



Brook Meadows Messenger

The Official Publication of the Brook Meadows Homeowner's Association

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www.brookmeadows.org

May 2007

April Yard of the Month

Congratulations to Jim and Barb Tressler of 2700 Jackson Court, for their property being chosen YARD OF THE MONTH for April. Jim and Barb are 10 year residents of our neighborhood



and their home is often referred to as the "Elephant House" because of the two large grey elephant statuary on either side of their front fountain. Interestingly they collect elephants of all shapes and sizes. Jim and

Barb, married for over 17 years, enjoy collecting as they travel and have an extensive collection of over a thousand elephants from all over the world.

Jim & Barb's home and yard has won the Brook Meadows Yard of the Month several times in the past and has won the Colleyville citywide "Yard of the Month" honor as well. Their yard and garden has been featured in several charitable events such as the "Promenade of Fine Homes and Gardens" by the Colleyville Garden Club. Professional photos taken from their garden have been used for a Gardening products calendar and as a back drop for shooting numerous gardening products commercials. In addition, every year they offer friends and neighbors to use their garden for family, prom and wedding photos.

They really enjoy garden planning and development and take great pride in being able to show off Nature's beauty. Accepting the Yard of the Month recognition, Jim said, "But wait until

May when everything's in bloom, it's in the plan". Jim & Barb recommend their professional landscape company "R&R Landscape management" for the great job that they have done in making their garden plan come to fruition.

In 2004 Jim sold his business and retired. He now plays Texas Hold 'em poker for "fun". Barb semi-retired, works part-time at Fidelity investments in Las Colinas, and according to her "for the great insurance benefits". Barb also enjoys entertaining and loves to cook. They have a two year old German Shepard, affectionately known as "Buddy". For the last year Jim has served on your BMHA Board as Director at Large and Landscape Committee liaison.

We appreciate how much time and effort Jim & Barb put into their home and garden, which for years has had a positive effect in our neighborhood appearance.

Your BM Landscaping Committee will be out looking for next month's Yard of the Month, so spruce up your yard; plant colorful flowers and your home may be chosen as Yard of the Month.

Also if you'd like to join our Landscape Committee just go to our web site www.Brookmeadows.org and click on Committees for contact info.

Happy Gardening!!



Don't want to wait for the mail?

View the current issue of the Brook Meadows Homeowner's Association Newsletter on the 1st day of each month at
www.PEELinc.com

Brook Meadows

Brook Meadows Homeowners Association, Inc.

PO Box 492
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www.BrookMeadows.org

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If you have any ideas to make our newsletter better, please contact the editor. We want your input, ideas, and even your articles.

Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Brook Meadows residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail hwixson@tx.rr.com

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$45, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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Trusted Trades People Spotlight

We need your help and maybe we can help you.

This new column is accepting nominations from you and from your neighbors for qualified Trades People/Companies with whom you, as a customer, have had a positive personal experience with their craft and/or service and whom you'd gladly recommend to your Brook Meadows neighbors.

Your recommendations for Painters, Plumbers, Electricians, Carpenters, Countertops and Floors, Roof repair, Concrete work Landscape maintenance & installation, General Handyman, Carpet Cleaning service, Window Washers, Pool Service etc. are needed. Please include the complete contact info for your recommendation of Trades People/Companies. Also be sure to include your name and the type of project the Trades Person/Company did for you, (example: repaired plumbing leak or fixed gate motor, etc) and why you are recommending them (example: dependable and inexpensive, etc).

You may submit as many nominations as you like, the more the better, just be sure that they have provided you with excellence in their craft and/or service. Honestly it's a WIN-WIN for all involved. BUT we can't compile a list unless you send in your nominations. We will compile your list of the BEST Trades People or Companies for our BMHA website, for your easy reference.

Please email your nominations to publishing@brookmeadows.org or send them to BMHA Publishing, PO Box 492, Colleyville, TX 76034.

Thanks... and please do it now before you forget.



