



# The Mistletoe Express

[www.mistletoeheights.com](http://www.mistletoeheights.com)

September 2009

## Letter from the president

*Jeff Davis*

There is richness to life in Mistletoe Heights. We are part of this special neighborhood and that alone simply makes us all feel better. Whether it is taking a walk, seeing people that we know, greeting them and affirming our "belonging," we are part of this neighborhood phenomenon that increases our security, our social connectedness, and can help raise our families in this nurturing environment. These very positive things happen in Mistletoe Heights every day. Not every experience with a neighbor is always positive though, and how we all handle these "neighbor" issues can enhance or detract from the Mistletoe Heights experience. Perhaps we have seen more than once, the dog walking that does not have a happy ending...or the neighbor who just won't mow or trim their yard...or the incessant noise from that teenager's loud music. Or even worse, that neighbor's fence that encroaches onto my driveway by 3 or 4 inches! So, what does one do? It was my experience in my law practice (and actually in my political and personal life too) that how the message is delivered about these "important" issues matters most. Rather than get overly emotional about something, take a deep breath, and remember that if you are too strident in your feelings and confrontations then there is the good possibility that you will lose that goodwill from that neighbor who would gladly mow your lawn if you were out of town or sick...So, deliver the message that needs to be conveyed keeping in mind that you are a neighbor who might not be without faults. Deliver the message as one neighbor to another...and maybe with a slice of pie or a cup of coffee.

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## Email system

*Jeri Jo Blackmon*

At the Mistletoe Heights Association's last meeting, there was a discussion about the possibility of switching to a new email system. The idea is to switch to a system which will allow more than one mass email to be distributed per hour (which is the limitation of our current system). This would allow for comments and discussions to be held directly through your email rather than requiring you to log on to the website to post your comments on the topic at hand. Many at the last meeting said they don't want to go to the website for discussions. Those that indicated they had tried to do so, said they had difficulty posting to the website.

With that said, we are asking those of you who use the email list to help us as we work through this possibility. Our webmaster, Scott Ewing says he can set up the new email list for us. However, we must find enough people who are willing to volunteer to monitor the new list. Laurie McCoy has been the current email list monitor for two years and is ready to pass this job along to new neighbors. Give her a round of applause for doing this by herself for two years!

We expect to need maybe four people who are willing to do the monitoring. The monitors could work out a schedule (if necessary) to limit the time they need to be available for monitoring. If we monitor from 8 a.m. to midnight each day that is 16 hours ~ divided by 4 volunteers is 4 hours a day each. We would need to set up some sort of "rules" for participants to adhere to so as not to allow offensive language or unkind personal remarks. Of course, that's what the monitors are for. They wouldn't allow emails with offensive remarks to be distributed to the group.

Consider volunteering to be a monitor. If we get enough volunteers we can move forward with this idea. If you have questions or comments about the idea, feel free to email me directly. I will pass along your comments.  
[JeriJo@charter.net](mailto:JeriJo@charter.net)



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Live Music, bring your family,  
blankets, pets and friends.



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## A thank you to a neighbor

Our nice neighbor Rusty Morgan, W. Rosedale S., took his yard equipment to Newby Park and did a bang-up job of weed-eating and edging all the sidewalks and even around the new playground. The city of Fort Worth just mows now and does no trimming, so Rusty's work really made Newby look great. A big "thank you" to him for contributing an evening to beautifying our neighborhood.

Patsy Slocum

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## MHA Meetings and Events

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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Art in the Garden Botanic Garden

09/11/2009 thru 09/13/2009

Botanic Garden University St Fort Worth

817 871-7686

View art from local artists on display in the Garden Center hallway.

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

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The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Instant Curb Appeal

Trim back the shrubs and trees so people passing by can see your beautiful historic house.

Take a photo of your home -- what do you see? If the picture tells the story of shrubs gone wild, it's time to lighten up with a trim.

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Chairman/Fort Worth Division

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Email: [jeffdavis@republictitle.com](mailto:jeffdavis@republictitle.com)

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\*\*\*\*\*

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](mailto: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](mailto:hao@urbangreenbuild.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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](mailto:margo.e.hudson@gmail.com) /2425 Mistletoe Blvd

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## Ants, anybody?

