



The Mistletoe Express

A Publication of Historic Mistletoe Heights

www.mistletoeheights.com

August 2005



Jim Bradbury

Letter from the president

The rain was a welcome break from the heat and the brown dry grass that had begun to appear in the neighborhood. Things have greened up a bit and people have ventured back out to the lawns and sidewalks for a few days. Unlike Lake Wobegon, it has not been a quiet month here in Mistletoe Heights. We have had a lot going on and fortunately it is all good news.

If you missed the last neighborhood meeting, you need to come next time. The turnout was very good, including many new faces. (wine and food may have helped). We have moved our regular August meeting to September, and it will again be here in the neighborhood. At the last meeting, which took place at my house, I was somewhat alarmed to see six police cruisers pull up in front of my house. I feared that my "youthful indiscretions" had finally caught up with me and that it would all spill out here in front of my kids and neighbors. But to my great pleasure, we were lucky enough to have seven officers from FWPD come to speak to the neighborhood on their desire to improve the recent theft problems that have been occurring in our neighborhood. Both of our NPOs spoke at length on how we can help them do their job. As a product of that meeting, we now have a crime prevention committee, which recently sponsored a Citizens On Patrol (COPS) training with the FWPD for several members of the Committee. The most important point is that all of these officers got

(Continued on page 2)

LET THE BUILDING BEGIN!



Unofficial ground-breaking at the site of the Newby Park Pavilion. Pictured are a few of the pavilion committee members: Jim Bradbury and sons, Sam and Jack, Patsy Slocum, John Key, and Martin Herring.

With the combined monies generated from the sale of the engraved bricks, corporate donations, grants from the City and an anonymous donation, construction on the Newby Park Pavilion will begin at last!

Many thanks to all who participated. And special thanks to our generous corporate sponsors: *Quarles Lumber, Baylor All Saints Medical Center, Fort Worth Western Railroad, Fort Worth National Bank, Texas Bank, Colonial Savings*, and a major donor who wished to remain anonymous.

Also thanks go to *Elizabeth Anna's Old World Garden* for contributing landscape design, *Fort Worth Sprinkler Co.* for the gift of an automated watering system, Karl Komatsu for his wonderful architectural design of the pavilion, and last but not most especially, Patsy Slocum for her tireless pursuit of this goal. Without her leadership, there would be no Newby Park Pavilion.



(continued from previous page)

to know us and are now more committed than ever to our neighborhood.

Through the excellent leadership of Heather White, MHA has formed the Mistletoe Heights Historic Preservation Working Group. This Group is composed of individuals that have a deep interest in historic preservation, architectural styles and helping new and current members of the neighborhood deal with issues presented by the historic overlay. The Working Group has been a great success. Special recognition needs to go to Heather for her tireless efforts, Martin Herring for single handedly putting together a comprehensive collection of architectural styles in the neighborhood and to Patrick Gallagher for his architectural expertise and multiple re-designs of the new construction house on West Rosedale. Please see the detailed article inside on the great result that

was achieved for the neighborhood at the HCLC recently. In short, MHA was specifically recognized (on TV) by the HCLC as a great example of how to approach preservation issues.

The meeting with Berkley officers went very well and we have agreed to cooperate on a number of matters for the future. Phil Weston is taking the helm as President and Debra Nyul, the past President is staying on to chair the batch plant committee. In addition to crime prevention matters, we will be working closely with Berkley on the batch plant, preservation issues and will be making a joint appearance before City Council to raise awareness on neighborhood issues, principally the batch plant. We believe that the City needs a policy and we intend to press that issue with the City so other neighborhoods do not have to deal with the problems we have faced.

Looking ahead, we discussed at the last meeting what types of improvement projects should be undertaken for the neighborhood. Although different suggestions have been discussed the slate is clean in terms of what will be considered. So if you have an idea for an improvement or two for the neighborhood, please come to the next meeting in September or get word to an officer so your idea can be discussed. The groundbreaking for the Newby Park Pavilion was last Saturday and work is about to commence. Special thanks go to our stalwart supporter of this project Patsy Slocum, who is currently considering whether she will act as general contractor for the construction of the new Cowboy's stadium in Arlington.

