



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2009

# BRADY REGISTER

BRADY HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Fireplace Safety

By Tim Williams

Do you love winter? The brisk chill in the air – the frost on the windows – the trees like pen and ink paintings against the grey sky – a crackling fire in the fireplace – WAIT! The FIREPLACE?

Have you had it checked out lately? Most of the homes in Brady Heights Historic District (and almost all homes of our era) have beautiful GAS fireplaces. These fireplaces are NOT intended for WOOD or COAL FIRES!

Yes, there are a few in the BHHD that can burn wood but they should be

cleaned and inspected by a professional before using them.

The vast majority of the homes have only a shallow fireplace intended for gas stoves. Be careful using these as they can emit toxic fumes that can permeate the entire house if the chimney is blocked or in need of repair. If you don't know whether you can burn wood or not, check with a chimney cleaning company or other professional to assess the design of your fireplace and chimney.

The shallow style of fireplace was a trend in the early 1900s intended to keep that messy soot and ash out of the house. In most cases, the chimney has floor joists and wall studs running into the

brick and can easily set the house on fire – no chateau flambé for the holidays if you please.

If you want to enjoy your gas fireplace, make sure you have a gas stove that has oxygen sensors and a carbon dioxide sensor plus automatic shut-off and other safety features common in newer models. You can retrofit older styles of gas fireplace heaters but that is best left to the professionals.

Remember, your safety and your family's safety is at stake here (not to mention that spectacular and irreplaceable home of yours).

## Energy Efficiency Tax Credits

By Tim Williams

The US Treasury wants to give you \$500 – no it's not a gimmick! It is an Energy Efficiency Tax Credit for residential and commercial energy savings improvements. Things like insulation, high efficiency heat and air units, storm windows and doors, high efficiency refrigerators and appliances, etc.

This is a TAX CREDIT instead of a tax deduction. A tax deduction lowers you

taxable income; a tax credit is money taken directly off of the tax you owe. Basically if you spend up to \$500 on any qualified purchase for energy efficiency in your home or business, you get \$500 taken off of your final tax bill from the Feds.

Your home improvement must be "QUALIFIED"; that is, the purchased product must be on a list prepared by the government – in most cases (but not

always), anything that has the "Energy Star" logo on it can be used toward your credit. Also, there are certain amounts allowable for different items. You can get a clearer picture of what is allowable at: [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr\\_tax\\_credits](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits).

Remember to keep in mind the historic character of your home as you plan your weatherization improvements. Things like storm windows and storm doors are typically a usable purchase toward the Energy Tax Credit but they still have to be approved through the

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## BHNA Monthly Meeting – Saturday, February 21 at 10 am

Centenary United Methodist Church, Corner of Golden and North Denver

Please enter through the South door, A sitter is provided

Agenda items for this month include the 2009 budget, newsletter advertising, the Arts Parkway and an update on the Vision 2025 streetlights. We will also hear a little bit about a future meeting planned with the Special Advisor to the Mayor on Urban Planning, Jack Crowley about his plans for downtown Tulsa and the Brady Heights area.

Read the blog at Brady Heights  
[www.bradyheights.org](http://www.bradyheights.org)

### Apartment for Rent

Our updated 2 bedroom apartment located at 215 West Jasper is ready to lease. It is the very pretty upstairs apartment behind 901 North Denver. This is part of the award winning property that was recently recognized by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation for the Citation of Merit. Please spread the news as we are seeking qualified applicants! The rent is \$575 a month. The rent includes water, sewer, trash, and lawn care. The apartment also has a garage and off street parking for one car! Contact: Gary and Lisa Ziegler, Sandalwood Properties, LLC at – (918) 906-5489

### Folk Salad Every Sunday

Scott Aycock's award show, Folk Salad which airs every Sunday night on KRMG's FM 89.5 at 7:00, has been picked up by KOSU 91.7 FM and will air on that channel on Saturday nights at 8. We are real excited about this as now the show will play state wide and into a bit of Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas. The show supports a lot of Tulsa's and Oklahoma's amazing musicians and singer/songwriters. Check out <http://folksalad.com> for a listing of many musical happenings, including local and regional events.

**Classified ads** are available to residents and property owners in Brady Heights for no fee. If you have a wanted or sale ad, submit to [marrisa@feelingismutual.com](mailto:marrisa@feelingismutual.com). We know many people in the neighborhood who do everything from handyman work to dog walking and from catering to coaching. Wouldn't you love some free advertising? Just let us know what the Brady Register can do for you!