By Dottie Guffey

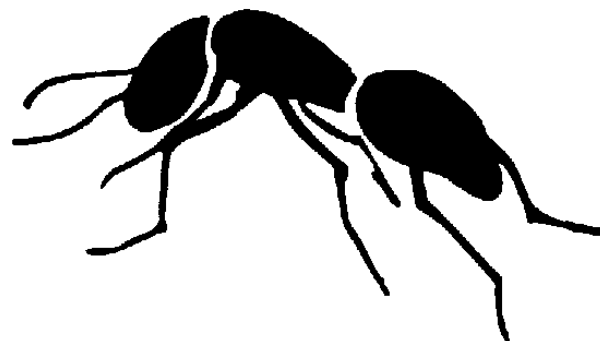
Do you have stressed plants with withering yellow or brown-edged leaves?

Try gently scratching the earth's surface with a fork two to three inches from the main stalk and the culprits will surface. The ants will nervously begin to move.

Keep a water pitcher nearby with a mixture of 1 gallon of water, 1 c. of molasses from the garden supply store, 2 tablespoons of citrus oil and 2 tablespoons of Garrett juice to soak the earth's surface within a 12- inch diameter of the plant's main stalk.

The molasses creates a good habitat for good microorganisms to munch on the ants' skeletons. The citrus oil will kill the ants on contact. The Garrett juice will give the plant a gentle nudge of recuperation from the disturbance of ants on its roots.

If there is a large mound of fire ants, pour four quarts of hot boiling water on it and there you have it - a large mound of soft-boiled ants. Keep the above methods off the plant.





## **Yard of the month: 2211 Weatherbee**

Patty and Lorry Hardt at 2211 Weatherbee are the recipients of our September Yard of the Month. Their one-story, red brick, English Tudor style home with three Palladian-style windows is handsomely landscaped.

The sidewalk that leads to the front porch is flanked with lilies and monkey grass. Large containers of caladiums with variegated English Ivy and colorful crotons edge the steps.

The front windows are accented with window boxes planted with pink caladiums, variegated liriopse and variegated English Ivy. A large Japanese Yew separates the arched windows with a layer of nandinas in front. The final front gradation is a profusion of pink angel wing begonia.

Both ends of the house are anchored with vibrant pink crepe myrtle. A red oak gives an asymmetrical balance to the front lawn. Congratulations to the Hardts. They will receive a gift certificate from Calloways Nursery as an extra award.

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*Call for Details*

**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!



## 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.*

## Volunteer Needed for Christmas Streetlight Bow-tying Party

The new hosts will act mostly as facilitators, and provide the location to gather. All the bow-tying expenses are paid for by the MH Neighborhood Association.

The old regulars (Martin and Gay Herring) will be on hand to help out and to share our accumulated knowledge. This occasion has 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 being the Christmas Streetlight Bow-tying Folks, please contact Jeff Davis at [jeffdavis@republictitle.com](mailto:jeffdavis@republictitle.com) or phone him at 817-999-6154.



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## September is the time to think about Christmas

Last year in our neighborhood, we discussed making Mistletoe Heights "The Christmas Neighborhood" since we already have the name built in but to date we have yet to make that happen.

Last year, a number of neighbors decorated their porches with trees. This holiday season I hope that the idea of a porch tree will take off in the neighborhood. The most prominent and unique feature of the craftsman home is the porch.

By creating a community effort in decorating the porch with a tree this coming season, we will enhance the overall appeal of our neighborhood by creating a distinctive neighborhood decorating tradition.

### Bob Bourland

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\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

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!

\*\*\*\*\*

Antique Craftsman Interior doors, storm door, glass table and 4 chairs. Call Marjorie 817-914-8057

\*\*\*\*\*

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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Do you have more t-shirts than you can wear? I have a solution! Turn them into memory quilts. Call Jill at 817-217-4497 or visit [www.sew-what-quilts.com](http://www.sew-what-quilts.com)

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

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Street Captain  
needed for the  
eastside of Mistletoe Heights

Please volunteer to represent your neighborhood.  
Please contact [jeffdavis@republictitle.com](mailto:jeffdavis@republictitle.com)

Volunteer Family needed for the July Forth Ice Cream social. Please contact [jeffdavis@republictitle.com](mailto:jeffdavis@republictitle.com)

***Rake up savings***

*Fall is a great time to rake up bargains at the nursery, especially with larger plants.*

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**Traffic Committee update**

*James Huling*

The Traffic Committee, formed earlier this year, has put together a list of problems and possible solutions provided by neighborhood residents.

After informally presenting the list to the city, the city recommended running traffic counts on several streets. The committee is trying to schedule a meeting with the city to discuss problems, review traffic count data and discuss possible solutions.