Feedback was positive about the possibility of a fall party at the triangle. We will discuss this in more detail at our September meeting but e-mail your thoughts on this to the Mistletoe e-mail address.

One last thought. One of the things that make our neighborhood great is that it honors the way things used to be. Part of a neighborhood is the merchants that choose to locate close to the homes and the families. We have a new hardware store on Eighth, a new landscaping/nursery business also on Eighth, a new drugstore on Park Place, and several great neighborhood restaurants. We all have choices and there may be reason to go somewhere else but remember they are here supporting us so we need to do the same and support them.

Summer has slipped away too quickly. Before it is gone take some peaches to a neighbor or leave a bottle of wine on a doorstep.

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KUDOS TO HEATHER WHITE AND COMMITTEE

by Kathy McReynolds

A Certificate of Appropriateness was recently given to build a historically appropriate 2-story brick, wood, and stucco house with a porte cochere at 2314 West Rosedale Street South. This is great news and everyone who believes in our Overlay owes Heather White a huge debt of gratitude. Thanks, Heather!

The original plans submitted were not in keeping with our neighborhood, and were not within the Mistletoe Heights Historic and Cultural District Guidelines. A committee was formed—Mistletoe Heights Historic Preservation Workgroup, chaired by Heather White—and they went to work. After one of the Historic and Cultural Landmarks Commission hearings, the owner, Barkat Ali, asked Heather, Tom Richey, and me for help designing his house. He said he and his architect, Bayazeed Billah, did not understand what was expected or what was wrong with the plans they had submitted. Heather agreed to meet with him, but personally I thought she was naive to think Mr. Ali would change anything. Heather never stopped. In fact, one week she was at her third meeting of the week by Wednesday. That does not count the many phone calls, and emails. (And she also has a full time job and an old house, like the rest of us!)

And then a plan was presented that was great! Modifications had been made and suddenly we were all on the same page. I was thrilled and astonished.

Many people worked together to bring about these plans. Martin Herring and Patrick Gallagher did a great deal of work. Patrick is an architect, and he, free of charge, showed Mr. Billah how to just tweak their plans without starting all over. He suggested the porte cochere and brick columns. This professional advice was invaluable. Martin, who is very knowledgeable about historic architecture, not only brought the right people together, but also met with the architect and Heather numerous times, and the half-timbering that makes

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Patrick Gallagher

such a dramatic difference was his idea. Martin also created a very impressive notebook of full-page photos of houses on the block and the street, their styles identified, including information about period architecture, with specific elements such as windows. Mr. Billah came up with an ingenious plan to put the garage directly behind the house, attaching it via a breezeway, which will not be visible from the street. Also invaluable was Tom Richey for his input at meeting after meeting, and for his level head and ability to always keep the goal at the forefront.

The teamwork these plans represent is a success story that can serve as a model for future interactions between the Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Association and future Certificate of Appropriateness applicants.

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Here are excerpts and/or summaries of the neighborhood emails since the last issue. Want to get on the MHA email list? You can email Tom Richey at vicepresident@mistletoeheights.com or you can go to the MHA web site [www.mistletoeheights.com] and find the join-up link.

Subject: Car theft

Sometime between Monday night and Tuesday morning someone stole my wallet and cell phone from my car parked in my driveway. Tuesday morning I contacted the police and a report was filed. On Wednesday morning I realized that I had not notified my cell phone carrier. So I check my messages and found that someone had left a message that I did not know. So I returned the call and found out that it was an owner of an antique shop. She wasn't sure who it was. She thought it might be someone wanting to sell something to her. She said she would not be open again until Thursday and that would be when the individual might come in. I contacted the police department and they said that a detective would check into it in 2-3 weeks. Of course I thought this was unacceptable because the trail would be cold by then. So I left a message with officer Briggs on his cell, but have not heard from him. With this kind of response from our police department, we will never catch the individuals. FYI—the call was made to Lemon Tree on Pennsylvania. Apparently, this store resells many stolen lawn furniture and garden items. So I suggest if you have anything stolen from your porch to make a police report then check there in a couple of days. It wouldn't hurt to stop shopping there if you currently pick things up there. Maybe Betty would have to shut down if people stopped buying items from her...hence one less place for individuals to sell our items. Kim Perkins