Need some authentic 1920s wood trim for your house? Call Alan at 348-2721.

**Donation** - We recently recieved a generous donation in the amount of \$1000 from former neighbor and once president of BHNA, Emily Warner. The donation is earmarked for the continuation of the Art Parkway projects. Emily was a huge support for our first installment of the parkway and we are grateful for her continued support. Thank you so much Emily!

# Vermicomposting at Home

By Tara Bowen

As spring approaches, I am becoming increasingly more impatient to get outside and begin gardening! But it's not time yet. According to the NOAA website, the average "last frost" date for Tulsa is March 29, so I guess there are at least two whole months before I can safely begin planting outside. However, there is plenty to do in preparation for that time, including indoor planting for later transplanting outdoors, and, perhaps less common, vermicomposting!

Vermicomposting, according to [allthingsorganic.com](http://allthingsorganic.com), is "the process of having red worms and other decomposer organisms process our organic waste and turn it into a great natural fertilizer." First, red worms are not the worms that you find in your garden. Red worms are able to consume half of their weight in food per day, which is a far better rate than garden-variety worms. In order to thrive, red worms need a home with 70% moisture, a temperature of 60-85 degrees F, good ventilation and drainage, bedding and food, and a surface area no more than 12 to 18 inches deep. About 2,000 worms can inhabit a square foot of space, and this square foot of worms can consume one pound of waste per day.

Now, we know that worms are beneficial to the soil and that we want them in our garden. Why would you want to set up a bin full of worms in your home? Mainly because the "waste" produced by the worms is full of nutrients that will greatly aid the growth and health of your plants. Also, vermicomposting is a good way to recycle organic materials. When done right, your worm bin will not stink at all, so no worries there! In order to construct your worm bin, the easiest way is probably to take a large plastic bin and drill 1/4"-sized holes every 2-3 inches, 2 inches from both the top and bottom of the bin; also, drill about twelve holes in the bottom of the bin. Make sure the bin is placed somewhere that the

drainage holes on the bottom will be able to drain without making a mess. Next, you need to provide bedding for the worms. The easiest way to do this is to shred newspapers into 1 inch strips, enough to fill at least two bins because once you add the water, the paper will shrink. To make sure your worm bin has the 70-75% water content required for happy worms, you can either weigh the total amount of bedding and do some math—but since I'm not very good at math, you can also moisten the paper with dechlorinated water until it feels like a wrung-out sponge.

It's time to add the worms! Red worms can be ordered off the internet. One website where worms can be found is [www.wormwoman.com](http://www.wormwoman.com).

Now that you have your bin completed, it is easy to maintain it—just feed your worms your leftovers! (Avoid feeding them meat, dairy, or fatty foods.) Don't overfeed your worms—if you notice that it is taking them more than a week to eat some of the good food you've given them, you're feeding them too much.

After your worms have been feeding for about 2-3 months it will be time to harvest the compost! An easy way to do this is to dump the entire contents of your bin on a flat surface. Remove any fresh-looking bedding, then create several mounds from the rest of the contents. The worms will travel downward, so as they move you can remove the top of the mounds and put that in a bucket. eventually, just the worms will be left and you'll have a bucket full of good vermicompost which you can then use in your garden!

There is, of course, more to learn about vermicomposting that I wasn't able to include here. If you are interested in further study, this information came from [www.allthingsorganic.com](http://www.allthingsorganic.com). If you begin your own worm bin, let us hear about it!



# Emerson Elementary needs our help

Emerson Elementary needs new playground equipment. Tulsa Public Schools has informed Emerson that their current playground equipment does not meet the safety standards established by the district. The district does NOT provide monies for playground equipment even under these circumstances. It is up to the local PTA and community to raise the money to replace the playground equipment.

Mrs. Willis, the second grade teacher spearheading the fund raising efforts, has stated that the current equipment could be pulled up and removed at any time, leaving the children with nothing. In this day and age, when childhood obesity is rampant and unstructured playtime is rare, the need for outdoor activities is extremely important. Studies show that exercise can greatly improve your child's ability to learn. Playgrounds also allow for that unstructured play time that is rapidly disappearing in our society.

