



# The Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.com

August 2009

## Letter from the president

By Jeff Davis

Our noteworthy newsletter editor, Marjorie Day, is always gently reminding me to prepare remarks from the president. Most of the time, I defer to the talented contributors to the newsletter because I have zero writing talent and I feel that the neighborhood is just about the greatest place in the world -- with or without my comments.

I do want to share one insight, though. Every time we have the Easter egg hunt, the Fourth of July parade, one of Patsy Slocum's fall get-togethers, our Christmas holiday open house, or any meeting with Martin Herring or Kathy McReynolds (or Marjorie's fresh pastry and fruit dish), I just can't help but earnestly feel that Mistletoe Heights is a huge part of my life. As I'm fond of saying, "It's a big deal."

There are many to thank for the things that happen in our neighborhood -- usually over and over again because so many contribute so often. I apologize for not knowing everyone's name by now. I am old! But I know there are folks in our community who would love to participate in a meaningful way. We have kids to raise, jobs to keep, stuff to do, but please offer your help to our neighborhood when you are able.

The election of officers is not until November, but the time to think about what you might be able to do for Mistletoe Heights is now. If you prefer not to be an officer, perhaps letting us know that you would be willing to help in some capacity would benefit all of us. Our next neighborhood meeting is Aug. 18, at 2325 Mistletoe Drive, and I hope that date doesn't conflict again with *Dancing With The Stars!*

The Midtown project is facing difficulties, as are all developments in this economic climate. The developers, the Raymond Group, recently sent out a communication saying that they'd like to visit again with the neighbors who have been involved since the initial design phase. It appears that they'd like to modify the site plan that the City Council approved with our consent, although they're still committed to a mixed-use project, including retail, office and a hotel. I will report

*Continued on page 6*

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## Herb Gardening

By Dotty Guffey

*"Gardening is not graceful, and it makes one hot; but it is a blessed sort of work and if Eve had had a spade in paradise and known what to do with it, we should not have had all that sad business of the apple."*

~ Countess Von Armin

If you think gardening is too difficult, you might try being an herb enthusiast. Herbs don't require much attention and often live in poor soil conditions. Herbs can be grown for insect management, cooking, drying for wreaths and gifts and canning. Also, hummingbirds and bees like the nectar of their flowers.

At age 25, I planted my first big herbal garden. As I struggled to learn the art of gardening, my haphazard planting lacked a focal point. I had to learn quickly how to propagate dry seeds and arrange to prevent my little space from looking like a weed garden. As a focal point, choose a feathery silver-green-leafed Artemisia variety that grows from three and five feet high. A bird bath suffices as well. Working out from the focal point, introduce such additional herbs as basil, thyme and scented (rose, nutmeg, apple, peppermint and many more) geraniums, and plant them in pots because they freeze.

Also, fennel, yarrow and dill make nectar to encourage beneficial insects, hummingbirds and bees. Then there are bug trap plants such as nasturtiums and mustard that attract harmful insects. If organically grown, fresh nasturtium flowers in a salad introduce a peppery flavor. Rosemary, an evergreen, can be a lot of fun trimmed into shapes as a bonsai focal point and fabulous for culinary use.

Another possible focal point is bay, a medium dark evergreen shrub good for culinary use. Also, a couple of leaves in the flour canister repel weevils. Onion and garlic chives will prevent a quick run to the grocery store in the middle of cooking, and the flowers keep the bees busy.

Vigorous-growing culinary herbs, such as mint julep, oregano and marjoram, grow in mounds but can be controlled in pots or with plastic edging. Mint julep is especially good in ice tea on a summer day and even better with a splash of bourbon.

**Summer gardening tips:** (1) Two good soakings a week will keep flowers and vegetables happy. If additional water is needed, water with hose in hand early in the morning or evening. Established shrubs will take a good soaking once a week. No need to fertilize in this unbearable heat. Three inches of mulch will keep fragile plants from wilting on a hot summer day. (2) Plant fall vegetable and flower seedlings in July and early August.