Subject: Lemon Tree

I too have known for several years that this store—Lemon Tree—buys stolen goods and not just lawn and garden furniture either. When confronted she just says how she didn't know it was stolen. Uh huh. I found some stuff stolen from my house years ago at her store and raised the roof and she gave it back, but I found out too late where it might have gone and a lot of it was sold already. While I was there this guy came in and he was really dirty and I'd bet he was homeless and had some stuff to sell and she hustled him out because I was in her face and about to be in his. Probably told him to come back later. We need to have proof about some of this stuff being sold—type out the goods being bought w/description and show several kinds of ID to show who you are, the seller, so if you find your stuff you can get a

handle on who got it. Don't pawn shops do something like this? Janet Flatt

Subject: Re: Stolen merchandise

I am an antiques dealer and all of us in the business know to avoid the Lemon Tree. The owner is not ethical and twice I have spotted my own stuff for sale in her shop. There is also a "back room" where the hottest of the merchandise is stored waiting for her regular buyers to stop by. It does no good to confront her....I suggest you go through police channels and perhaps someday they will close her down.

E-Chat



Subject: RE: Things stolen from car

Same response I got from the last "neighborhood" officer when I ran 2 (two, count them) drug dealers off my neighbor's porch. One in appearance was a corporate citizen; however, when I walked on my front porch at NOON and took her picture she stormed up to my front door and demanded why I took HER picture. When I told her "I know what you're here for and I know what you're selling and I'm calling 911 she ran like O.J. Simpson to a golf course. Haven't

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seen her since. I called our "neighborhood" officer and the only comment out of him was "Yeah, right, a drug dealer that delivers." Add to that the drug deal I witnessed at Mr. Jake's two weeks ago when a 15ish-year-old kid (roughly 5'11" curly brown hair) rode up on a bike and had an "interaction" with two young black males in a silver late model Cadillac. They wouldn't even roll down the windows. They made him go to the passenger door and make the transaction. Folks, we live on the edge of a very dangerous area. Please watch your kids and your stuff.

Subject: Re: FW: Porch theft

Just a quick comment about protecting our neighborhood - I had just parked in front of my home on Clara yesterday, when I saw a man walking north toward the Rosedale berm and paying alot of attention to the homes on our block. I called out to him as he passed by my car & asked if he needed help. He waved me off & continued down Clara toward the corner. I followed him till he joined a work crew on West Rosedale almost at Buck. I think this gives people an opportunity to look over neighborhoods, watch traffic & pick their time to hit us. There isn't much in my back yard, but my gate is being left open several times a week. So I figure I've been checked out & lucked out this time. Maybe if you take a license number down when a suspicious auto drives by, they might think twice before coming back. Or stare down the kids who double on one bike - you know what they are doing! Too bad we might be sending them to another area to do the same thing! Once again, do what you can to protect your belongings & report EVERY theft to the police department. Statistics will increase patrol activity.

Subject: RE: Things stolen from car

While it is unfortunate that we don't receive more timely responses from the police department as a whole (a 20-minute + level 2 response to a burglar alarm is plenty of time for them to clean you out and be gone, for example), I think it's a valid point that apparently we're not mad as hell yet, or we would have a COPS program up and running. My neighbor and I once called the police about a homeless person in our alley. When they arrived, one of them said, Well, what do you expect—you back up to a major 4-way—of course you're going to have homeless people in your backyards. In fact, I disagree. We *do not* have to accept the status quo. If the crime rate in New York can plummet, so can ours. We just have to be determined to make it happen. I consider 8 am on Saturday an ungodly hour, but I will attend this training if one other person from our neighborhood will go with me.

