

The Official **Ryan Place Improvement Association**

NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 2005

Events Calendar

Jan. 17	RPIA Meeting 7PM Angel of Hope
Feb. 6	Lilly B. Clayton Benefit Auction
Feb. 21	RPIA Meeting 7PM Angel of Hope

Important Numbers

**Fort Worth Police
Department**
(non-emergency)
817-335-4222

NPO 8 on Magnolia
817-871-8885

Officer Andriotto
817-991-8478
817-998-0708 pager

Code Compliance
Officer Morris Carrejo
817-871-5397

Letter from the President

Good News and Bad News

First, the Good News!

Congratulations to all those involved in the **Candlelight Christmas Tour**. It was a great success. Early indications are that over 2500 people toured the homes. All the comments that I heard were extremely positive.

The best comment was that "it is not Christmas time until the Ryan Place Tour occurs. A grand thank you and congratulations to Brenda White and her committee members. They made it look easy even though it several long days and many hours to pull it off. Thanks also those who volunteered their homes for the tour. Each was beautiful in their own exceptional way. Thanks also to the kindness of our neighbors who opened their homes for the pre and post parties. These events added just the right touch of elegance and refreshment to the weekend events. And a big thank you to all those who volunteered as docents. These people added so very much to the experience. Without these hundred or so volunteers this would not have been the roaring success that it was.

The money raised from the tour will help with great neighborhood projects. A Congratulations and thanks to you all!

Duplex denied for S. Adams

A Board of Adjustment exemption to build an undersized duplex on a vacant lot was opposed by your President and neighbors of the property in December. A non-resident wanted to build

reporting period as presented by Officer Andriotto. Most of the crimes were burglary and theft and most likely came from perpetrators from outside the neighborhood. This makes it more important for us to limit the drive through traffic in our neighborhood. Non residential traffic increases the speed on

our streets, makes the neighborhood less safe, rapidly deteriorates the streets and brings unwanted litter. We must take action to stop this.

We had originally scheduled for Fort Worth Police Dep. Chief Curtis and Captain Ghilespi, Lt. Carpenter and Officer Andriotto at the next Association meeting, but due to MLK Holiday, they will not be attendance. We are planning on them

to be in attendance on February 21. Please mark your calendar, and bring your questions so we can all learn how to fight crime together. All residents of Ryan Place are welcome and encouraged to attend. See you Jan. 17, 7:00 at Angel of Hope Church.

Dan Roberts, President

Happy New Year!



on a vacant lot a building of inadequate size and without adequate parking. The structure gave no regard to the historical nature of our neighborhood. The vote was unanimous to deny the exemption.

Now, The Bad News

A 400% increase in Crime!

A 400% increase in crime occurred in this area from the September to the November

Letters to the Editor

Speak up and be heard! We want to know what's on your mind, and you think we can make Ryan Place even better! Please send your comments to c_flynn@swbell.net. Content may be edited for space.

Christmas Candlelight thanks

Dear Ryan Place Home Owners,

Thank you for all you do to make our community beautiful and safe. I appreciate especially the way you light your homes at Christmastime.

What lovely sight—to turn onto Elizabeth Blvd. and travel each street lifts my spirits and makes my heart glad to be able to enjoy such beauty in my own backyard.

We all should be grateful for being so blessed to live in such an environment, and express that gratitude by striving to make our community an example of faith that listens to our differences and calls us to visions to bring out the best in us—to be “better angels of our nature”! That’s a quote from Lincoln’s address to the New Jersey Senate in 1861 as he spoke of the struggle of “God’s almost chosen people.” (and I found it in Dr. Steve Shoemaker’s sermon of Nov. 14, 2004!) Just trying to impress you that this 90 year old can still read!

Happy New Year! May 2005 be the Best Year of Your Life! Best Wishes to All!

Dina Smith
2620 Ryan Place Drive

PS—Leave the lights up all year around—I can see the streets better! Thanks!

Traffic Problems

Dear Editor:

As many Ryan Place residents have noticed, there has been a traffic pattern change at the intersection of Berry Street and Cleburne Road. There is now a dual turn lane for eastbound traffic, and the



westbound traffic has been reduced to two lanes instead of three.

