

RYAN PLACE

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

December, 2008 / January, 2009

www.HistoricRyanPlace.org

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President's Letter

As RPIA closes out 2008, I would like to thank all who have been so instrumental in the tremendous progress we have made as a neighborhood. During this year, we had significant impact on decisions made at City Hall and made substantial progress in several initiatives that will have a long-term positive impact on Ryan Place. Most importantly, we had phenomenal financial support of RPIA through our Sustaining Membership Program.

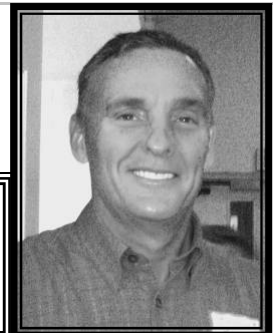
I was privileged to serve as RPIA President this year which gave me the opportunity to work with a great Board, City staff, and fantastic volunteers.

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of RPIA, and I am excited that I will be leading the organization during this milestone year. I am confident that the new Board will bring leadership, creative ideas, and a desire to make this 40th year another banner year for the organization. The Board is also composed of a mix of long-time and new residents which will make for an excellent team. Please consider helping these folks this year by volunteering to serve as a Block Captain, committee member or event helper.

Finally, this weekend's 25th anniversary of Candlelight Christmas in Ryan Place will bring thousands of visitors to the neighborhood. The countless hours spent by the CCRP Board, the fantastic tour home owners, and an army of volunteers will make this another great event. If you aren't a volunteer, it's not too late. If you can't volunteer, I encourage you and your friends to support the event by attending the tour. Tour proceeds will provide the funding to wrap up the Ryan Place streetlight project. Thanks to this event, and many others which have preceded it, by this time next year every block of Ryan Place will be lit by the familiar and classic streetlights!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

Keith Head



New Board Takes Office January 1, 2009

At the November general meeting, the fifty or so Ryan Place residents in attendance elected officers and Street Directors for 2009. The incumbent president, **Keith Head** was unanimously re-elected. New to the Executive Board are **John Kline** (1st Vice President), **Mariann Taccia** (2nd Vice President), **Kevin Prigel** (Treasurer), and **Olivia Flynn** (Secretary).

Members present from the various streets in Ryan Place also elected Street Directors. Several streets have new directors: **Deborah Martinez** (Elizabeth Boulevard), **Derek Arneson** (Lipscomb, Alston, Page), **John Filarrowicz** (College Avenue, Cantey Street), and **Murphy Parks** (Ryan Avenue). **Mary Shroe-**

der (5th Avenue) and **Mike Lindner** (Willing Avenue) were previously Alternate Street Directors and have "moved up" to Street Director positions. Those who maintained their Street Directorships are **Chris Ebert** (South Adams), **Lin Parham** (Ryan Place Avenue), **Cindy Baldrige** (6th Avenue), and John Belknap (8th, James, Stanley, and Livingston Avenues).

According to the terms of the revised By-laws, which were also approved at the November meeting, the Street Directors will choose their own Alternates as well as Block Captains for each block of their street. The new RPIA Board will assume its responsibilities on January 1, 2009.



**RPIA
Monthly
Meeting**

**Monday, January 19
6:30 p.m. Meet & Greet
7 p.m. Meeting**

RPIA Meeting

**Westside Unitarian
Universalist Church
901 Page Avenue
Meeting agenda at
historicryanplace.org,
Discussion Forum**

2009 RPIA Board of Directors

Officers

President	Keith Head	817-921-6721 keith.head@sbcglobal.net 214-435-1976
1 st Vice President	John Kline	817-922-0732 john.kline90@charter.net
2 nd Vice President	Mariann Taccia	817-921-9976 mariannt@hawkpci.net
Parliamentarian	Lana Campbell	817-210-2691 lanacamp@hotma.com
Secretary	Olivia Flynn	817-927-0075 mslvia@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Kevin Prigel	817-924-9924 kprigel@aol.com

Street Directors

5 th Avenue	Mary Schroder	817-921-5346 mps2745@att.net (To be announced)
5 th Avenue (Alternate)		
6 th Avenue	Cindy Baldrige	817-239-8969 cbaldrige_1@charter.net (To be announced)
6 th Avenue (Alternate)		
8 th /James/Livingston/Stanley	John Belknap	817-927-0355 johnbelknap@swbell.net
8 th /James/Livingston/Stanley (Alternate)		(To be announced)
Alston/Lipscomb/Page Streets	Derek Arneson	817-938-5007 derekarneson@hotmail.com
Alston/Lipscomb/Page Streets (Alternate)		(To be announced)
College Avenue and Cantey St.	John Filarowicz	817-233-5411 floorwax12@sbcglobal.net (To be announced)
College Avenue (Alternate)		
Elizabeth Boulevard	Deborah Martinez	817-894-5623 debanntcu@sbcglobal.net
Elizabeth Boulevard (Alternate)	Anita Daniel	817-924-3404 ad1508@aol.com
Ryan Avenue	Murphy Parks	817-927-4682 mhp@freese.com (To be announced)
Ryan Avenue (Alternate)		
Ryan Place Drive	Lin Parham	817-921-4027 rap32dds@aol.com (To be announced)
Ryan Place Drive (Alternate)		
South Adams Street	Chris Ebert	817-926-2366 cwebert@hotmail.com 817-319-2363
South Adams Street (Alternate)		(To be announced)
Willing Avenue	Mike Lindner	817-924-2485 george.lindner@dfps.state.tx.us
Willing Avenue (Alternate)		(To be announced)



The RPIA NEWSLETTER is delivered on the first Friday of each month (except January and July) to every home in Ryan Place. The NEWSLETTER is included in a plastic bag with the *Neighborhood Shopper* and is typically hung on your front door handle. If you do not receive a NEWSLETTER, please call **Olivia Flynn**, at **817-927-0075**, or any RPIA officer or street director so that we may get a copy to you. The NEWSLETTER is also posted online at <http://www.historicryanplace.org/RPIANewsletter.html>

RPIA NEWSLETTER

Advertising Rates

One month free when you prepay for 1 year.