Police response: RE: Things stolen from car

Kim Parish was contacted Thursday morning when I returned to work. I was off Wednesday evening when she called. Sorry guys but I don't work a 24 hour shift. Please remember to lock your cars at night and try to park in lighted areas. Most of the vehicle burglaries occurring in this area involve cars that have been left unlocked. Also remove valuables such as cell phones and purses from your car. Leaving valuables in you car makes it an even better target for thieves. Your NPO's have been trying to reactivate your Mistletoe Heights Citizens on Patrol group for over



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a year now with no success. Instead of being critical of police response to neighborhood problems, join us in trying to prevent these problems from occurring. The next Citizens on Patrol Training class will be Saturday July 9th at 8:00 a.m. at the Police and Fire Training Center at 1000 Calvert St. (just across river from Tandy HQ.) The COP program has worked very well in other neighborhoods where residents are willing to get involved.

Subject: solicitors

A couple of men (both Anglo) were walking down Mistletoe Avenue just now, knocking on doors soliciting business spraying house #'s on curbs. I was weeding in the back yard, heard one of them walk away from a neighbor's house (a house with two plainly visible sets of house #'s), cussing. I stepped out my gate to the front yard, and one of the men saw me and started walking up. I told him I was not interested and he left. I continued weeding in the back yard, when I heard him talking with my neighbor Frances. She was having a hard time understanding him, and I told him to just go on and leave her alone. He told me to "Go back in your house, you f***** b*****". I told him I was calling the police. A neighbor walking a dog got a vehicle description, teal colored Explorer. The responding policeman suggested that in the future, do not tell the solicitors that you are calling the police, just do it. Makes sense to me.



PET TALK

Things to Remember When You Unleash Your Dog

We dog owners have many responsibilities that need to be taken seriously and when we forget - we need to be reminded. I want to point out, from one dog owner to another, a responsibility that is sometimes overlooked - tending to an unleashed dog.

There is a leash law but there are times we let it slide - working in the front yard with your dog nearby, playing fetch in the park or just strolling in the evening with your 4-legged buddy. These are all great activities but please keep your dog close to you and do not allow it to run up to people walking (with or without their dogs). I encounter this so often on my dog walks and it is frustrating and physically difficult to handle.

People may assume that because dogs are pack animals, they all want to hang out and be friends. NOT TRUE. The dogs on the leash are at a definite disadvantage in dog hierarchy and tensions (and hackles!) can rise. This is one reason why the "Fort Woof Dog Park" is a good option- all the dogs are off leashes and it "evens the playing field."

Also, dogs are first and foremost ANIMALS - we cannot always predict how they will react or behave in a given situation. I love dogs and love to see people enjoying their dogs but please - be courteous and keep your unleashed dog close to you and under your control.

Thanks,
Betty Whitham

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COP'ing means fighting crime

In response to the current resurgence of criminal activity in the neighborhood we are taking steps to reactivate the Mistletoe Citizen on Patrol (COPs) program. Following the neighborhood association meeting in June, three coordinators came forward (Samantha Bennett, Carrie Johnson, Debra Windsor). A subsequent neighborhood email resulted in 20 patrol volunteers.

Several volunteers attended the COPs training session at the Police Academy on July 9. As the next scheduled training is not until October 15, we will also explore the possibility of setting up a neighborhood session. In addition to the classroom session,

the COPs training also consists of an eight hour ride-along with a patrol officer. Those who attended the July 9 session are now making arrangements to spend time on patrol.

We will be following up with our NPOs in the next few weeks to define the specific format of the Mistletoe COPS group. We will have limited patrol capability until we get more people trained and a base station operator trained and set up.

The more volunteers that we can gather, the better off we will all be. If anyone has a few available hours and would like to take part in making our neighborhood safer, please contact one of the coordinators listed below.



Samantha Bennett

Cell: 214-886-6892

Work: 817-415-5299

Email: samantha.bennett@charter.net

Carrie Johnson

Home: 817-926-9776

Cell: 682-561-9776

Email: redhawk_eagle@yahoo.com

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Sean



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Popsicle party at the Herrings

Yard of the Month: 2345 Mistletoe Boulevard

by Becka Elbert, DeDe Barth & Celia Jones



We have chosen the home of the Monk family as the August yard of the month. We love the warm toned, color block scheme of this yard at the corner of Buck and the Boulevard. Lining the beautiful, historic front porch on the west is a row of nandinas fronted by predominately red caladiums and on the east are a mass of bright orange impatiens. As you walk up to this truly unique porch you are greeted with white urns also filled with caladiums and impatiens. The peaceful east side yard has a flower bed with orange star zinnias, azaleas, fern, cone flowers and barberry to name a few, surrounding a Japanese Maple and crape myrtles. Because of its many established plantings, this yard has year-round appeal. Thank you Tom, Stephanie, Daniel & Leo. Happy Planting!