The current estimate to replace the playground equipment, per Mrs. Willis, is \$20,000. This is a huge task to undertake but never underestimate the power of people to come together when needed.

Emerson Elementary is currently collecting **Box Tops for Education** and will be doing several fund raisers throughout the year. For those of you not familiar with the Box Tops for Education program, each box top is worth 10¢ up to \$20,000 for your school. Box tops can be found on many General Mills and Pillsbury products. See [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for a complete list of box top products.

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## Energy Efficiency Tax Credits continued from page 1

Tulsa Historic Preservation Commission. Be sure to check with the Commission before starting any exterior work or check with Tim Williams ([bittertaw@aol.com](mailto:bittertaw@aol.com)) to ask if your project falls under the Historic Preservation Overlay Zoning Guidelines.

Those of you who are more ambitious may want to take advantage of the Tax Credit by installing solar panels or a wind turbine. The list of potential improvements is legion. This tax credit has something for everyone and should be

In addition to the Box Top Program, Emerson Elementary is collecting the following:

- **Community Bucks from Food Pyramid.** These valuable coupons allow for \$1 dollar for every \$30 you spend at Food Pyramid. You must remember to ask for them, they are printed with the coupons at the register. This program ends on 02/29/09 and all coupons must be turned in by that date.
- **Receipts from Warehouse Markets Stores** under the Tapes for Education program. This program allows schools to get educational equipment that they normally couldn't afford. Save those receipts!
- **Campbell's Soup Labels for Education.** Check your Labels for point coupons. Just like The Tapes for Education program these points allow schools to get extra educational equipment.
- **Ink and Toner Cartridges** – Used ink and toner cartridges can be turned in for cash money for the school. Did you know that it takes 450 years for an Ink Cartridge that is thrown in the landfill to decompose. Don't throw it away – Donate it! You're helping the school and the environment at the same time!

Brady Heights resident Amanda Murrell is the coordinator for these collections. Please contact her at 938-6471 or email her at [amurrell@ufsrw.com](mailto:amurrell@ufsrw.com). There will also be a collection box on her porch located at 901 N Denver for any donations.

used by everyone. It has been available for several years (except 2008) and hopefully will be available in future years.

The \$500 is an annual limit so use it in 2009 and look to see if you can use it in 2010. Even if you buy 5 to 7 storm windows a year, you will be getting them for free and over a few years you will have all of your windows covered; your home will be warmer and your energy bills will be less.

## Blue Jackalope Lives!

Owner Scott Smith gave us quite a scare the week before Thanksgiving. Those shopping at the Blue Jackalope grocery store were greeted by marked down prices and the sad news that the store wouldn't make it past the holiday. Scott sent out his e-flyer as usual this month with nary a word about the closing. Not only is the Jackalope not closing (Scott says they've been "reorganizing"), the store's inventory is expanding to include pastries, sandwiches and a larger coffee menu. Scott is also entering the world of entertainment in order to diversify so keep an eye out for his e-flyer for chances to hear local music and poetry from The Altar. On Saturday, January 3, Crosbie Heights held a "Save the Jackalope" benefit concert at the store.

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## Tulsa Spirit Posters

Don't forget that we have some wonderful posters available for gift giving or decorating. Any purchase helps support our art parkway beautification project. You can pay by cash to either Celina (810-1530) or Margee, you may pay pal your payment to me at [Artistswaygallery@yahoo.com](mailto:Artistswaygallery@yahoo.com) and I will deliver it to your house. - Margee Aycock

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**Speaking of the Art Parkway.** . . . The Art Parkway Committee has recently reconvened to discuss the 2nd installment on the parkway. Anyone interested in becoming involved in the committee should contact Margee Aycock at 583-3503 or at [artistswaygallery@yahoo.com](mailto:artistswaygallery@yahoo.com). The rewards are great!