Full Page: \$100	(8.5 x 11 inches)
Half Page: \$65	(8.5 x 5.5 inches)
1/4 Page: \$45	(4.25 x 5.5 inches)
Business card: \$25	(3.5 x 2 inches)
Announcement: \$15	(1.75 x 2 inches)

NEWSLETTER and advertising submission deadlines:

February Newsletter
Friday, January 23

Contact: rpianewsletter@yahoo.com

817-927-0075



Ah, the Good Old Days ..

Chris Ebert sent me an e-mail the other day, reminiscing — and promising more to come. We're looking forward to hearing all about it, Chris!

"I was newsletter editor when "cut and paste" meant just that! I did the writing, my secretary typed the articles and I did the paste-ing. Distribution was door-to-door and then we later mailed copies to each Ryan Place residence and to politically influential contacts.

I was also the RPIA president during some of that time. Late 1970's - early 1980's I believe. It was shortly after my editorial leadership that Dr. Neil Daniel, English Prof at TCU, took over the newsletter -- to everyone's relief.

Mary Jane went off to Rhode Island for school and was the foreign correspondent for the newsletter from 1988-1992. As I have said; I have a file of many old newsletters and still plan to write my '10 years ago, 20 years ago' column."

Important Numbers

Fort Worth Police Dept. 817.335.4222
(non-emergency)

NPO 8 on Magnolia	817.871.8885
Officer Andriotto	817.991.8478 817.998.0708 pager
Code Compliance	817.392.5158 Ext. 1804

A Candlelight Christmas in Ryan Place

Sign up to docent a shift and earn a free tour ticket (\$20 value)! Contact **Mary Schroder** at mps2745@att.net or **817-921-5346**; or **Mike Lindner** at george.lindner@dfps.state.tx.us, or **817-924-2485** to volunteer.

Additional Information:
HistoricRyan-Place.org
or
817-996-9996

Tour Hours
Friday, 12/5
6 to 10 p.m.
Saturday, 12/6
2 to 6 p.m.
6 to 10 p.m.
Sunday, 12/7
2 to 6 p.m.

The Majestic Homes of Elizabeth Boulevard Historic District 25th Anniversary Home Tour

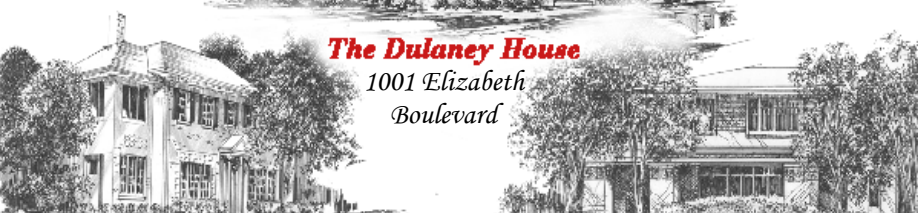


The Peak House
1209 Elizabeth Boulevard

The Armstrong House
1111 Elizabeth Boulevard



The Dulaney House
1001 Elizabeth Boulevard



The Stewart House
1411 Elizabeth Boulevard

The Harrison-Shannon House
1306 Elizabeth Boulevard

December 5th - 7th, 2008
presented by
A Candlelight Christmas in Ryan Place, Inc.

Information
Porch
1316 Elizabeth Boulevard
Hosted by:
Keith & Connie Head

Special Performances
at St. John's Episcopal Church
St. John's Episcopal Choir
Friday, December 5th, 6 to 6:30 pm

First Methodist Adoramus Chamber Choir
Saturday, December 6th, 6 to 6:30 pm

St. Johns Episcopal Church Tea Room and Arts & Crafts Fair
During tour hours.

Candlelight Christmas in Ryan Place (CCRP) is a non-profit organization that dedicates its proceeds from the holiday home tour to neighborhood projects. The first project that CCRP undertook was to restore the gates at 8th Ave. and Elizabeth Blvd. that were demolished in the 1950's. CCRP's current project is installing period streetlights throughout Ryan Place. Through a combination of tour proceeds and individual contributions, CCRP has raised over \$300,000 to purchase the streetlights and this will be the final year that tour proceeds will be dedicated to the streetlight project.

Since this is the 25th anniversary of the tour, it will be heavily promoted and we are expecting a very high attendance — perhaps more than 3,000 visitors. Another factor that will increase attendance is that for the first time all of the tour homes are located in the Elizabeth Boulevard Historic District. We need your help during the tour to present Ryan Place at its **best!**

Mariann Taccia
President, CCRP

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Rosa Cano
Administrator

OUR NEIGHBOR- HOOD'S NATIVITY PLAY



You are invited to join a group of Ryan Place kids for the seventh annual Ryan Place Nativity Play. The event will take place Saturday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. at 1100 Elizabeth Boulevard. This is not an R.P.I.A. sponsored event, but we are sending postcards to the entire neighborhood inviting them to the play and to join us for cookies and hot chocolate afterwards. Last year we had over 100 people participate in this fun tradition. **This year we are looking forward to having LIVE ANIMALS and lots of fun!**

We need the following things to make this happen:

- * **Kids of all ages to participate (call today to sign up)**
- * Guitar player to accompany us singing four short songs
- * A few bales of hay
- * Several dozen cookies
- * A can of coffee and hot chocolate mix
- * Cups and napkins
- * **Monetary donations to offset the cost of invitations and postage**

If you can help us make this happen, please call today; you can reach **Rainey Dukes** at **817/923-1165** or **817/366-3530**. Please pass this along to any Ryan Place resident that you think would be interested. **Help us celebrate Christmas in a truly special way. We look forward to seeing you there!**

Thank You, 2008 Board, for a Great Year!