After that meeting, which we expect to have before mid-September, the committee plans to propose solutions and solicit approval from residents on blocks that would be affected before making changes. If you have questions or comments, please send an e-mail to: mhtraffic@sbcglobal.net .

Problems presented to city:

- Volume and speed of traffic on 2200 Block of Mistletoe Blvd
- Volume and speed of traffic on Jerome
- Speed of traffic on Forest Park Blvd.
- Volume and speed of traffic cutting through 2200 block of Magnolia
- Volume and speed of traffic cutting through 2200 block of Irwin
- Volume and speed of traffic cutting through 2200 block of Mistletoe Ave
- Speed of traffic on 2300 block of Mistletoe Dr.
- Speed of traffic on 2300 -2400 block of West Rosedale South
- Crosswalk buttons at Mistletoe Blvd & Forest Park not working
- Crosswalk buttons at Park Place & Forest Park not working
- Settings / timing of light at Mistletoe Blvd & Forest Park
- No cross walk lines at intersection of Forest Park and Mistletoe Blvd
- Delivery Truck traffic using Mistletoe Blvd & West Rosedale South to access Mr. Jakes

Summary of traffic counts performed earlier this summer:

BLK	Street	AVG # Cars	AVG Cars/Min.	AVG MPH	AVG Max Speed
2200	Irwin	262	0.18	21	39
1100	Jerome	923	0.64	29	87
1300	Jerome	560	0.39	25	59
1500	Jerome	526	0.36	24	69
2200	Magnolia	169	0.12	16	80
2200	Mistletoe Ave	158	0.11	20	34
2200	Mistletoe Blvd	1,564	1.09	22	42
2300	Mistletoe Drive	156	0.11	21	51
2400	W Rosedale South	76	0.05	26	46

## **Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting: August 18, 2009**

*Mecca Givens-Secretary*

The quarterly meeting was called to order by Jeff Davis, President of MHA at 7:15

**Neighborhood Officer:** Officer Russell shared some great tips on protecting our neighborhood. He suggested when a resident sees suspicious behavior to take note of as many identifying details as possible. Besides vehicle make and model and color, also look for bumper stickers, cracked windshields, tinted windows, dents or scratches. While a license plate number is important, it is not always easy to remember and anything a person can recall is helpful to the police. Please call him anytime you see something you feel is suspicious or needs to be checked out. 817-991-8472

**Neighborhood Repairs:** Jeff Davis announced that the sprinkler system on the West Rosedale berm has been repaired at a cost of \$546.00. Patsy Slocum voiced a desire to improve the entrance to MH, suggesting landscaping, and the input and design of a Landscape Architect. A unanimous vote was reached to create a MH Entrance Committee with Michael Danella as Chairman. Lisa Gowan and Patsy Slocum volunteered to reside on the committee. Their first step will be to look for local Landscape Architects who might be interested in offering their time and services to develop possible designs and proposals for a new entrance. This is a fantastic opportunity to be involved in, as the creation of an entrance to MH will stand for many years to come welcoming people to our great neighborhood. If you would like to join this committee please contact Michael Danella at 817-927-8875.

**Midtown:** There will be a meeting to discuss the Midtown Project. When a date is set it will be sent through the MH e-mail system, posted on the website and be included in the newsletter.

**Gas/Oil Leases:** For any neighborhood resident who previously signed a gas and oil lease with Chesapeake, they will now have the opportunity to sign a new lease with XTO as the Chesapeake leases are set to expire. It has been suggested that residents interested in this require that XTO provide them with the same MH gas and oil lease that was previously used for this neighborhood. XTO Energy Inc. (817) 885-2820

**Traffic Committee:** The traffic committee provided results from the traffic survey that was done in the neighborhood this summer. Please refer to page 9 or the website to see what this survey showed. It will help all neighbors to have a clear understanding of some of the traffic issues that are affecting MH. Speeding and high traffic volumes are a few of the problems affecting areas of our neighborhood. The traffic committee will be meeting with the city to discuss the issues and will then present their recommendations. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding traffic problems, please email them to the Traffic Committee at [mhtraffic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mhtraffic@sbcglobal.net)

**Elections:** A reminder was given by Jeff Davis that elections for new MH officers are approaching. If you think this might be the year for you to help lead MH, please feel free to speak with any current officer to get an idea of what the job entails.

Mistletoe Heights Kid's Coloring Page  
Color "The Mistletoe Squirrel"