I would like to encourage Ryan Place residents to express their concerns about this change to our city councilman, Wendy Davis. Her office has taken comments and concerns and forwarded them to the appropriate personnel in the city of Fort Worth. However, there needs to be more input on this traffic change.

Within the first ten days of this traffic change, I had four near-collisions because drivers are not paying any attention to the changes.

Ponder the following questions when considering the traffic changes at this intersection:

1. What was wrong with the intersection? Was traffic flowing too smoothly?

2. Why has westbound traffic been basically reduced to one lane? This is due to the dual turn lane in conjunction with the parking available on the street just beyond the intersection.

3. How many times have you driven westbound on Berry Street and had the driver in the new turn lane only keeps going straight? More often than not, this has been the case. This basically creates a drag race because drivers are trying to get over to avoid colliding with the parked cars in front of Mama’s Pizza and other businesses along Berry.

4. Is there enough westbound traffic on Berry Street turning northbound onto Cleburne Road to justify a double turn lane? In more than ten years here, I have never witnessed a need for this. I would like to see the study that has justified this change.

Please be sure you voice your opinion on this traffic change. Ms. Davis can be contacted by email at district9@fortworthgov.org or by phone at 817-392-8809.

Mary Jackson
2929 Ryan Place Drive

Editor's note: Sounds like a perfect subject for discussion and how to get your opinion heard at City Hall. Let's talk about it at the next RPIA Meeting!



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New Resident!



Chris and Erica Flynn celebrate the birth of Natalie Faith, born November 4th, 2004. Born right here at home in Ryan Place! Mom and daughter are doing great!

The Writing is On the Wall, er the Fence...

BY MARIO PEREZ

After a recent late night up with our sick toddler, my wife and I awoke to discover our freshly-painted fence decorated with an even fresher coat of gang graffiti. I have been involved with graffiti abatement in the past and had always recoiled at the sight of spray-paint on the side of a fence or neighborhood garage. Our exhaustion did not help us to cope with the intense anger and sense of violation at seeing the length of our fence scrawled with gang signs.

I immediately called the police non-emergency line in order to file a report. Once connected, I was surprised and pleased to hear that an officer would be coming by our house. I thanked the operator and hung up knowing that it could be a while for the non-emergency call to arrive. Soon thereafter I made arrangements to have the fence repainted late that afternoon, thinking I would have plenty of time for the officer to arrive.

I waited all day and finally let the painters do their work after I snapped a few pictures of the graffiti. Later I learned that the phone operator would be reprimanded as there was no record of my call and I had been told incorrect information. The proper procedure would have been for a phone report and a visit by a gang intelligence officer to review the graffiti and take pictures. Gang graffiti often provides officers with a wealth of information including the identity of the gang, number of members, various boasts and threats to rivals.

The only problem, I soon learned, is that due to a number of factors graffiti unit officers are not available on the weekends. That would have left us in the awkward situation of having to

leave the graffiti on the fence through the weekend until Monday—an untenable proposition. As it turned out, the Gang Officer said that clear photos of the graffiti were a sufficient substitute for a personal inspection.

I wrote a letter with constructive suggestions to Chief of Police Ralph Mendoza and sent a copy to Councilwoman Wendy Davis. The response was immediate as I fielded a series of calls



from supervisors and the officer in charge of the Gang Unit. The first result has been that they decided to clarify the procedures for reporting graffiti, and that concise information would be included in an upcoming water bill. I have not heard anything on my suggestion to use Code Blue or other volunteers to handle the documentary photographs and personal visits on the weekends when the graffiti unit officers are not available.

For now, it is clear that the first step if you are a victim of graffiti is to call the non-emergency police number at (817) 335-4222. The next step is to ascertain whether gang intelligence officers are available to inspect the graffiti. In either case, it is wise to take your own photographs. Finally, you may report the incident to the Graffiti Abatement Program (GAP) to receive free paint at (817) 212-2700.