A huge "Thank you!" and a round of applause for the 2008 Board members who served RPIA so admirable and are now moving on to other challenges and opportunities. **Barbara Tumlin**, who served as 1st Vice President, represented Ryan Place in the League of Neighborhoods. She impressed that organization so much that she is now serving on their Board!

Allisen Prigel was our 2nd Vice President and coordinated all the parties and events that kept us so busy this last year. Allisen has also taken on a new job: Mommy. She and her husband, **Kevin**, have a brand new son, **Broadie**, who is about a month old now. Thank you, Allisen, for such a fun year and for giving us a pattern to follow.

June Lake stepped in to pick up the slack as Treasurer when our faithful **Gilbert Gutierrez** was unable to complete his term. Gilbert had served for several years as Treasurer and June completed his 2008 term in addition to her duties as Chairman of the Welcoming Committee and general volunteer. We thank you, June and Gilbert, for keeping us solvent.

2008 Secretary, **John MacFarlane** also served as Chairman of the Tree Committee. John will continue as Tree Chairman and will soon be a Daddy as he and his wife, **Melanie**, are expecting their first child. Thank you, John, for keeping the records straight and for providing us with trees.

And **Gina Roberts** has kept us on track with Parliamentary Procedure for several terms, too. Thank you, Gina, for your attention to detail and gentle reminders when we threatened to "stray" from propriety or the agenda.

And to the 2008 Street Directors who have moved on — **Terri West, Liane Janovsky, Patricia Ford, Richard Deniker, Mariann Taccia, Chris Parham, and John Kline** — we thank you for your willingness to serve, your hard work, and accomplishment.

*Simplify
Your
Holidays*

M
A
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1612

~It's Not Too Late! Stop By Today For a Menu To Place Your Holiday Dinner Orders and Make Entertaining Simple!

~Great Gift Ideas; Gourmet Coffees, Teas, Oils, Vinegars, Sea Salts, Preserves, Vanillas, Candles and More!

~Grab and Go Soups, Salads, Entrees, Casseroles and Desserts!

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WELCOME to the Neighborhood!

Brrrrrr! Baby, it's cold outside! Time to get your flu shot, unpack your flannel nightgowns, long johns and thick socks and get warm and cozy.

Kevin and Allisen Prigel welcomed their new baby boy, Broadie Prigel to College Avenue. Broadie is the seventh baby to arrive in Ryan Place this year.

I look forward to seeing these little ones grow up in our neighborhood. Children bring a sense of vitality and an eagerness to experience life fully that is contagious. I believe children are essential to a dynamic neighborhood.

The holidays are upon us and my wish for you all is a time filled with peace, love and wonder, now and in the new year.

If you are a new resident (or know someone who is) and would like to be "officially" welcomed to the neighborhood in this column, please email me at junelake.rpia@sbcglobal.net and let me know you're here.

*"Throw Me
Something,
Mister!"*



by Terri West

The throng yells as it awaits the Inaugural Ryan Place **Mardi Gras Parade!** So become part of the celebration by joining a krewe, creating a krewe or extending your hands to catch those valuable trinkets dispensed with glee from the floats decorated in this year's theme, **"Games People Play."** The Krewe of Bucephalus already has begun planning its float, and the krewe invites you to become festive, too. The parade begins at 12:02 pm on February 21, 2009, from Triangle Park, Ryan Place. Be it one or one hundred, rain or shine, the parade moves on. It's a game people play.



*New Ryan
Place
Directories
are on the
Way!*



By popular demand, the Ryan Place Directory will be updated during the spring of 2009. The most recent Directory was published in 2005 by **Dawn Taft** and **Mary Ellen Nesser**. That team was such a hard act to follow that no one was up to the task, but the Dynamic Duo of Taft and Nesser has agreed to take on the job again — Dawn will arrange for advertising, Mary Ellen with data entry, and **Olivia Flynn** will coordinate data collection. Planning meetings are underway and the initiation of Block Captains is a crucial link to the success of the project, which is a vital key to neighborhood connection. Watch for data gathering to begin soon! If you are interested in volunteering to be a Block Captain for your block, please call your Street Director (page 2).

RE-GIFTING ALLOWED



\$5 OFF

Celebrate the season with the gift that keeps on giving to the community. Present this card for \$5 off any single item priced \$10 or more.

Expires Jan. 18, 2009. This card may not be used in conjunction with any other sales/discount coupon.

1714 3RD AVENUE | MONDAY - SATURDAY, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. | 817.924.2012



Real Estate Corner

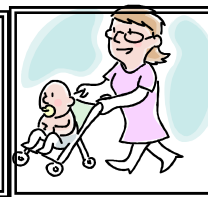
by Judy Holland

The end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009 marks the time for new beginnings and resolutions. We say goodbye to the Old and hello to the New spiritually, politically, physically, and personally. This is a chance not only to resolve to do better things for ourselves, but also to resolve some of life's puzzles in which we find ourselves living. Once I was in Italy when the New Year rang in and we were told not to go out into the streets at the stroke of twelve because it was the custom to throw dishes and other old stuff out of their windows. I like that idea, but my neighbors on Ryan Place Drive might object. And, since I live in a one story house the dramatic effect would be lost. Happy Holidays, everyone!

Judy

3028 6th Avenue	\$144,900	3/2	817-924-4144
2620 Ryan Place Dr.	\$175,000	4/3	817-924-4144
1116 Elizabeth Blvd.	\$225,000	3/4	817-431-2123
3005 6th Avenue	\$237,500	3/2	817-605-3344
3020 5th Avenue	\$272,900	3/4	972-438-2131
2937 5th Avenue	\$279,000	4/2	817-442-9566
2511 5th Avenue	\$310,000	3/3	817-577-9000

Attention, At-Home Moms

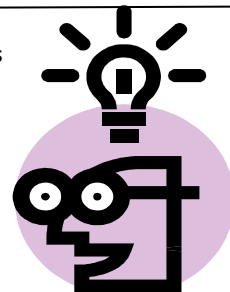


For all of you Ryan Place Moms who stay at home with young children — **Christina Brooks** has decided to start a play group for Ryan Place Mothers and their toddlers. The first get together will be on January 16 -- a Wednesday morning — at her home, 1506 Elizabeth Boulevard.

