

# Handley Happenings

February, 2010

Volume 9, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER OF THE Historic Handley  
Neighborhood Association

[www.historichandley.org](http://www.historichandley.org)

Handley, Texas

## BIRTHDAYS

Lori Dugdale; 3/3/1966  
Jim Kimsey; 3/4/1940  
Jackie Huff; 3/5  
Betty Blackburn; 03/06  
Gene Pirtle; 3/8  
Kitty Simpson; 3/10  
Billie Polk; 3/14/1933  
Bob Storey; 3/15/1926  
Kelly Brandt; 3/15  
Lisa Culbertson; 3/15  
Nancy Langdon; 3/15/1946  
Charlie Langdon; 3/16/1944  
Brenda Pepper; 3/16/1945  
Richard Tyler; 3/18  
Judy Taylor; 3/26/1941  
Wanda Knight; 3/27

## ANNIVERSARIES

Lee & Betty Blackburn; 3/6  
Kathy & Jim Read; 3/9/1986  
Will & Nedia Dryden; 3/14  
Rick & Maria Reyero; 3/20/1964  
Greg & Christa Hall; 3/21  
Tommy & Margarette VanNoy; 3/25/1951  
Javier & Shelley Ruiz; 3/30/87

Our newsletter comes out with the help  
of the good people at Kwik Kopy. Please  
see them at 1850 Handley Dr. for your  
copy and printing needs.

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Next  
Meeting:  
March  
8  
Handley  
United  
Methodist  
Church  
  
Starting  
at 6:30

**“Never doubt  
that a small  
group of  
thoughtful,  
committed  
citizens can  
change the  
world. Indeed, it  
is the only thing  
that ever has.”  
- Margaret Mead**

# Pictures from our record snowfall February 11 & 12: 12.5"



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# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Happy St. Patrick's Day.

The snow was beautiful and I know all the kids, old and young alike, had a lot of fun. There are a lot of branches and trees down but there won't be a special pick-up for them. Pick-up will be as usual, which for our area is the second week of the month. Have branches and trees out by Monday morning of that week.

It's hard to believe the first day of spring is March 20<sup>th</sup> and that heralds our spring storms. Course the winter storms were pretty bad. Any way, our speaker for March will be a meteorologist to help us be prepared.

Captain Jones from the East Division Police Department was our February speaker. He told us his plans for reducing crime on the east side. He also stated Handley was a safe place to live.

Two things coming up are our garage sale in March, no date yet, and Cowtown Clean-up in April. Lloyd Jones is coordinating the clean up. Please make plans to participate in each one.

Our next meeting is March 8<sup>th</sup> at Handley United Methodist Church, 2929 Forest. A light meal will be served at 6:30 P.M. with the business meeting starting at 7:00 P.M.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Joann



Don Boren  
Owner

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# HANDLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MINUTES February 8, 2010

The Handley Neighborhood Association met on Monday, February 8, 2010 at the Handley United Methodist Church. President Joann Ehlers called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Will Dryden gave the opening prayer.

The minutes were read and approved as read. The Treasurer's report was also read and approved.

The following announcements were made by President Joann Ehlers:

There will be a garage sale sometime in March. It will be held at the Gazebo on Handley Dr.

Will need help in pricing and getting items ready.

Alice Boyd, President of Ryanwood Neighborhood Assoc. said they would like to contribute funds to help build the fence around the cemetery.

Thanked those who helped set up for meeting. Signup sheets for setting up and clean up are now on table.

Cowtown Cleanup will be in April.

A suggestion presented by Marti Lawrence to contact all the churches in HNA area to have a representative to invite people to HNA meetings.

NPO Kim Gardener presented crime report. During week of Jan. 23-29, 2010, one burglary of a residence and five burglaries of vehicles occurred. Week of Jan. 30 thru Feb. 5, there were eight offenses but no residential burglaries.