One thing is clear, one of our best weapons against the proliferation of graffiti is the proliferation of clear, concise, and correct information.

The Ryan Place Improvement Association Newsletter is published as a service to the residents of Ryan Place. Contents do not necessarily represent the views or endorsement of RPIA, its officers, or representatives. The Editor reserves the right to edit any material for publication. For Advertising Rates, see ad on back page. Send comments and questions to Chris Flynn: c_flynn@swbell.net.



SAVE THE DATE DON'T MISS IT!

TICKETS GO ON SALE
JANUARY 3, 2005

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
MARGARET JOHNSON AT
817.924.9748 OR tootandpuddle@sbcglobal.net

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Streets and Traffic Committee Update

Penny McCook, John Kline and Bart Bradford have initiated the Streets and Traffic aspect of the strategic plan that was presented to the Board of Directors in October for Ryan Place. The plan suggested that The RPIA should request the City to "mark" pedestrian crossings near the three (3) schools in the neighborhood immediately. We did this and it was received well by the city contact we spoke with about getting the proper markings for the three schools we have in Ryan Place. We emphasized that the school crossings were not properly designated and that it was a safety hazard for our children. We also need each neighbor's help with the drainage survey on the City of Ft. Worth's web site described below. Please go to the web site and complete the survey. <http://www.fortworthgov.org/forms/tpw.asp>

Drainage Survey

The Ryan Place area has many places along its streets that hold water when it rains. Have you noticed how the water stands in the gutter, sometimes for weeks, after a rain? This standing water is a safety and health problem and it is unsightly. The City Council has identified drainage issues as one of its top priorities and the Transportation/ Public Works Department is conducting a survey of drainage problems.

If you have water standing in the gutter in front of your house please contact the Transportation and Public Works staff at 817/392-6311 or go to the City's web site and follow the instructions of the survey form at <http://www.fortworthgov.org/forms/tpw.asp>

—John Kline

Ryan Place References

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Tour, please contact Dan Roberts:

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Third Annual Christmas Nativity Play a Success

BY RAINEY DUKES

Over 100 people gathered at 1100 Elizabeth Boulevard in December for the third annual Ryan Place Nativity Play. Neighborhood children entertained the audience with songs, a Christmas reading and the story of the Nativity, written and narrated by Ryan Place resident Mark Burrows. The recounting of the Christmas story was lovely, with animals telling their tale of Christ's birth.

Participants included Hunter, Catharine and Logan Baldridge, Luke Bauer, Grace and Emma Burrows, Marco and Isabella Campos, Zach Coe, Ava Crum, Joey, Annie, Elizabeth and Jackson Dukes, Jefferson and Andres Grove, Gabby and Grayson Guess, Nino, Emma and Danielle Hernandez, Bethany, Genevieve and Caleb Jackson, Alex, Emma and Michael Leaseburg, Daniel and Benjamin Morrow, Katie and Charlie Nesser, Kevin and Ryan Reische, and Kassi, Nikki and Noah Watson.

Hats off to these wonderful young people! They were outstanding! Thanks to all of the parents who supervised and helped get their family ready for the play. A special thanks to the following neighbors who contributed to the production: Patricia and Javier Rodriguez provided hay bales for the show, Brenda White, Mariann Taccia and Marcene Bauer provided hot cocoa and coffee, Victor Cruz and Angel of Hope Church provided sound equipment, and their sanctuary for practices. Gina Roberts brought cups and napkins and MANY neighbors brought cookies, including Mary Edwards, Jennifer Chapman, Susan Drake, Gina Roberts, Anita Daniel, Margaret Ritsch, Mary Ellen Nesser, Stasia Guess, Brenda White, Cindy Baldridge and Ann Grove. Donna Coe lent us a manger. Francisco Hernandez, Brenda White, Rene and Rick Harding and Sandy Brown gave a monetary contribution or stamps to the effort and Peggy Rush designed the invitations.

It was a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season in our special neighborhood. We hope to see you all next year at the show!



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Check out our Website!