Letter to the Editor:

Talk about the redesign of the entrance to Mistletoe Heights at West Rosedale and Forest Park has been bandied about for years. Instead of just merely talking about it, we need a MASTER PLAN to begin the redesign, both hardscape and landscape, in the beautification of an entrance that would justify not only our neighborhood but others beyond. No one will deny that a project of this magnitude will be expensive and will have to be done in timely manner. That is why we need a Landscape Architect to create a plan that could be accomplished in affordable phases based on funds that we currently have and future funding. There is no limit to what our neighborhood can accomplish if we set our minds to do it. In the past 17 years that we have lived here, I have seen lots of projects completed in our neighborhood...i.e., street topplers, many trees planted in the berms, a Newby Park pavilion and playground, and other projects. In talking with lots of our residents, all seem to be in favor, but still no positive action has been taken on this. Let's get off our back sides and start the ball rolling. Let's consult with reputable Landscape Architects for this project, consider their ideas, and contract with him/her to create a design that MHA desires. I feel there are many qualified professionals that would donate or partially donate their services for this project. We greatly appreciated the contribution of Karl Komatsu for his design of the pavilion at Newby.

Patsy Slocum



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## It's been fun but we are done.

Hi all,

For almost 15 years we've enjoyed hosting and facilitating both the *Fourth of July Ice-Cream Social* and *Christmas Streetlight Bow-tying Party*. Now we are passing the baton to another (perhaps younger) family. It really is a lot of fun, and we will be happy to pass on helpful hints. The new hosts will act mostly as facilitators, and provide the location to gather. All the bow-tying and ice-cream expenses are paid for by the MH Neighborhood Association.

The old regulars (including ourselves) will be on hand to help out and to share our accumulated knowledge. These occasions have been great fun and made for lots of happy memories. And, a big plus is getting to know so many wonderful people in the neighborhood.

If you are interested in one or both of these positions, please contact Jeff Davis at [jeffdavis@republictitle.com](mailto:jeffdavis@republictitle.com) or phone him at 817-999-6154.

Thanks,  
Martin & Gay Herring



### I love my "gray Taco Bell"...

The gray mission-style bungalow on Harrison Avenue has been my home for almost 30 years. And Mistletoe Heights has always meant much more to me than just a convenient place to live.

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[jason.needham.nv00@statefarm.com](mailto:jason.needham.nv00@statefarm.com)

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9/05



## **Yard of the month: 2324 Mistletoe Drive**

The Yard of the Month award for August goes to Carol and Jack Benson at 2324 Mistletoe Drive. The home is listed in the *Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Phase III Fort Worth's Southside*, published in 1986 by the Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County.

It is described as “a late example of a Moderne Style house, built in 1946. Essentially a hard-edged stuccoed box which makes remarkably few concessions to ornament and none to tradition. Its first owner was William T. Hobbs, a dealer in used trucks and trailers.”

Carol and Jack have owned the property for more than 20 years. They have remodeled extensively inside and added an addition to the east side, which faithfully mirrors the original structure.

Carol is an artist, principally in painting and sculpture, but her artistic nature is certainly evident in her gardens. She spends hours in her garden tending her plants, including harvesting seeds from poppies and larkspur and sowing them at the proper time of year, propagating plants and continually experimenting with new visions of her garden.

The front yard is anchored by large beds of plants and features sculptures on each side of the yard (not her own creations, but by artist friends). The east side of the front walk features a weeping yaupon against the house and profusions of plants, including datura, nandina, dusty Miller, chrysanthemums, coleus, rosemary, privet, fringe plant, gaura, salvia and Mexican petunia.

Some of these same plants are included in the west side of the front yard in a bed curving out toward the street. A desert willow and a golden raintree add height to the area, and lower plantings that provide continual color throughout the year include lantana, day lilies, moss rose, nasturtiums, yarrow, poppies, pink and purple larkspur, rock daisies, roses, yucca, prairie grass, lambs ear, kale, coreopsis and caladiums.

Congratulations to the Bensons, and thanks to Calloway's Nurseries, which provides a gift certificate to each of our Yard of the Month winners.



## Neighborhood Police Officer

**Mark Russell**

Office 817-871-8885

Mobile 817-991-8472

Email: [Markus.Russell@fortworthgov.org](mailto:Markus.Russell@fortworthgov.org)

*Please watch out for your neighborhood, and be mindful as much as possible. Lock your doors, lock your car and remember to lock windows as well. Leave a talk radio program on, as it sounds like someone is home. Arrange for mail holds if going out of town and ask neighbors to pick up door flyers if one should find itself on your front door knob.*

Please input Police Officer Mark Russell's phone numbers into your cell phone! 817-991-8472  
This way you can call the minute you see something odd occurring in the neighborhood. Officer Russell wants to hear from you the minute you see anything suspicious!