The following announcements were made:

S.A.L.T. (Senior and Law Enforcement Together) Conference, Friday, March 5, 2010, 9am-2pm, at First United Methodist Church, Hurst. Please register no later than Feb. 28, 2010 as seating limited to 500. There will be free breakfast and lunch.

Personal situational Awareness training for women, Tuesday March 2, 2010, will be presented by Officer Rick Benson with Fort Worth PD Special Victim Section and Sex Crimes Unit.

Code Blue members remember to go to the academy to have your photo taken by Officer Perez for code Blue Seminar, May 22. If you can't make it to the academy you will be able to have your picture taken during the Captain's meeting on February 22, 2010. Please do not wear green.

Code compliance Officer Dennis Mitchell introduced Tony Wypij, new code enforcement Officer for East Neighborhood Code District. Code Rangers meeting will be around Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>.

Betty Coomer, of Code Compliance reported that more volunteers are needed to patrol the area. A lot of burglaries of vehicles are occurring. Halbert Street is being worked on as well as the street by the fire station causing people to have to park elsewhere. More patrolling is needed in those areas.

The HNA speaker for the evening was Captain Gene Jones of the Police Department East Division. Captain Jones has been in law enforcement for 23 years and has been Captain for 3 years. He was happy to be assigned to the Eastside, although it is the most challenging area to work. Capt. Jones lists three ac-

*(Continued on page 7)*

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# TREASURER'S ISLAND



Hello Everyone, Well, it's about that time of year when we celebrate President's Day—"Birthington's Washday" is just about upon us and probably by the time you receive this newsletter, it will already be passed. I like to tell the story that all great people were born in February and are left

handed—that's because I fit in both categories. My Mother used to delight in telling me that she read an article one day that stated that the first thing they look for in a mentally challenged child is being left handed. That sure deflated my balloon. in a hurry. I am ambidextrous—that should give me some smarts, I should think. I had to look up that word and it never ceases to amaze me—how do they expect you to look up the correct spelling of a word, if you don't know how to spell it enough to find it in the dictionary?

Captain Gene Jones was our speaker at Handley Neighborhood Association this month. We had homemade soup and bread pudding, brownies and other goodies to eat We had approximately 27 some odd members at the meeting, We are all getting water logged again. I've lost my insulation and about freeze to death during these cold rainy spells.

Our CAC (Community Advisory Committee) met the first Monday of the month, February 1<sup>st</sup>. There was an election of officers and there were no nominations from the floor, so all of our previous officers said they would keep their offices for another year. Harvey tells us that this is his last year to serve as President. Jim Conlin is our vice-president and he also makes arrangements for our guest speakers. The NPO'S fixed us a delicious meal of roast, that melted in your mouth—oh so tender, and all the trimmings that went with a roast. .

Have you noticed all the trash on the access road to the freeway, off Craig and Meadowbrook Dr.—as well as up by the Community Center and Meaders St. right off Meadowbrook Dr. has all been picked up? We can thank one of our members, Cricket Sutter, for doing all this work, making our area look so much better. She is to be commended for all her hard work.

The HHDC Festival Committee met on January 27<sup>th</sup> to start planning for the 2010 Handley Street Festival. This was the first meeting to be held in the new Historic Handley Railroad Museum Building.

East Side Ministries is still in dire need of canned food. One of our Handley Businesses—"The Handley Station Cafe" is still collecting canned vegetables—4 cans—and for the 4 cans you get a free dessert and East Side Ministries receives the much needed food. Thank you Brad for doing this for ESM. Due to the bad weather, Eastside Ministries did not meet on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of February.

Thanks again to the businesses who have allowed us to put the colorful cans on their counters for the Museum Fund just remember even pennies add up. Special thanks to those businesses, who wanted us to leave the cans on their counters again.