Architectural Control Committee

Per the newly filed Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions, in effect since June 13th, we have an approved Architectural Review Committee (ARC). The ARC was put in place to protect our property values by ensuring that all visible new construction, maintenance, and landscaping is in concert with the look and feel of the neighborhood. It is required for each of us, BEFORE making any visible exterior changes, to make contact with the ARC for plan approval. General maintenance or replacement of exterior features with 'like kind and color' does not require ARC approval. The ARC is currently working on a procedure for reporting your proposed changes. Once the procedures are finished and approved, we will post them on the website and in our newsletter. Until that time, please send notice to:

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PO Box 492
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or Email to ARC@brookmeadows.org



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Home Theater System? HDTV?

PLASMA vs LCD? What's it all mean?

The top 10 things to know before you buy.

1. What is genuine HDTV? High Definition Television or simply the best TV picture available. To illustrate the point, contrast the difference in sound between a "wax" mono 45 record playing on a turntable with a steel needle and a high quality stereo CD. There is no comparison, HDTV is the future. When you visit the store to compare HDTV display pictures remember the genuine High Definition Television picture is so good because a minimum of 1280 x 720 pixels (little points of light) while EDTVs (enhanced definition TV), offer lower resolutions, and although cheaper, the picture is not as good. Make sure you go with true HDTV.
2. The popular plasma type HDTV's are generally better when it comes to contrast, while LCD, which costs more per inch, is typically brighter. Huge, boxy, rear projection sets are cheap, but the viewing angle and brightness can be spotty. Consider an HDTV projector if you want to fill a whole wall. Generally, the larger the picture (40"+), Plasma looks better than LCD. The picture on LCD is nearly as good, but over time displays will show some "wear" because they are generated by powerful lamps, which, like any lighting appliance, will dim as they weaken with use. Dependant on use, LCD lamps could need to be replaced every 5 years or so. In comparisons provided by 3M, a standard 37-inch LCD comes with 16 bulbs. The florescent replacement lamps can cost as much as \$250-\$500 each.
3. Try out your HDTV options with your own DVD. Select colorful, fast-moving titles like "Mission Impossible" to evaluate the set's ability to handle quick action without the picture breaking up or showing "ghosts".
4. Cable channels that offer HD generally broadcast in 720p, which is great quality, while some transmit in 1080i, which is even better. Most HDTV's offer some or all of three resolutions: 480p, 720p, 1080i. Some of the latest HDTV's are beginning to offer 1080p, but they cost more. Get at least 720p and 1080i capability in your choice. If you can afford it, go with the additional superior resolution 1080p as it is the very best picture available. Plasma displays have unimpaired 160° or more side-viewing angles. While it is sometimes possible to view LCD televisions 80° off axis, the picture you'll see will be degraded. In other words, there will be a noticeable decrease in color saturation, contrast, and brightness in the picture.
5. Nearly all local High-definition network channels are available over the air with an HD antenna. You'll need a tuner/receiver to receive them if your HDTV doesn't have a built-in tuner. Cable or satellite subscribers, consider an HDTV-capable "display," or "monitor," which allows you to use your (cable or satellite or own tuner/receiver). High end home theaters use separate components and if you have a separate tuner you can leave out the built-in tuner on your HDTV to save money.
6. While most HDTV's have component (red, green and blue) video inputs to connect to your cable, satellite tuner and DVD player, double check to make sure. Two or more sets means no swapping

(Continued on page 7)

A Life Changing Event

The Opening of JR's & 62 Main Causes

Writer Fade Back...

by Brett Flournoy, the Inane Rambler

It happened in the fall of 1972 at the Fountain Blue Restaurant in Natchitoches Louisiana, where, French ancestry notwithstanding, the more pretentious (snooty) "Fontainebleau" naming convention would have been out of place. Blue lights out front, and maybe a fountain somewhere, it hardly seemed the place for a life-changing event. One look at the joint told you all you needed to know. My college roommate, Ken, and I had spent a hard day doing what college students of the period did, including a ritual known as "giving blood". For \$10. In fact, we were so concerned with the levels of quality blood at the local blood bank, that every six weeks we would give blood. For \$10. Now flush with money, it was time for the Fountain Blue, and upon Ken's recommendation, my first encounter with a real steak.