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If your home's garage doors are facing the street, use the darkest color of your color scheme or natural wood. The entry and front door should be the focal point of your craftsman home. White or light colored garage doors can steal the attention away from your home's unique historic entrance, especially if the garage or garage door is not historically accurate to your home.

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## Free Classified Neighborhood Ads

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### PET PORTRAITS:

Melissa Kahout's work is a perfect gift for the pet lover in your life. Great for graduations, anniversaries, birthdays, weddings or just because you love your pet. You can contact Melissa @817-924-7063 or www.mkohouthorseportraits.com 2242 Mistletoe Blvd.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mama Kitty got pregnant before we had a chance to get her fixed. She has three beautiful babies that are now looking for new homes. They're 9 or 10 weeks old now. All are litter-trained and love people. Pics are attached. Please email Christopher.Fowler@sbcglobal.net or call 817-602-5635 if you're interested.



\*\*\*\*\*

### Facials and Electrolysis

Lady M of London: Contact Margaret Pluck@817-921-4781

\*\*\*\*\*

Anyone who may have a used but running A/C window unit for sale, please send me a note at hao@urbangreenbuild.com.

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### HOUSE SITTING / PET SITTING / CHILDCARE SERVICES

College Student residing in Mistletoe Heights Home for summer  
Contact Margo Hudson for more details

margo.e.hudson@gmail.com /2425 Mistletoe Blvd

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### LEARN TO SWIM LESSONS - With emphasis on Olympic strokes Supervised by TCU Swimming Coach - Richard Sybesma

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Six 2 - Week sessions beginning April 27, There are eight 40 Minute sessions for ages 3 to adult held Monday through Thursday. All lessons are taught in the indoor heated TCU pool.

Cost is \$130 per 2 week sessions.

Contact: Richard Sybesma, Head Swim Coach  
TCU Box 297600 • Fort Worth TX 76129  
817-257-5646 or 817-257-7963

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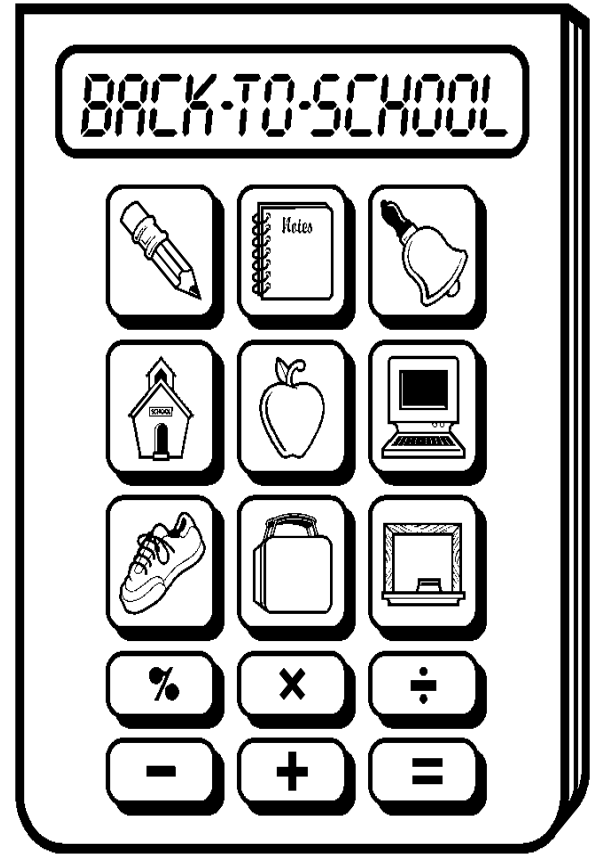
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## KIDS COLORING SECTION



*Thanks to Martin & Gay Herring for all they have done for the neighborhood.*

**Free Classified Neighborhood Ads**



2000 SF, 2 BD, 2 BA, 1 car garage, Frig included, 1,500 per month. 2321 Irwin.

\*\*\*\*\*

Free red canna bulbs, you dig. 817-923-5510 Patsy

\*\*\*\*\*

I have some lyre leaf sage and some monkey grass to give away. Both of these plants are industrial (meaning hard to kill). Call me first to make sure some is left and that I am home.

Rose Lynn Scott  
2340 Mistletoe Avenue

There still might be some Iris bulbs to take as well. Hope you get lucky!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Art Classes for the Summer!** Classes will be for one week per session starting in July through August.

