railroad. The price was \$145 and the deed was filed and recorded on Jan. 29, 1879.

I've found many transactions that seem to give great insight into the development of our neighborhood, but they have referred to "Deed Records of Tarrant County, Texas," for the field notes giving the exact location of the transactions.

So give me a little time to do this research and I'll continue with the Mistletoe Heights history.
More anon.

Mistletoe Heights History

By Wyatt Teague

Part seven of a series

On Sept. 25, 1875, A.S. and M.A. Creswell gave power of attorney to attorney L.B. Creswell to handle the affairs connected with the disposal of their inherited property in the E.S. Harris survey.

From the information I've gathered, the first disposition was to Thomas W. Lake, which I discussed in part six of this series.



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Gardening with Patsy Slocum

A herb garden is easy to grow, and most can be used in flower beds, corner plantings or rock gardens. Some are perennial and some are annuals. They should be planted in a well-drained area similar to a vegetable or flower garden with the use of a slow-release fertilizer. Water as necessary, but mulch can be used to conserve moisture.

Mint: There are many mints, but spearmint is one of the most popular and easiest to grow. They like moisture and do best in the afternoon shade.

Basil: There are many varieties, but most common is sweet green. It's the herb to use in recipes that include tomatoes, and may be used with pork, eggs, squash and chicken. It's easy to grow from seed.

Chives: A member of the onion family, chives can be grown from seed or transplanted. Excellent as a topping for sour cream and omelets and as a garnish.

Cilantro: Known for its use in Mexican dishes, it can be purchased in the produce section of the grocery store. It's

easily grown from seed, which can be sown every few weeks for a steady supply of young leaves.

Dill: Very easy to grow from seed, and will become a pest weed if allowed to go to seed in the garden.

Lemon balm: This is a member of the mint family and can be started from seed, cuttings or roots. It also can become a pest, so keep it contained. It's good with fish.

Rosemary: This is a bush that can grow to four feet tall. Very strong fragrance, but

Area herbs for fall

it can be used with meat dishes and chicken. Cuttings can be used as fragrance in small bowls around the house.

Marjoram: This is kin to oregano, but more delicate and with a sweeter favor. Use in any dish that would take oregano or sage.

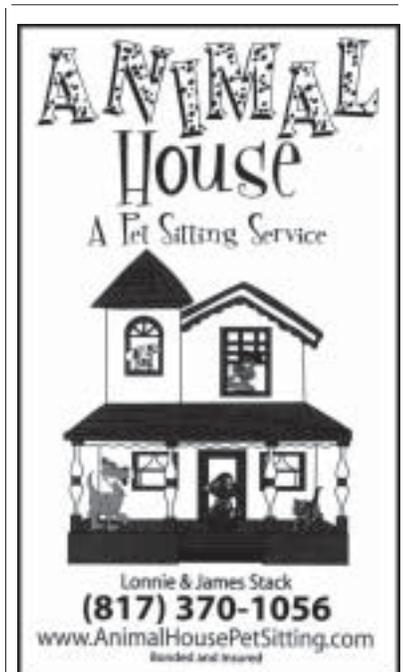
Oregano: What we would commonly use in Italian or Greek recipes. It's good with meats, in stuffing, etc. Best used dried.

Parsley: It's used as a garnish, and can also be used in a sauce for grilled meats.

Sage: A durable landscape plant in our area and very drought-resistant. Dried leaves can be used in recipes, but most used in stuffing.

Thyme: It can be used in flower beds and as a landscape accent. It goes well in meat dishes, chicken and fish. Cajuns use it in gumbo. It should be a basic for every herb garden.

Happy gardening!



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■

This morning we found a green parakeet perched on the hood of our car at 2315 Mistletoe Blvd. We put her in a cage and fed and watered her. She was very hungry and she must be someone's pet.

If anyone is missing one please call or email.

Linda Davis 924-9123

Subject: three kittens, 4 wks, and tame need good home

A friend of mine has been carefully taking care of four kittens after their mother disappeared. My friend and her husband have been feeding, holding and keeping the kittens in a baby pack. They are going to Germany for two weeks and I volunteered to keep the kittens and try to find them good homes. (We have decided to keep one.) Please let me know if you or anyone you know is interested in a precious pet.

Carol Benson cbenso29@msn.com

Subject: In search of a home

These two healthy, female, blue-eyed kittens are in need of a home. If you or someone you know wants one or both, please let me know right away.

Jean Tant jtant@flash.net

Subject: Need cleaning person

I constantly get requests for cleaning services and have not been able to find someone reliable. Does anyone know a good cleaning person that has transportation, their own cleaning supplies and speaks at least some English? I have three jobs waiting for them.