## 2008 BRADY HEIGHTS OFFICERS

President - Marissa Carter, [marrisa@feelingismutual.com](mailto:marrisa@feelingismutual.com),  
Vice Pres. - Nathan Pickard  
Treasurer - Jenna Brennan  
Secretary - Tara Bowen

## 2009 BRADY HEIGHTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Aveilhe	Mike Kiem
Jana Aveilhe	Tim Lovell
Celina Burkhart	AJ McIntosh
Blake Burkhart	Kristin Pickard
Jeremy Brennan	Justin Pickard
Erin O'Dowd	Kim Williams

**Tulsa Preservation Commission**  
BHNA Representative: Tim Williams  
**Coalition of Historic Neighborhoods**  
BHNA Representative: Celina Burkhart  
and Jeremy Brennan

### Topeca Coffee House Concerts

Last year after Nathan turned us on to Topeca Coffee House downtown at the Mayo Bldg, we struck up a relationship with the owner with the purpose of partnering with them on some of our bigger crowd drawing house concerts. We brought in Po' Girl last year and had our very own 3 Penny Upright (wth neighbor Don Geesling on bass) open for them. They were so much fun to watch and listen to and a great atmosphere and great food too. Well we are bringing them back on March 6. The show will start at 7:30 pm. The suggested donation is \$15. Topeca has great food and coffee. If you want anything stronger it is BYOL. 115 W 5th. If you want to pay in advance you can through pay pal at: [artistswaygallery@yahoo.com](mailto:artistswaygallery@yahoo.com). I would suggest RSVPing first to see if there is room. RSVP is required. RSVP to Scott Aycock at 361-3071 or [scottapoet@yahoo.com](mailto:scottapoet@yahoo.com)  
To find out more about the group go to [www.pogirl.net](http://www.pogirl.net)



### Tulsa Preservation Commission NOTICE

If you are planning updates to your home you will need a Certificate of

Appropriateness for any action to the viewable exterior, other than painting.

**Contact the Preservation Commission at 576-5675**  
[tulsapreservationcommission.org](http://tulsapreservationcommission.org)

BHNA Membership is open to residents, property owners, churches, and businesses within Brady Heights. Annual dues are \$10 per year and tax-deductible donations are gladly accepted. To support BHNA, with dues or donations, make your check or money order out to BHNA and send to:  
Jenna Brennan

c/o BHNA 1160 N. Cheyenne Ave,  
Tulsa, OK 74106.

Or come to the next BHNA monthly meeting, join up, and get to know your neighbors. Make this year the year you get involved and make a difference in your community – beginning here in Brady Heights!

## PLANiTULSA Workshops

By Tara Bowen

On Tuesday, December 9, more than 60 North Tulsa residents met at Booker T. Washington High School to participate in a PlaniTulsa workshop focusing on future development in north Tulsa. Greenwood was the western border of the area under discussion, meaning that Brady Heights itself was not included – however, the workshop was still very relevant to Brady Heights residents.

Because it was icing and miserably cold, I almost decided to stay at home, but am very glad I ended up going. The workshop was conducted as follow. First, a PowerPoint presentation showing examples of development in other cities was shown. As an example, a parking lot was turned into a lively, mixed-use complex that was both useful and beautiful. Next the audience was directed to form about 12 groups and each group was given a map of the area under discussion, along with paper “chips” representing various elements of development like small businesses, community gardens, mixed-use buildings,

bicycle trails, bus stops, etc. Each group got to glue these chips on the board as they thought would be best for the community.

Our group focused on mixed-use development along Peoria, as well as alternative transportation (a train running alongside the highway heading downtown). One group presented an idea for Booker T. Washington and the surrounding schools, envisioning a university-style campus with an on-campus bookstore, coffee shop, etc.

Another group wanted a bike trail joining area parks, which would give bicycle-commuting Booker T. students a safer route to school. And of course, several groups concentrated on the post-Albertson’s corner at Pine and Peoria.

The next round of workshops are being re-scheduled due to the ice storm. The focal points of these workshops are still to be announced. For further information, check out the PLANiTULSA website: [www.planitulsa.org](http://www.planitulsa.org).

## Jeremy's Community Garden update

Even though it's the middle of winter, gardening is just around the corner. We can put cold weather crops in as early as February 15. Time to start thinking about starting those transplants. Even if you're not that much of a gardening die-hard, there are several projects to start thinking about. I contacted green waste and was told they would bring us a load. If they do, we will need some help removing the

rest of the grass and spreading the mulch.

I have also contacted Emerson School to see if they are interested in gardening activities this spring. Seeds of Change has a seed donation program that we can qualify for. This would provide us with lots of seed for outreach projects and increase the diversity of the food/flowers we grow.

*Your Brady Heights Neighborhood Advocate*

**bradyheightsrealtor.com**



**Julia Courcier - 918.906.6812**