As a child of the 50's and 60's, my steak eating experiences were limited to equal share participation in something known as "the family sirloin". You youngsters bare with me now - I know this will get confusing. The family sirloin was this mammoth cut of beef, probably a half inch thick, that was broiled to perfection by the Mom's of the day. It would normally be cooked to accommodate the most squeamish amongst us (my weenie sisters), meaning WELL DONE. It was then the duty of my Father to apportion the meat, and he went about his work mysteriously. "Why is my piece so small?" was not a good move. Yes, this was steak, as it was and should always be. Or so I thought.

The menu at the Fountain Blue had me thoroughly confused. Too many options, all incomprehensible. T-bone? Ribeye? New York Strip? Kansas City Strip? How did a steak change when you flew it half way across the country? It got worse...rare, medium rare, medium, medium well, well done? "Ken.... talk me down." Somehow we got through all of that, and it was only beginning to dawn on me that I was going to get my OWN cut of beef, when this magnificent rib eye arrived, sizzling before my very eyes. I'll admit it - I had questioned Ken's sanity on recommending that we blow the entire \$10 on a steak dinner, but one taste changed all of that. Life, and steaks, have not been the same since that moment.

Now, we all regularly enjoy our own cut, and our kids are skilled at steak ordering, too skilled perhaps. "Please butterfly my filet, and layer it in cracked pepper!" (Spoiled brat kid!) I looked recently for a large sirloin cut, but they are hard to find these days. The family sirloin has morphed into ground sirloin, but is still enjoyed by families everywhere. "Dad, can I have my burger well done?" "One well done sirloin burger coming up!"

NOTICE TO OUR NEIGHBORS

"The board received notification of a law suit against your Association on December 19, 2006. We are working with legal counsel in fully preparing a proper response. We will provide timely progress updates on our BMHA website as more information becomes available. Your Board is committed to representing the overwhelming majority of Brook Meadows homeowners who have voted for, and supported our neighborhood."

To view the legal document, or to contact Board members, go to:

www.brookmeadows.org

HDTV - (Continued from page 5)

cables between cable and DVD and Xbox 360, for instance. Also, make sure your new HDTV has an HDMI input with HDCP support — the connection and anti-piracy combo that future-proofs your purchase for years to come.

7. Your system should be connected together using the highest resolution connections possible. DVI/HDMI is highest, followed by component, S-Video, plain Video-in, and finally the lowliest of low-quality lows, old fashioned Coax. HDTV cable and video games require at least the component connection, while hi-def Blu-Ray and HD-DVD players will plug in to the HDMI port for the highest resolution possible. High end systems come with the best connections.
8. When you watch HDTV you'll see "bars" on either side of a non-widescreen program so that the image looks correct, or you can zoom it to fill the screen. In the showroom experiment with the TV's remote, and the cable or satellite box's remote, to attain look you want.
9. If you decide on a new HDTV, don't forget the sound. HDTV offers Movie Theater surround sound — providing you have a receiver and speaker system to hear it. You should ask about the available speaker options and consider a separate receiver and speaker system. All of this is a big investment, but with more normal viewing habits of, say 8 hours per day, you can expect the lifespan of your HDTV to be a well over a decade or more.
10. Unless you are really knowledgeable and very handy with electronic projects, have your home theater system set up professionally, they are the experts and it will save you hours of aggravation.

When you visit the store to compare HDTV pictures, and ask more questions because knowing the essential ins and outs of HDTV before you leave the house means you won't be sorry after you bring home your big new purchase.

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You can get information about your service or products to every home in Brook Meadows, by running a business classified in the Brook Meadows Community Newsletter. It is a great way to get your name and contact information to many potential customers in your neighborhood. The cost is \$45 for up to 40 words. Display ads are also available. For more information, please contact Peel, Inc. at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The deadline is the 20th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

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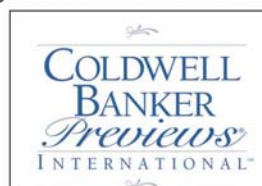


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