Plan to stay about an hour, from 10 AM until about 11 AM, and bring your children who are newborn to three years old. Christina says to park your stroller on her front porch and come on in! If you have questions, call her at 817-637-5389 or e-mail at tina_vargo@yahoo.com.



Imagine. There are approximately 850 residences in Ryan Place. If the residents of every home contributed \$35. per year to the RPIA Sustaining Membership Fund, we would have **\$29,750** every year in our budget. Now, imagine all the ways we might improve our neighborhood with that much money. And that's if everyone contributed \$35. What if **even half** of us did?? Think about it.



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Friday & Saturday: 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

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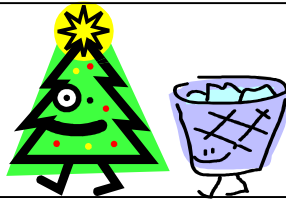
Dinner Reservations Recommended

Bring this Newsletter in for 10% off your total dinner bill.

(expires 12/24/08, cannot be combined with other offers or Gift Certificates, Not valid on TO GO orders)

Watch for our ad in the mail in VAL-PAC!

WHAT TO DO WITH HOLIDAY TRASH



The following information was sent to us by Joel Burns, our City Councilman, who wished us all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Christmas Trees – set real trees curbside on your normal pickup day only, from Dec. 26, 2008 – Jan. 30, 2009. Trees must be 8 feet in length or less—cut in half if needed. Remove stand and all decorations. DO NOT put tree in a plastic bag. Flocked trees are accepted—artificial trees are not. Trees are mulched along with any brush collected. Pick up free coarse-ground mulch at all Drop-off Stations.

Recycling – DO NOT put these items in your blue recycle cart: yard decorations, wreaths, ribbons, greeting cards, food, clothes, wrapping paper, electronics or Styrofoam™.

Bulky Item Pickup – There will be no bulky item pickup the week of Dec. 29, 2008 – Jan. 4, 2009.

Questions? call Customer Service at 817-392-3279 Monday-Friday 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

SIDEWALK SIDEWALK SIDEWALK SIDEWALK SIDEWALK

There MAY be some money for sidewalk replacement on the cost sharing plan with the City in 2009. If there is, individuals will be “competing” with everyone else in the city who applies for sidewalk replacement. The City does have a waiting list, so get your application in and get on that list! For information on how to apply, look in the **November, 2007** issue of the RPIA Newsletter at HistoricRyanPlace.org or call **Olivia Flynn** at **817-927-0075**.



Julie Lazarus Studio

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julielazarus18@hotmail.com

- *Winter Recess workshops for kids— drawing & painting
- *Oil painting for adults: Monday evenings in January
- *After school oil painting classes for elementary through high school, starting in January

We are still waiting to hear the outcome on the two grants for park improvement that we applied for in June. Stay tuned!!

simplify

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paper management systems

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RPIA 2008 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

The following contributions have been made since February, 2008. The names in bold print are additions since the last newsletter.

Patron

John P. Block
Chesapeake Energy
Gary and Deborah Carl
Bill and Lucy Conley
Joe Cox
Dot-11 Networks
Fort Worth Energy and XTO
Keith and Connie Head
Francisco and KT Hernandez
Liane Janovsky
Joan Kline
John and Leanne Kline
Harva Kuykendall
Jerrell and Donna Lemunyon
Ben and Lori Loughery
Dr. Randy and Linn Parham
Kevin and Allisen Prigel
St. John's Episcopal Church
Robert and Mariann Taccia
David and Barbara Tumlin

Friend

Mack and Cindy Baldridge
Robert and Jean Cox
David DeVlaming
Robert and Gay Donohoo
Randy and Lorraine "Rainey"
Dukes

Friend (continued)

Michael and Olivia Flynn
John and Jennifer Grimes
AJ and JR Hart
Rick and Renee Harding
Jeff and Pamela Hayes
Ross and Carol King
Alan and Kendal Lake
Kitty and Jim Loveless
D. Michael Lynn
David and Gwen Perez
Glen and Zoe Pierce
Dale and Diana Story
Richard Neville and Jane Torgerson
Rosanne Vaughn
Ross and Julie Vitek
Elzie and Evelyn Wilson

Neighbor

Fred Anderberg and Petra Rios
Katherine Anos Baker
David and Sandra Barton
J Becker
Larry and Sian Borne
Bart and Nancy Bradford
Ricki and Mark Brannon III
Ben and Diana Broadwater
Jo Lynn Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Yates Brown
Mark Burrows and Nina McKinnon
Allan and Sue Butcher

Neighbor (continued)

Robert and Marina Castillo
Thomas and Susan Drake
Eddie Dunn
Chris and Mary Beth Ebert
Patricia Ford
Paul and Sherry Frantz
Steve and Melissa Fruscella
J.E. and Mary Anne Gilbert
Rex Gleason
Mitzi Gopffarth
Gilbert and Stephanie Gutierrez
Paul Hable
John Hardy
Sally Harger
Lorraine Higgins
Pam Hill
Roland and Linda Hill
Michael and Nancy Hollier
Laurel Holmgren
Robert and Patti Holt
Theodore and Paloma Homan
F. Allen and Carolyn Hough
Kurt and Michelle Howard
William Hughes
James and Anita Hunt
James and Kay Ivey
Joshua and Kristi Lambert
Ronald and Margaret Livesay
Carter Llewellyn
Joan Loicano
Jason and Rachel Manning
Richard and Cindy Matersky

Neighbor (continued)

Danny and Penny McCook
Stephen and Nancy Mosher
Lisa Mosier
Sue Ott
Steven and Donna Owen
Chris and Diane Parham
Chris Patton and Mark Stallons
Amy Patyk
Jane Pirtle
Cindy Pustejovsky
Gina Roberts
Javier and Patricia Rodriguez
Loy Rooke
Tony and Betty Ruiz
Gerhard and Kim Satz
Peter and Mary Schroder
Ted and Dana Settle
Riley Shaw
Charles and Doris Sparkman
Sportswear Graphics
Rita Thomas
J. Carter Matheney Tiernan
Richard Tucker
David and Angela Tuttle
Charles and Pamela Tynan
Sheils Uhr
James and Margie Upshaw
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John Watson
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Leo and Susan Zappa

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LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



STATE FARM IS THERE.