Dave Stovall Office (817) 921-3204
Cell (817) 919-7731

Subject: Texas Hunter Safety Course

Hello, my name is Robert Bonilla, and I am in need of someone to help me with Texas hunters safety course. possibly an eagle scout, scout leader or anyone who could help me get the certification within the next month, time is not on my side. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Rob Bonilla 817-247-5677

All

I received a call at home from Bob Penn, the developer for the group that is working East of Jerome. They have talked with various representatives at the City and have also traveled our neighborhood taking pictures of styles that may be used in the plans. They have about half of the planned lots purchased. They are seeking input and exchange with the neighborhood regarding re-zoning to single family and for historic district issues. I advised them that the best way

to go about this was to arrange a place, possibly the Zoo Education Center and schedule a meeting so anyone in the neighborhood who wanted to come and be involved could do so. As soon as I hear back from them, I will advise. He also told me that there may be an assisted living facility put in near Jerome and the Blvd.

Jim D. Bradbury

E-Chat



All

One of those situations has arisen again where we need the help of the greater neighborhood. In the last week a concentration of homeless/transients have been staying around the 2200 block of Harrison, possibly at the casual invitation of a resident. As you can imagine this has turned into a bigger and bigger problem each day. So far, problems have included public drinking, urinating on lawns and yards, littering and late night yard parties. Many calls have been made to the FWPD but because the homeless explain that they have been invited, the police cannot take much action unless laws are being broken. There have been a few arrests, but the persons show back up after a couple

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of hours. This is completely unacceptable. The more monitoring and police reports the better. So as you are traveling the neighborhood, please drive by this block and if you see anything suspicious, please call the NPO at 817-991-8473 or the non emergency number at 817-335-4222. When you call, please request that an officer appear and if you do not want to leave your name you do not have to do so. This is something that in the end impacts all of us so let's help our friends on Harrison solve this problem.

Jim Bradbury

Subject: Re: concern for unsightly property...

This is probably a good time to mention that we need to get going on getting a Citizens On Patrol group put together. While I doubt it would solve the situation, we could alert people who are patrolling to that specific address. They would call in any violations or suspicious activity they observe. If anyone is interested in joining a Citizens On Patrol group, whether you have completed the training or not, please contact me at mdwindsor@charter.net or work at (817) 884-2826 or home at (817) 927-8944.

We tried to get a group going last year but the effort stalled. After the initial training is completed, you can volunteer as many, or as few, hours a month as you want.

Debra Windsor

Subject: Heat Wave Slows City Garbage and Recycling Collection

North Texas' record-breaking heat wave is causing a lot of things to move a little slower these days, including the City of Fort Worth's pick up of garbage, brush and recycling items. But officials of the city's Environmental Management Department report that the slow down in pick-ups by Waste Management, the city's collection contractor, should be resolved shortly.

Environmental Management Department officials say that the prolonged heat has forced the contractor to take longer than usual to service residents on some routes because it is causing collection trucks and their hydraulic equipment to malfunction. As a result, some collection routes are requiring two days instead of one day to complete. Waste Management is addressing the delays by adding more trucks to their collection service. If garbage, recycling or yard trimmings is not collected on the scheduled day of service, residents should contact the city the day after their normal collection day to report the missed pick-ups.

Residents can contact the city's Customer Service Center by calling 817-392-EASY (3279) or by E-mailing

the center at Trash@fortworthgov.org. Normal operating hours for the center are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

"Heat that is this severe usually affects many types of machinery and motor vehicles. The trash and recycling collection trucks are no exception," said Brian Boerner, director of the Environmental Management Department. "Most of our residents will not see any change in their service. But we know that it will create a minor inconvenience for some residents, so we are working with Waste Management to get this situation resolved as quickly as possible and to return the collection system to its normal schedule."

Gary L. Nichols
Attorney At Law

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To the Editor & Mistletoe Heights neighbors:

Warning Neighbors!!! People are residing in the interior part of Mistletoe Heights on the block of 2200 Harrison Ave. that gives the appearance of homeless behavior. It's very disturbing when you hear your fellow neighbor complain about catching someone urinating on their front porch and wonder where this could have come from. After observing actions performed by these people for a couple of weeks such as: partying very late at night, sleeping outdoors around this house and witnessing the police presence, you begin to wonder where this is going and how can you remove it from your neighborhood. Any suggestions pertaining to a resolution to this annoyance would be greatly appreciated.

Name withheld

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MEETING NOTICE



SH-121T (Southwest Parkway)
Citizens' Advisory Group Meeting

Date:

Monday, August 21, 2006

Time:

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location:

Redbud Hall at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd.

For more information, please contact City of Fort Worth Project Manager Bryan Beck at (817) 392-7989 or Randi Allison at (817) 392-8425.

For updates on this project visit www.sh-121t.org

If you would like to receive this notice via e-mail or would like to be removed from this mailing list, please contact Randi Allison at (817) 392-8425 or via e-mail at randi.allison@fortworth.gov with your request.