As you can see, we have lost some of our business ad's. The ad's help us keep the newsletter coming to you, helps to pay for the food at the meetings and various other expenses of the association. We realize our paper does not go out to a lot people, but it is a neighborhood newsletter and we need some support from our businesses in the area. To those Businesses, who continue to advertise with us through the years, we appreciate you very much and we thank you.

*(Continued on page 6)*

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Freddie Holcomb is home from the hospital and rehab after her hip replacement surgery and seems to be doing real good. Frances Crow has cancer. I am sure she would appreciate a card to let her know she is being thought about.

We still have some members, who have not paid their 2010 dues. Please pay your dues.

Our meetings are held at my church, "Handley United Methodist Church," and it was called to my attention that some of us have been using some of the church supplies to take home food from our meetings( foil & etc.) to cover up the food. If you want to take home brownies or etc., please bring your own wrap and please do not use the church supplies. Everyone, including churches ,are having financial problems now. So as the old saying goes, instead of "bring your own bottle", it's bring your own plastic ware and foil. It would be appreciated. I don't mind you taking my brownies home—I can't leave them alone and sweets make me sick since my surgery. You are welcome to take them home, just bring your own containers.

Toby, my little dog from hell—she's been at it again. She darted out beside me again after dark & Joe Laird had to help me catch her. She's deaf and blind, when she gets a taste of her freedom of running loose. If she hadn't have stopped to smell a blade of grass, she'd still be running with me chasing her everywhere, yelling to the top of my voice. She has got to be a boy, she is much too ornery to be a girl.

I have been going through my clothes closets. With my 140 pound weight loss, I no longer wear a 2x or 3x. It's been depressing for me, because I had bought so many clothes with animals on them and just loved them. I had my sister and niece come over to see if they could wear any of them—many had price tags still hanging on them. I will put some of the clothes in resale shops. I figured I would get more for them there than at my garage sale. It's a hard adjustment mentally to go from a 24 to a 12-14



size. I just haven't adjusted yet, and too, I haven't learned to eat--chew, chew, chew.

The Handley High School Alumni luncheon for one group of alumni members was on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. They met at the Division Street Diner in Arlington, as they do every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. It's always a delight to see and visit with so many old timers—yes, I'm in that category now

too. We had 21 come to the luncheon that day.

We do have members who are ill or who have lost loved ones. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. Let us know of an alumni member passing away or who is ill. Jacob Leo Farrell, 92 , who attended Handley High School has recently passed away. We do have a sunshine chairman, so if you would let Janice Cox or any of our officers know of anyone who is ill or etc, we can send them a thinking of you or get well card.

Code Blue has been working with the police department in saturating neighborhoods with many patrols to try to keep down crime in some of the trouble areas, where there has been a lot of break-ins and BMV's (burglary of motor vehicles) taking place. The first saturation detail was a huge success in that the crimes went down in that area. More patrols are planned. We have been asked to keep an eye on the cars parked on the Church of Christ parking lot. Since Halbert Street is under renovation, the people living on Halbert have been parking on the parking lot of the church. Also, the fire department on Forest hasn't been able to park in their gated, locked parking area, and have had to park in the alley and on Forest. Please watch out for our fire fighters cars also. You don't have to be in Code Blue to do this. If you see anything out of the ordinary or suspicious at any time, call the police and let them check it out. It's always better to call in a false alarm, than to not

*(Continued on page 7)*

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**Your Ad could be here**

(Continued from page 6)

call it in and it have been a crime going on. It is better to be safe than sorry.

A note with his HNA dues from Jack Crenshaw saying how very much he enjoys our monthly newsletter and that he looks forward to it in the future months. He was raised in Handley. Craig Street was named after his Grand-father, W.P. Craig. Jack lives in Texarkana, Texas.

My goodness, have you ever seen so much snow as we have had recently? I thought I was used to seeing so much snow the six and one half years I lived in Salt Lake City, Utah. The snow is beautiful on the bushes and trees, but enough is enough.