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

COPs Coming to Ryan Place!



By Steve Fruscella

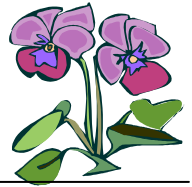
(Steve Fruscella has volunteered to coordinate a Citizens on Patrol (COP) program in Ryan Place.)

COPs is part of the Code Blue program which has been very successful in deterring crime, mainly by its visibility. Miscreants see the Code Blue street signs, the uniforms and stick-on signs on the COPs cars, and they don't stay around.

Anyone's call can lead to apprehensions and I personally experienced this benefit when one of my neighbors called the police after seeing two people who tried to break into my car. One of them was apprehended by the Fort Worth Police Dept.

I will complete my training with a ride-in with the FWPD on November 1st and after that I will be able to officially start my COP neighborhood patrols. I would like to say thanks to those who have been active in COPs before, and to the COPs in Fairmount who I have seen in Ryan Place. If you are interested in COPs training and qualification, call Calvin Clayton, Code Blue Coordinator for the Central Division at 817-392-3973. Look for information updates in the next Newsletter including upcoming training data.

Elizabeth Boulevard Gates Get a Facelift



Well, have you seen the 8th Avenue / Elizabeth Boulevard gate landscaping!!?? WOW!! On the 8th Avenue side are Natchez crape myrtles, dwarf yaupon hollies, double Knock-out roses, and Katie's ruella; on the Elizabeth Boulevard side are lorapetulum, nandina, and, of course, pansies throughout the flower bed. How fitting that "monument" lighting is to be added before Candlelight Christmas in Ryan Place!

This project was started about six weeks ago and many residents contributed to enhance and showcase our neighborhood entrance. Donations were made by **Joe and Al Cox, the Francisco Hernandez family, John Kline, Terri West, Keith Head, Janie and John Hart, Lisa Mosier, Mike Lindner, Mariann Taccia, Mary and Peter Schroder, George Gdovin, and Michael and Olivia Flynn.** Those generous donations allowed us to buy quality, sizeable plants and get them in the ground before the frost.

Then there were the Dirt Diggers: **Bill Conley, Keith Head, Mary Schroder, John Nowland, Mike Lindner, Jessie Royer, Michael and Olivia Flynn, Penny McCook, and John Filarowicz with 5 Star Landscaping.** Every neighborhood needs a few folks who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty! And a special thanks to **Mary Schroder**, who saw the need and stepped up to make a difference.

What we really need now is continued participation – an organized group of people who are interested in plants and beautification – to continue to work with neighborhood landscaping. It's time to prepare for projects such as the future roundabouts on Elizabeth Boulevard and the chicanes on Cantey. Neighbors might even invite the group to their personal landscapes for advice, plans, etc. Sounds like fun--!! Call or e-mail **Mary Schroder** (see page 2 of NEWSLETTER) to join in.

The Shop Around the Corner

by Rainey Dukes



The Shop Around the Corner will return in February. If you have a favorite local business, restaurant or shop, send your suggestion to **Rainey Dukes** at rain-tex@aol.com.

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Riddle: Kryptonite is to Superman as (what???) is to Ryan Place Streetlights??

During the past couple of months, the City has been maintaining our streetlights – painting, replacing light bulbs, repairing malfunctions -- and hopefully all of the lights are working properly now.

The majority of the maintenance was repainting. Strange as it seems, those big, strong, very expensive streetlights that glow in night, lighting our way and decorating our streets have a weakness; they can't take tape. Whatever the chemistry of it, when signs are taped to the light posts and then are removed or finally blow away, the tape takes the paint with it! Although it is very tempting to place signs for lost or found pets, estate or garage sales, our streetlights will quickly be polka-dotted if signs are taped to them.

Candlelight Christmas has paid for **all** of the historic streetlights. All the money that people pay to tour our homes has bought the lights we so love. So many Ryan Place neighbors have worked those four hour shifts – smiling, talking, watching – for many years to provide the streetlights for all of our neighborhood. They are a symbol of Ryan Place. And the request is: please don't tape anything to the light posts. Please.

So how do we post those necessary signs if not by taping to a streetlight? They must be on a stake, a yard sign stuck in a yard – with the property owner's permission – and not in the parkway (the area between the street and the sidewalk) as this belongs to the City. Simple.

If you do happen to see a sign taped to a light post, please call Fort Worth's Code Compliance Officer, as this is a violation of the City's ordinance:

"Sec. 23-14. Posting of handbills, signs, posters, or advertisements in certain places--*Prohibited*.

(1) Any type of handbill, sign, poster, or advertisement on or upon any structure, tree, pole, curb or elsewhere within the right-of-way of any public street, or upon any public property within the City of Fort Worth, without the express permission of the City Council of the City of Fort Worth;

(Ord. No. 9741, § 1, 10-14-86; Ord. No. 17829, § 2, 10-9-07)"

The sign can be traced; the code will be enforced.



Contributed by Officer Ron Andriotto

Watch Groups

Law enforcement officers report a substantial decrease in crime when neighbors unite and form Neighborhood Watch groups. Watch groups are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and suspicious behavior to law enforcement. Your neighbor may be the first one to spot a burglar or a strange car in your driveway. Effective law enforcement relies on this early and accurate reporting of criminal activity. A Watch Group is not designed to replace law enforcement protection, but it can help assist law enforcement in making your neighborhood safe.