Five days ( Monday through Thursday 9:30 am-11:30 am,

Fridays 9:30-2:00, weather permitting/ field trip to the zoo) Sessions are \$100 for each week, ages 8 to 12. Please call for details

Melissa Kohout 817-924-7063

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The Presbyterian Night Shelter is ending homelessness one individual at a time through **Operation Move Out!** PNS is asking volunteers to donate basic furniture items, toiletries and other household necessities so the clients aren't moving into empty homes. Having a comfortable home will ensure their successful and decrease any chances of re-entering the Shelter.

Starting May 28, furniture, toiletries and other household items can be dropped off at PNS from 10 am. to 2 pm on Thurs and Sat., at 5501 Thelin St., Suite 131 Quantity donations can be picked up (on Thurs & Sat 10 am and 2 p.m.) to schedule (call 817-632-7415).

If you are interested in participating in or donating to Operation Move Out, please contact Heather White at 817-632-7415 or hwhite@pns-tc.org

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Your resident ad is FREE, so email the editor with your request.

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# HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!







# MHA Meetings and Events

August 18<sup>th</sup>, November 17<sup>th</sup>

7pm, for consistency purposes all Regular Association meetings will be at Jeff Davis' home at 2325 Mistletoe Drive.

The election of officers will be held at the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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## School starts!

August 24th

Lily B. Clayton  
2000 Park Place  
817-922-6660

Paschal High School  
3001 Forest Park Blvd.  
817-922-5600



Letter from President (continued on page 1)

back. If you have a particular interest in this matter, let me know, and

you'll be invited to any future meetings.

It would appear also that our friends on the southwest corner of the intersection of Rosedale and Forest Park will be there for some time. Jim Bradbury spoke with the owner, and his asking "price" is three or four times what the property is worth.

Not that we have the ability as a neighborhood to undertake such a project, but it would be a dramatic improvement to our quality of life if we were able to enjoy a gateway to Mistletoe Heights commensurate with our neighborhood.

See many of you on Aug. 18!

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Please take a look at the dues that have come in so far. The Association needs your support to continue providing services such as landscaping, the directory and social functions, along with the newsletter and website. It would be nice if everyone would contribute something, no matter how small.

# Mistletoe Heights Association Income & Expenses January 1 through July 18, 2009

<u>Jan 1 - Jul 18, 09</u>	
<b>Income</b>	
Advertising Income - Newsletter	1,019.00
Dues	3,570.00
Interest Income	3.65
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>4,592.65</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
Bank Charges	3.23
Christmas Party - 2008	25.71
Easter Egg Hunt	215.92
July 4th	579.14
Newsletter Expenses	2,584.53
Water Expense - Newby & Berm	936.29
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>4,344.82</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>247.83</u></u>

## Mistletoe Heights Association Dues 2009

As of 7/18/09														
Number of Families Contributing														
Dollar Amount	Buck	Clara	Edwin	Harrison	Irwin	Mistletoe Ave.	Mistletoe Blvd.	Mistletoe Drive	Weatherbee	West Magnolia	W. Rosedale South	Other	Total Families	Total Dollars
\$ 10				1									1	\$ 10
\$ 15		1	2	4	2	3	3	4	1	3	2	1	26	\$ 390
\$ 20				1						2	1		4	\$ 80
\$ 25		2	5	6	4	6	5	3	3	4	3		41	\$ 1,025
\$ 30						1							1	\$ 30
\$ 35								1					1	\$ 35
\$ 50			1		1	3	1	4	2	2			14	\$ 700
\$ 75					1			2		1			4	\$ 300
\$ 100			1		2	1		5	1				10	\$ 1,000
<b>Total families</b>		3	9	12	10	14	9	19	7	12	6	1	102	
<b>Total dollars</b>	\$ -	\$ 65	\$ 305	\$ 240	\$ 455	\$ 475	\$ 220	\$ 1,020	\$ 290	\$ 360	\$ 125	\$ 15		\$ 3,570



Thank you for supporting your neighborhood association. Together we can make Mistletoe Heights an even better place to live.

\$15    \$25    \$50    \$Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions for Improvement: \_\_\_\_\_



Please return your dues to:  
Mistletoe Heights Association  
c/o Jeri Jo Blackmon  
1408 Mistletoe Drive  
Fort Worth, TX 76110