Thanks to several of our Code Blue Patrollers, Jim Norgaard and Angie Gillespie, who drove around for numerous hours during the snow to try to spot stranded motorists to notify the police about. The evening and night were very very busy for the police department due to the weather.

The saturation of patrols in some trouble spots in the area are an on going weekly endeavor to try to free our areas from crime. Thanks to all the Code Blue Patrollers, who have been able to go on these details with the police department. The third saturation detail is Thursday , February 18, 2010.

Take care, till next time,  
Betty Allene "Drinkard" Coomer

(Continued from page 4)

complishments he hopes to meet: 1. Reducing crime, 2. Build new relationships in area by bringing new people in, 3. Strengthen relationships by being visible at public events. When he leaves, he wants to look back to see revitalization and improvements.

In the last four months, he has developed new programs such as the Neighborhood Service Walks where officers get out of their cars and walk the neighborhood to introduce themselves. 2010 is Crime Watch year and he encourages everyone to join. Patrol shifts have been changed by overlapping shifts during the peak crime periods. Have a strike team to increase traffic stops. A lot of burglaries are caught thru traffic stops. The number of NPO's has been increased to 15. Woodhaven is the number one crime area with second being the Eastchase Apartment area. When he came to the Eastside the main problem was residential burglaries and now has seen a reduction in them. Shoplifting is up significantly with the majority of them being arrested. Aggravated assaults have also increased. Robberies are attributed to the CVS area on Meadowbrook due to two apartment complexes being nearby. Bringing uniformed officers to area will help but resources are limited. Capt. Jones stated overall, crime is trending downward and will continue to work to get it down.

President Joan Ehlers invited everyone to attend the Citizens Advisory Committee on the first Monday of the month at 6:00pm at Handley Meadowbrook Community Center to keep informed with what is going on in neighborhood.

Betty Coomer announced that dues for 2010 are due.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Shirley Collins, Secretary



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# THE HANDLEY NEWS

BY DAVID DUNNETT

Continued from the February 2010 Newsletter:

By 1904, the Interurban seemed fully established—a cinderless, smokeless wonder. The line operated from Dallas to Fort Worth and South to Cleburne. The main plant to supply power was located here on what was then Lake Erie, and a substation was in Joshua. The Texas Electric Power Plant now covers this area and the cooling pond is the original Lake Erie. Stories abound of the picnic grounds, and a resort like area built around the lake, swings and a Merry Go Round, hot air balloon ascensions, a skating rink, canoeing and this interesting bit—a kind of pulley that pulled your canoe atop Turkey Knob. Perhaps your descent was some what like our popular Log Ride at Six Flags. A pavilion was built on piers to extend out over the lake. It was two stories high, requiring three flights of stairs. There was a stage 20 x 100 feet and a dance floor said to have attracted the best of music participants. No rough housing was allowed. One gentleman told of learning to swim, going from pier to pier. He too told us of the tie yard located across the road from the park. It was his delight at about age 6 to chase rabbits in and by closing up one end as the animal would scurry into the first possible opening; he was able to trap them. The pavilion burned.

The interurban operated from 1901 until 1934. Speeds of 80 miles per hour were achieved at Chalk Hill. The cars were very plush and even had swivel seats. One of the most luxurious of the cars was known as the Crimson Limited. Stops from Fort Worth to Dallas were Cleburne Junction (located at Riverside and East Lancaster), Sycamore Heights, Sycamore Creek, College Hill (TWC), Tandy Lake, Oakland, Sagamore Hill, Stop Six, Haynes, Durringer, Point Breeze (now Tierney Rd.), Canton Dr., Handley Dr., East Handley, Oakridge (the farms that included the now Rose Hill Cemetery), Bethel, Waples, Cloverdale, Siding Eleven, Fruitvale, Bower, and Keystone, which was the infamous death crossing. Six people were killed in a covered wagon accident here in 1913. The next stop was Summit and then Arlington. One wonders just how long the trip took if all stops were made!