A Watch Group helps create an identity within the neighborhood, which in turn fosters a sense of pride and belonging for the members. A Watch Group makes its neighborhood a safer place to live by adopting a more observant and active attitude.

Starting a Watch Group

Watch Groups take many forms, but in all cases the organization of the group by blocks is the cornerstone of neighborhood crime prevention programs.

Step 1: Talk to your neighbors and friends. Ask for their help and participation in starting a program. Explain the need and value and define the boundaries of the area to be organized.

Step 2: Let your local law enforcement agency know that you want to start a Watch group and ask for help. Discuss the size and boundaries of the area with the crime prevention representative and obtain necessary paperwork and guidelines.

Step 3: Set a time and place for a meeting to discuss crime problems in your area. Invite a law enforcement officer to your meeting to provide training in security and personal safety. Select a coordinator and block captains to help organize and pass out information. Recruit, recruit, recruit! A high percentage of residents participating makes an effective group.



Thank you to Mike Peters (see business card below) for his heroic rescue when my laptop "took a vacation" in the midst of this NEWSLETTER! He came by and picked it up on Saturday and had it back to me on Tuesday. He gets two thumbs up!

Trinity Computer Services

Mike Peters
Owner

7304 Wexford Ct
Ft. Worth, TX 76180
817-504-1810

trinitycomputers@sbcglobal.net



RPIA Financial Brief

NOVEMBER, 2008

BANK BALANCE (NOV. 1)	\$6,653.
DEPOSITS:	
Member Contributions	\$ 101.
Newsletter Advertising	\$ 590.
Gate Enhancement Project	\$1,070.
EXPENSES:	
Gate Enhancement Project	\$1,018.
Newsletter Printing	\$ 706.
Landscaping	\$ 306.
Other	\$ 24.
BANK BALANCE (NOV. 30)	\$6,360.

This report is based on data available on 11/30/08 and is not a complete financial report.

RPIA Meeting at a Glance

November 17, 2008

No new neighbors in attendance.

Officer Andriotto was not able to be present with a police report.

Scott Bellen of the City of Fort Worth Planning and Development Department presented a power point program on the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Mike Lindner, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers from that Committee as follows:

President	Keith Head
1st Vice President	John Kline
2nd Vice President	Mariann Taccia
Treasurer	Kevin Prigel
Secretary	Olivia Flynn

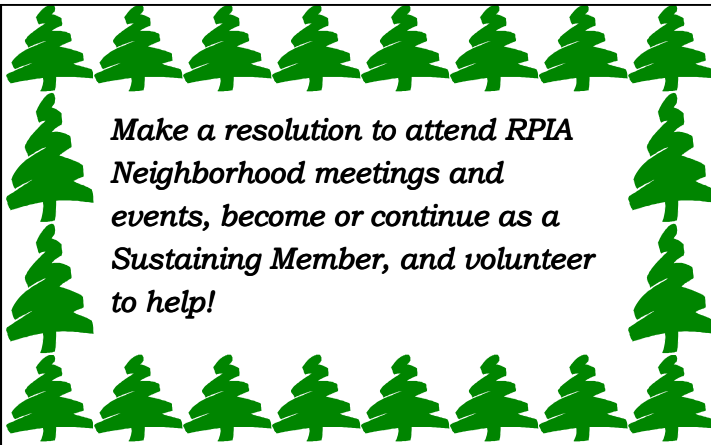
There were no additional nominations from the floor and the slate was elected as presented.

The revised By-Laws were presented for adoption and were adopted with four dissenting votes.

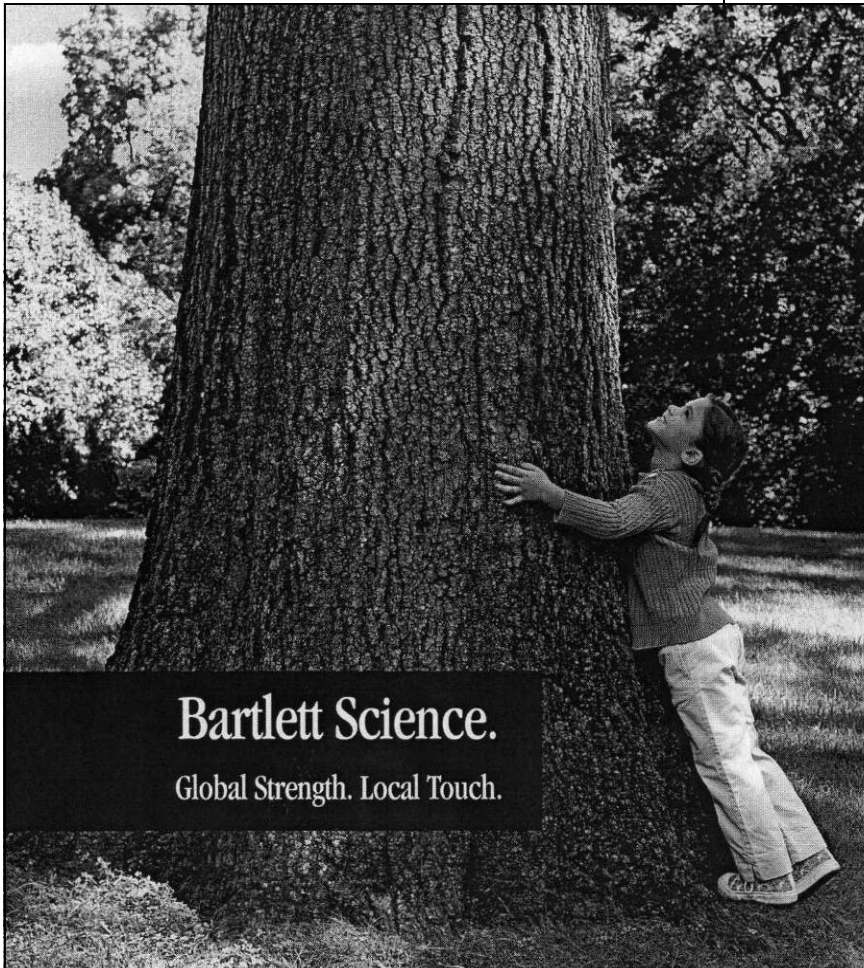
Bart Bradford reported briefly that the Neighborhood Improvement Fund Committee has completed its work and will make recommendations to the Board in January.