Don't forget to check out our revamped Ryan Place web site.
www.historicryanplace.org. (or .com or .net will also work)

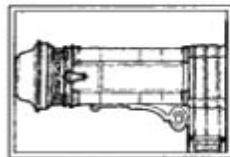
Thanks go to John Belknap and Cameron Crum, Robby Kyser, and Tim Aranki for their efforts.

The new site has links for the newsletter, a calendar of events, pictures, RPIA, a neighborhood lost and found, discussion topics, as well as many other things. The development is an on-going process and an interactive calendar and a real discussion forum for neighborhood issues is planned to keep everyone up to date and in the know. Suggestions are welcome, but please don't be offended if they don't make it. We don't want the site so cluttered it is hard to find what we need. Other than that, take a look and come back often to see what is happening in our neighborhood.



**Recent photos
from the Ryan Place
Street Dance!
Thanks Marcene!**





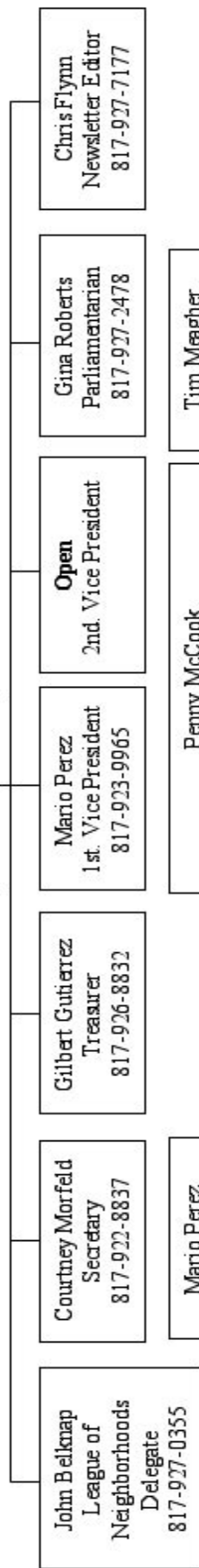
RPIA 2004-2005 Board of Directors / Volunteers

Ron Andriotto
Neighborhood
Police Officer
817-871-8993
M-817-991-8478

RPIA Mission Statement

To protect, promote and beautify Historic Ryan Place through resident, neighborhood and community involvement.

Dan Roberts
President
817-927-2478



RPIA Street Directors and Alternates

	Elizabeth Blvd.	Ryan Ave.	Willing Ave.	Sixth Ave.	Ryan Place Dr.	Fifth Ave.	South Adams	Livingston Ave.	College Ave.	Lipscomb St.	Alston Ave.
Mariam Taccia	Larry Keilberg	Penny McCook	Open	Angela Crum	Dawn Taft	Co-Directors	John Belknap	Open	Pat Ford		
817-921-9976	817-602-9584	817-207-0577		817-797-2605	817-923-1325	Sharon Clyde	817-927-0355		pafor@swbell.net		
Alternate	Alternate	Debra McStay		Alternate	Alternate	817-923-6434					
Cindy Clark	Raelyn Tucker	817-926-6799		John Nowland	Tom Ideman						
817-207-0649	817-846-2775			817-207-9956	817-921-0961						

RPIA Activity Coordinators and Alternates

	CCRP	Annual Chili	Annual Easter	Annual Garden	Swimming	Annual Street	Annual Croquet	Historical	4th Of July	Labor Day
Tree Lighting	Tour	Cook Off	Egg Hunt	Tour	Party	Dance.	Tournament	District	Parade	Garage Sale
Randy Downey	Brenda White	Heath Jackson	Mark & Kiki Jacob	Sandra Stimson	John Kline	Marcene Bauer	Chris Ebert	Mario Perez	Tim Meagher	Margaret Ritsch
817-927-0277	817-921-3305	817-922-0018	817-927-2269	817-922-0732	817-926-3034	817-926-2366	817-923-9965	817-923-1603	817-921-3414	

Please forward any changes to this document to Dan Roberts at DanLRoberts@aol.com or (817) 927-2478

10-26-04

Ryan Place Improvement Association
P.O. Box 11473
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