Now that we have Handley established, let us go back in 1876, the year of the coming of the Railroad. About this time we find a church being built known as the Union Church, used by the Methodists two Sundays a month, the Baptists one Sunday and the Presbyterians one Sunday. One wonders if on the fifth Sundays there was not an all day singing and dinner on the grounds.

The Tidball family donated land for the cemetery, a Public Burial Ground, called the Old Handley Cemetery. This is the small one you see by the Power Plant. Much of the time this is an eyesore. One man said he moved to Fort Worth in 1899 and it had always been over grown with weeds as long as he could remember. Periodically some civic minded group will go in and clean it up, as a Boy Scout Troup did last year, but this is a much needed project that needs to be tended to on a regular basis. Ophelia White, recently retired principal of East Handley, whose father was the chief engineer of the Power Plant in the early 1900's, tells us that her mother would organize cemetery workings each spring, furnishing tools and ice water.

(Continued on page 9)

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(Continued from page 8)

Few know of another cemetery, located a few hundred yards eastward. This was for the Blacks and they too had their church known as Ebenezer Baptist Church. The burial ground is in sad shape, many stones toppling and some broken and untended. You can see this cemetery, if you look quickly as you are passing the Wright's green house and coming into Handley from Arlington. It cannot be seen in summer when leaves and grass are green.

The need for schools too came and in 1877 in the summer, a small building was built to be ready for fall opening. It was located on the corner of Daggett (now Forest)) and Main (now Hart) south of the T&P tracks. Mr. J. C. Cannifax was in charge. He too served as the Methodist minister receiving 25cents a Sunday for his services. One wonders how many students he had and his salary there.

By 1895, the need for new and larger school led to the erection of a building at the corner of Forest and Church Streets. It had two rooms that could be divided or put together by the raising or lowering of a partition. A part of this building is said still to exist next to the old Masonic Lodge Building.

The third school building was completed in 1910. It was opened by Superintendent H.G. Read and Mr. Robert L. Huff. This building, constructed of red brick and trimmed with white stone, was located at 3127 Chilton Street. It had a half basement and two other stories, and the campus covered about four acres of land. By 1922 extensive remodeling was done.

To be continued in the April 2010 Newsletter.

Betty "Drinkard" Coomer



## Hel p YOUR newslet ter grow

Tell us of your days growing up in Handley, send in your old family photos of the Handley area (they will be returned). Just get your items in by the 15th of the month to be included in the next newsletter.

Send in your favorite stories and pictures to:

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## Letters to the Editor

**THE HISTORIC HANDLEY DEV. CORP.**  
Mike Harrison-President  
1051 So. Handley Dr.  
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817-429-1642 fax 817-4510801

The Historic Handley Development Corp. has been working to revitalize our East Lancaster Corridor for the past 10 years, we have made progress, but not enough to satisfy our needs in this area. We are working to develop our Handley Railway Museum and hope to open it soon. We are in need of enough fill dirt at the corner of E. Lancaster and Handley Dr. to level the ground and move the Caboose further down to a permanent spot and then continue with landscaping. The city of Ft. Worth promised to fill in the area and do the landscaping several years ago, but now refuse to proceed with it, therefore it is our problem to work for funds to finish the job. Funds for the museum have been coming in and we are thankful to all who have given. We are also meeting with artist Jack Mackie to lay the groundwork for the E. Lancaster Corridor, he has suggested we have crosswalks, a signal light at Erie and E. Lancaster, and change E. Lancaster from a State Hwy. to a tree lined Community Corridor,  
At his point we are beginning to work on the 2010 Historic Handley Festival, but do not want this to be our only event, other plans are in the works.

Mike Harrison- President  
Historic Handley Dev. Corp.

The date for the Great American Clean-up will be April 10.

Please plan to help clean Handley. More details will be coming. Volunteer forms will be At our next meeting.



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# Membership Enrollment Form



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