Steve Fruscella reported on development of COP's program.

CCRP President, Mariann Taccia, encouraged neighbors to volunteer to docent for the Tour this year.



Make a resolution to attend RPIA Neighborhood meetings and events, become or continue as a Sustaining Member, and volunteer to help!



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They Came to Play

by Juniper



The following article appeared in a Fort Worth blog website, **West and Clear**, on Oct 15, 2008. "**Juniper**" is the pen name of a Ryan Place resident and the story is true. The article has been edited for the **NEWSLETTER**.

One of the films in this year's **Lone Star International Film Festival** is going to be quite a treat for Fort Worthians. **They Came to Play** is a documentary filmed here in Fort Worth covering the events of **The 2007 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs**.

Clark Griffith, third place winner of the competition in the film, just happens to be my next door neighbor, so I wanted to share my own experience getting to know the man in the movie...

Now, we just moved into the house next door to Clark in June. He and I shared a few front-porch conversations and some friendly neighbor banter, but for the most part he seemed a little shy and reserved. Or, maybe he just didn't like me. That all changed one afternoon about a month ago. I don't remember exactly what we were talking about – maybe I was asking about his career as a pianist – but out of the blue Clark announced, "OK, you've passed the test, you can be trusted," and he invited me inside his home.

In that brief second before crossing his threshold, a feeling like I might be walking into a modern-day Mozart's home washed over me. But once I got inside, a more comfortable reality set in. I wasn't walking into a shrine to the piano gods so much as a more typical cluttered home of someone with a genuine creative talent. There was a collection of items sitting on every reasonably flat surface, a digital piano (gasp!) instead of the baby grand I had imagined, clothing hanging on the workout equipment... and on the dining room wall there two pairs of kitchen tongs hanging side-by-side from screws.

I just had to ask: "What's with the tongs?"

"Oh, I couldn't find a logical place for them in the kitchen," was Clark's matter-of-fact explanation. I continued pointing at items around the room and asking about them, and Clark humored me and my curiosity in a way that indicated guests probably didn't come over much. With our nervous little show-and-tell behind us, he worked his way over to the piano.

Music began to fill the air, and the transformation was instant. The music seemed to bleed out of his wrists effortlessly, erasing everything around us.

"I've got to interview this guy," I thought.

Clark Daniel Griffith was raised in Phoenix by a symphony performing mother and engineer father. He was the youngest of four boys and was raised in a church-going environment. His parents met while she was a student at **The Curtis Institute of Music** in Philadelphia and he an engineer for **RCA** in New Jersey. "They met in church, of course," Clark says with a smirk. I'll get back to that...

Clark was the only son to show promise musically. He started to clunk out *Mary Had a Little Lamb* on his own one day at his grandmother's piano. His mother played piano, timpani, and sang soprano. She was his teacher for two years and then sent him "to the old lady down the street."

Clark says his talent defined who he was. Sitting on the front porch one evening, he described his affection for music in terms that were poetic, even inspired, yet undeniably real. "Music is to my soul what oxygen is to blood." "Music is the language that my brain uses to talk to itself. I'm lucky that I have the ability to get it from my brain and then out, because it would be very frustrating if I couldn't do that."

Clark followed his mother's path and studied at the Curtis Institute, majoring in composition. After graduation, he moved back in with his parents, reluctantly. "It was painful, as it should be," Clark remem-

bered. Instead of accepting the poor life of a musician, he took temp jobs, learned computer programming on the job, and ultimately made a career in programming. It was an amateur musician's dream: a job that paid the bills and allowed him to play music on his own terms.

Clark has been openly gay for about twenty-five years, and that part of his life is something *They Came to Play* doesn't shy away from. The film looks intimately into the lives of several of the performers, who come from a wide range of backgrounds. But Clark is also HIV positive, and has been since 1984.

The frankness of that revelation took a second to catch up with me, but when it did a heavy reality came crashing into the room. My quiet, unassuming neighbor, surrounded by his odds and ends, playing world-class classical piano for hours a day with nobody around to hear it, has a disease that probably scares many people away.

I feel lucky that of all the Amateur Van Cliburn competitions that could have been made into a documentary, the filmmakers happened to choose the one in which Clark played. Mostly for selfish reasons, because I have a friend who possesses a certain musical genius.

But any good friend would feel lucky for Clark too, and I do. I love that the music he performs mostly for himself will once again dance through the air in front of a much larger audience.

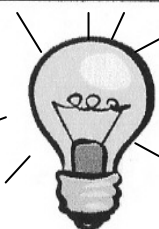
"How did you come to compete in the Amateur Van Cliburn?" I asked Clark.

"Well, they were holding it just right down the street." He smiled - a little mischievously. "If they ever found out about me they would be very furious that I would be so rude as not to show up."

(Continued on page 13)

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(Continued from page 12)

"That's what you decided?" I asked, laughing.

"Yes. I heard the contest on the radio in 2005, I think it was, and heard someone playing... I found out that the person who won in 2005 was an old classmate of mine from Curtis, who was also a composition major who played the piano...it sounded like fun...so I submitted a CD."

Clark had plenty of competition even to get into the Van Cliburn - 120 applicants were reduced to 75 participants. After four days of preliminaries and two days of semi-finals, Clark found himself among the final six contestants.

"I was REALLY excited to be in the six, because that meant I got to play my long program for the judges, 30 minutes," he said.