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Gardening with Patsy Slocum

Watering tips to conserve water & save your pocketbook:

We are just entering the season of the year that has the highest temperatures and least amount of rain. There are several things a homeowner can do to conserve water and keep the water meter from spinning so fast.

Let your grass grow a little taller, maybe as much as 3 inches, which will help keep the soil from drying out so quickly. If you have a sprinkler system, set it to start watering very early in the morning. Ours is set to start at 3 a.m. Don't water during the heat of the day. Up to 50 percent of water can be lost due to evaporation in the heat. Water only when the plants show signs of wilting or grass turns off color, and then water deeply to a depth of 4 inches. Put a short tin can near the sprinkler to gauge the water. It takes about an inch of water to soak the soil.

Mulch is excellent to hold in the moisture in flower beds. Two to three inches of mulch in a bed will retain the moisture well. If you have new plantings of grass, flowers, or shrubs, water these by hand with a hose as they need more water to establish a new root system. Plants native to this area require less moisture to survive the intense heat.



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DON'T TURN AWAY FROM CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

An average of one child a month dies from abuse or neglect in Tarrant County. In 2004 alone, 3,095 local children were abused or neglected. Without help, the effects of abuse can last a lifetime.

You can help keep children safe in Tarrant County. Here are some ideas provided by United Way of Tarrant County and the Neglect Hurts Task Force. United Way and Neglect Hurts are sponsoring "Don't Turn Away," a year-long child abuse and neglect public awareness campaign.

How You Can Help:

Volunteer or donate items to organizations devoted to child abuse and neglect issues. To get started, dial 2-1-1,

United Way's information and referral service, and request a free resource guide. By dialing 2-1-1 you also can report suspected child abuse and request a speaker for your church, workplace or civic group meeting.

- Go to www.dontturnaway.org. The site lists signs of abuse and neglect; links to local, state and national child abuse organizations; safety tips for parents and more.
- Become a foster or adoptive parent.
- Get free "Don't Turn Away" posters by dialing 2-1-1 and put them up where you work, worship and buy groceries.

- Become politically active in child abuse issues and legislation. Vote for candidates who support child safety through their public policy positions.



**3,095 children
were abused or neglected
in Tarrant County in 2004.**

*Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2004

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
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Marissa Stube

By Liz Stevens

Marissa Stubbe is an admitted drama queen.

Not only does much of her 13-year-old world revolve around Broadway musicals, but she also describes her personality as, well, unpredictable: giddy one minute, brooding the next.

"I act like I'm 4 years old most of the time," she explains. "And the other half of the time, I'm so moody, I act like I'm 16."

Marissa moved with her family from South Carolina two years ago and she didn't waste any time inserting herself into the local drama scene. For the past two summers she has participated in Camp Casa, the Casa Manana program that readies kids for bit parts in actual Casa productions. Last year it was *Annie*. This year, in *Godspell*, Stubbe and other Casa-ites, graced the stage during the entire show. (Sorry if you missed it. *Godspell* closed July 24).

In the days leading up to opening night, Marissa's schedule was grueling: from 11:50 a.m. to late into the evening, with only an hour break for dinner. It hardly dampened her enthusiasm.

(Express Yourself first met Marissa at a Casa presentation of *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, the score of which Marissa knew by heart.)

On a weekday morning just prior to rehearsals, Marissa gets comfy on her silky gold bedspread, her dog Jet, a black Pomeranian, nestled beside her. The walls are turquoise and adorned with theater paraphernalia. Above the windows hang four framed posters from the shows *Les Miserable*, *Wicked*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Rent*. She's wearing her *Rent* t-shirt, too.



Marissa Stube

Earlier in the summer, the entire Stubbe family (sister Christina, mom Diana and dad Richard) traveled to New York City and saw *Movin' Out* and *Wicked*. Marissa didn't care for the former (too much dancing to pre-recorded Billy Joel music; she prefers singing). But she absolutely adored *Wicked*.