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Yard of the Month: 1204 Buck Avenue

By Stephanie Monks and Lorri Kendrick



Photo: Jim Peipert

The Yard of the Month title for August goes to Bruce and Betsy Horn at 1204 Buck Ave.

The Horns moved into the house in 1987 and quickly went to work replanting and restoring the abandoned yard. Short on funds, but long on desire, Bruce and Betsy lovingly assembled a collection of plants from wherever they could find.

At first glance, you'll find a well-kept bungalow with a nice, neat yard. Closer inspection reveals a devout belief in Texas landscaping.

The year the Horns moved in, their son, Andy brought home a pinecone he found at Lily B. Clayton Elementary School and planted it. The tree now towers over their driveway.

The beautiful red stepping stones on the right side of the house were gathered from the side of the road in the Davis Mountains of West Texas. Bruce made a brick walkway and trimmed the plant beds from bricks he found.

In the plant beds, you'll see many native Texas plants, such as nandina, spirea, and honeysuckle. Floribunda roses grow along the fence.

An established purple wisteria blooms outside their bedroom window, growing from seeds gathered from a vacant house down the street. The beds are filled with perennials given to the Horns over the years – daffodils, native gladioli, iris, amaryllis, spider lilies, day lilies, carnations (dianthus), Easter lilies, belladonna lilies, columbine, coneflowers and summer snowflake. Bruce does his own composting and uses the rich soil in the flowerbeds.

On the right side of the yard grows a volunteer pink crepe myrtle. On the left side grows a volunteer redbud that appeared a few years after the crepe myrtle. Betsy "wished" both plants into existence by hoping for a crepe myrtle on the right and for "something" on the left.

Walk from the front yard to the side gate, pass through the gate and you'll find yourself amid a towering bed of larkspur and poppies. When those die out, Bruce plants a vegetable garden.

Also in the back yard is a 20-foot bois

d'arc tree planted from horse apples gathered at the Log Cabin Village. The back yard sanctuary is complete with a fountain and pond (with three goldfish the neighborhood raccoons don't know about). Peaceful greenery is found throughout — ferns, elephant ears, wandering jew, very old crepe myrtles, turks cap, ajuga, mondo grass and a treasured pink and yellow lantana.

The Horns have tried many varieties of plants over the years. Bruce even made a detailed sun/shade map of the property, charting the course of the sun across the yard for a year. Bruce believes gardening is for the future, but we neighbors can enjoy their yard today.



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Neighborhood Classifieds

Part Time Nanny needed: We are looking for a reliable and loving nanny to care for our sweet baby boy in our home in Mistletoe Heights. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Must love babies, songs, books & games, and tolerate diaper changes. Experience and references a must. Please call Nikki Rustad at 817-657-6742.

Early Childhood Music:

Mistletoe Musikgarten offers classes in SW Fort Worth for children from birth to age 7. With 9 years of experience, certifications in early childhood music, and a UNT music degree, I love sharing the joy of music. Call or e-mail for info about upcoming classes (year round). Carol Spencer at 817.927.3240 or carolingfw@sbcglobal.net.

Babysitter: Paschal student with CPR training available to babysit evenings and weekends. Call Jenny at 817-727-3285.

Dreaming of a lush and Texas-tough landscape? Wanting to relax and unwind enjoying the flight of butterflies and hummingbirds? Seeking the aromatherapy of a night-blooming garden? Contact Alexia Strout-Dapaz at either (817) 921-4820 or at astroutdapaz@yahoo.com

Estate Appraisals and

Liquidation Service Certified appraiser with the International Society of Appraisers, in business in Mistletoe Heights for over 10 years. Terri Ellis, Mistletoe Estate Sales, 926-9424.

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Mary Kay Cosmetics

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

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.

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Ads are free for Mistletoe Heights residents and may be submitted to the editor. The deadline is the 20th of each month. Ads must be renewed monthly except for service classifieds (i.e.: babysitting, mowing, etc.), which are renewed yearly. If you would like to renew, discontinue or update your ad, please notify the editor at 817-921-2120 or twoearsup@charter.net.

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| City of Fort Worth | 392-2255 | | www.fortworthgov.org |
| Police - Non-Emergency | 335-4222 | | |
| Garage Sale Permits | 392-7851 | | |
| Graffiti Abatement | 212-2700 | | |
| Lily B. Clayton Elementary | 922-6660 | | it.ftworth.isd.tenet.edu/116/ |
| Paschal High School | 922-6600 | | |
| Historical Preservation (Julie Lawless) | 392-8012 | julie.lawless@fortworthgov.org | |
| Southside Preservation Hall | 926-2800 | HallTess@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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| 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). | | | |
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| | Officer Leah T. Wagner | Officer Kirk Byrom | |
| | Office 871-8885 | Office 871-5471 | |
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