"Did you make any mistakes?" I asked, half-joking. From what I had heard him play earlier, I figured he must have played flawlessly. Apparently, it was just my untrained ears.

"I made plenty of mistakes.... Some people are spot on, but that doesn't necessarily mean that it was inspiring. But I felt like I was sort of presenting myself to my judges, my priests, to see what they thought of me... 'Hey, you're third!' is what they said." At this point, I went ahead and added modesty to the list of things I admire about Clark.

Clark, who likes to sometimes sign his name Qlark, now lives on disability and fills his days with playing his piano, making **YouTube** videos based on his variations of the [Goldberg Variations](#) and visiting family and friends.

His videos are unique compilations of his talent, computer abilities, and odd humor. I asked if he would compete again in the Van Cliburn, perhaps even attempt to win it.

"If my circumstances are the same then as they are now, I may do it again....I'll probably get that petty (to be number one). My Goldberg Variation videos.....well, I've covered one through thirteen. It was supposed to be a month long project, but it didn't work out that way. The hard ones are coming up. This is what I'm working on now."

"What's so hard about the ones coming up?" I asked.

"Because there's a lot of notes on the pages," he said, with what now I'm figuring must be his trademark smirk.

Clark will be seeing **They Came to Play** for the first time with the rest of us on Thursday evening. He was filmed at TCU during the competition, at his home, and even his parents were interviewed. He says his narcissistic side is excited about being a part of it, but he worries he may not come across very well on screen.

"Are you excited about the film?" I ask, trying to play cool about how excited I am about seeing the film with him.

"Well, yes, along side terrified. I'm really

very unlikeable. I'm just convinced that I come off horribly. I have a lot of time to think, and I look back across my life and I look at how I've treated people and how I treated jobs, and I think, 'Good God, you're the laziest man alive and you have no social skills, whatsoever!' But, oh well. That is what happens sometimes when you're really, really, really good at one thing."

No, Qlark, not unlikeable. Just... well, artistic. Which gives you the license to have salad tongs on your wall and to create Goldberg Variations videos with images of Prince, nature scenes, and blocks of cheese... and it all seems to make sense.

Toward the end of our interview, Clark sat back down at the piano and played some more. He told me that he wore out his mother's baby grand by the time he was fifteen, and that now he prefers digital pianos because he can change the sounds, play with headphones at night so as not disturb his landlord upstairs, and because they don't wear out as quickly. Though, this *is* his second one.

We talked some more about life, dreams, and what we would do if we had unlimited time and/or money. He asked about any vices that I have.

"Gin," I answered.

"Ah. Bombay Sapphire is one of God's true gifts to humanity."

And that was the moment I knew we'd be friends forever.



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Thistle Hill is located at 1509 Pennsylvania Avenue and the Mitchell-Schoonover House is at 600 Eighth Avenue. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$7 for children 6-12, and cherubs 5 and under are free. (Press Pass will be accepted for 50% off adult admissions; 2 discounted tickets per Press Pass.) Bring your camera and your kids!

Arts Fifth Avenue



December 1-4, 4-6 PM

Class Registration begins for Spring Classes, 2009.

- Tap, Ballet, Salsa, Zumba, Creative Movement
- Art, Sculpture, Oil Painting, Photography, Intaglio Mono-print Workshops
- Hand Drums, Drum Set
- Yoga, Acting, Theatre, Voice
- Guitar, Mandolin, Ukulele, Bass, Trumpet, Piano
- Fine Arts Program for Homeschooled Students

December 13, 7:30 PM

"A Fifth of Christmas" Sceneshop's annual Holiday Performance. Casual Theatre, Great Music and the 5th Avenue High Notes. \$12.

December 20, 8 PM

7th Annual Jazzy Christmas Jazz and Tap Revue with La-Feet Tap Ensemble, Fifth Avenue Jazz Collective and Guest Vocalist. \$15.

January 23 - 25, 7 PM

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December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Trash	4 <i>CCRP Soiree</i>	5 <i>Candlelight Tour 6-10 pm</i>	6 <i>Candlelight Tour 2-10 pm</i>
7 <i>Candlelight Tour 2-6 pm</i>	8	9	10 Trash	11	12	13 NATIVITY PLAY (p. 4)
14 <i>Quality Hill Holiday (p. 14)</i>	15 No RPIA Meeting BIG TRASH	16 BIG TRASH	17 Trash	18 BIG TRASH	19 BIG TRASH	20
21	22	23	24 Trash	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31 Trash	<u>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</u>		

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SOLD

1101 Elizabeth Blvd.

After nearly 8 years in Ryan Place, Dr. Kevin and Deborah Weaver recently closed on the sale of their home. After his honeymoon, buyer Salim Nice will move from his nearby Magolia Green townhome and be joined by his new bride Janice Imrich.



SOLD

1515 Elizabeth Blvd.

Steve and Merianne Roth closed on the sale of their home of 6 years in July and are settling into their new home on nearby Pembroke. New Ryan Place home-owners Kristopher and Carmel Helsley join us from Fort Worth's Arlington Heights.



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Active Ryan Place Listings (7/26)

2319 5th Ave	2,528'	4 / 2	\$365,000
2511 5th Ave	2,429'	3 / 3	\$344,900
2425 College	3,704'	4 / 3	\$318,000
2530 Lipscomb	3,344'	4 / 3	\$313,421
2937 5th Ave	2,386'	4 / 2	\$289,900
1116 Elizabeth	3,038'	3 / 4	\$279,900
2523 College	2,570'	2 / 2	\$268,000
2314 Willing	3,654'	4 / 1½	
2901 5th Ave	1,751'	3 / 2	\$200,000
2833 Ryan Pl Dr	1,768'	3 / 2	\$230,000
2421 Ryan Ave	978'	2 / 1	149,500
2713 Ryan Ave	928'	2 / 1	\$129,900
2507 Lipscomb	1,661'	4 / 2	\$84,900
			\$79,000



Virginia Cook, Realtors