"Oh! Where do I begin?!" she exclaims.

When she's not acting, Marissa is reading. In fact, reading is a Stubbe household specialty. A fan of Laurie R. King and the Harry Potter series, Marissa attended a recent midnight release party for *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. She won the trivia contest and went home with a Harry Potter ball cap.

She read the new book until 3 a.m. that morning (when her mother came into the room and insisted she get some sleep), and then woke at 8 a.m. and finished the 652-page volume by 11.

At rehearsal that day, she found herself frustrated by the fact that no one else had read the *Half-Blood Prince* yet. In any case, the book ranked only as her second least favorite in the series.

Marissa, who just graduated from William James Middle School, can be a bit of a hermit. "I don't like going out of my way to make friends," she says. "I'm perfectly happy to keep my nose in a book."

But friends have managed to find her. She once hung with a couple of girls who together referred to themselves as "Evil Gerbils."

"We want to be evil and rule the world," deadpans Marissa, like a true thespian. "Actually, we've already done it. But nobody knows it yet."

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Dreaming of a lush and Texas-tough landscape?

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Early Childhood Music: Mistletoe Musikgarten

Classes in SW Fort Worth and Hurst. With 8 years of experience, certifications in early childhood music, and a UNT music degree, I enjoy teaching children and families from birth to age 9. Call or e-mail for info about summer or fall classes. Carol Spencer at 817.927.3241 or spenway@earthlink.net.

Housekeeper Our housekeeper is seeking additional MH clients. Currently, she works at three other houses on our block and at several other MH addresses. Dependable, flexible, reliable and thorough. Interested in both short-term and long-term clients. Contact Alexia at astroutdapaz@yahoo.com to request her contact information.

Babysitter Available Eighth grade honors student looking for babysitting opportunities to raise money for a class trip to Quebec. If interested call Jenny at 817-727-3285

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Mary Kay Cosmetics Paula Cady Russell at 2201 Mistletoe Blvd. is a Mary Kay consultant. Call her at 921-6377 for a free makeover, gift service or if you've "lost" your consultant.

No Time for Your Yard? Give me a call! I'm your Mistletoe Heights neighbor and I can offer you competitive pricing and plenty of references. Call Daniel Tice at 817-921-4651 or cell 817-707-1581.

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Housekeeper Our housekeeper seeks additional babysitting, elderly care or housecleaning in the Mistletoe Heights area. She is dependable, and honest. I highly recommend her and she has additional references. Contact me at abbies@mail.com or 817-922-0780

Avon Edward Alvarez is YOUR local Neighborhood Avon Sales Rep. that would like to meet with any interested Mistletoe Heights friends, in your home or mine, that have any interests or questions about the current line of AVON products (including Skin-so-soft Bug Guard). Please contact Ed at 817-926-0908


Ads are free for Mistletoe Heights residents and may be submitted to the editor. The deadline is the 20th of each month. Ads must be renewed monthly except for service classifieds (i.e.: babysitting, mowing, etc.), which are renewed yearly. If you would like to renew, discontinue or update your ad, please notify the editor at 817-921-2120 or twoearsup@charter.net.



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Lily B. Clayton Elementary	922-6660		it.ftworth.isd.tenet.edu/116/
Paschal High School	922-6600		
Historical Preservation (Julie Lawless)	392-8012	julie.lawless@fortworthgov.org	
Southside Preservation Hall	926-2800	HallTess@earthlink.net	www.southsidepreservation.com
The T/Longhorn Trolley	215-8600		www.the-t.com
Trinity Railway Express	215-8600		www.trinityrailwayexpress.org
Wendy Davis - City Council District 9	392-8809	district9@fortworthgov.org	ci.fort-worth.tx.us

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MHA YEARLY DUES			
Dues are \$5, \$10, \$25 or more. Your dues help to defer the cost of this newsletter, the Mistletoe Heights phone directory and many other neighborhood functions. Dues are accepted by Alex Blanton (call for address - 926-1792).	Neighborhood Police Officer East of Forest Park	Neighborhood Police Officer West of Forest Park	
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