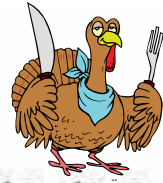




The Mistletoe Express



www.mistletoeheights.com

November 2009

GREAT GOURDS!

Mistletoe

Heights



Pumpkin



Carvers



Letter from the President

Jeff Davis

When politicians seek office the first order of business is ALWAYS, "we need to keep our streets and homes safer." Well, okay, we need to keep our streets and homes safer! Typically in the fall and winter, crimes of all kinds increase. Given the economy, we should expect an increase in crime, unless we encourage our neighbors to be nosy, trim the bushes around the windows, light their home's entries, park their locked cars off the street, and always report suspicious activity to Officer Mark. Many of us leave our doors unlocked because we believe no one would dare enter our home for nefarious reasons in our peaceful neighborhood. Well, they do and they will, so please be aware of protecting your home and family at ALL times.

Berkeley has a surveillance service, and perhaps some of the residents of Mistletoe Heights would prefer to have one. This issue has been before Mistletoe Heights years ago, and so far there has not been an interest for this service because it costs money. We would need at least 100 residents to sign up and pay \$30 a month for very minimal service. Of course, the more residents who would sign up, the less expensive it would be.

Also, we might consider Code Blue, where our Mistletoe Heights residents patrol the neighborhood. This has been a very successful program in many parts of town, but because it requires training and substantial volunteer hours, it fell by the wayside. If you would like to participate in reexamining any and all options for protecting our neighborhood, I would be pleased to have our own Mistletoe Heights "Czar" head up this process once again.

Continued on page 2

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- 12/13 Gardening, Final List of MH Contributors

Letter from the President (continued from page 1)

Update on MidTown: The City and the developer finally had a “meeting of the minds.” Probably because an office developer signed a contract to purchase the office piece and currently intends to build not just 40,000 square feet of office space, but up to 80,000 square feet. So, we are pretty much where we were months ago when Mistletoe Heights and Berkeley agreed to the site plan comprised of 20,000 square feet of retail, 80,000 square feet of office, and a Homewood Suites Hotel and an Hilton Gardens Hotel. There will be a mid rise garage in the middle of the development with a potential for additional retail in the future. The total project cost will approach 90 million dollars! The developer has the equity inplace and is looking for financing for the construction.

I would like to thank all of you who participated in the process, especially Martin Herring, Gaye Reed, and Kathy McReynolds. We certainly have come along way from the original proposals.

We here in Mistletoe Heights hear over and over again what a wonderful neighborhood we live in. Mistletoe Heights does have it all, interesting and unique homes, wonderful events like the July 4th Parade and The Pumpkin Carving Contest. We have neighbors young and old who care about one another, which deepen our sense of belonging to something important.

With that in mind, I'd like to share the opportunity of serving our neighborhood with those who would like to become more involved. The Newsletter Editor, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President have all given admirable service, but all of the officers, myself included, would be happy to pass on the mantle of leadership.

Elections for officers will be held on November 17, at 7pm , at 2325 Mistletoe Drive. If you would like to inquire about the amount of time that might be required for service or any matter relating to becoming an officer, please call me on my cell phone at anytime at 817 999-6154. Serving our neighborhood is really fun and rewarding.

Jeff Davis

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Halloween Trick or Treaters 2009



(Left to right.. Amelia English, Walter Virden, Henry Virden, and Graham English.)



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F.Y.I (Flu Your Information)

Editor

Get vaccinated. Keep your distance with people who are sick and if you are sick, please stay home. Routinely, wash common surfaces with bleach or other disinfecting cleaning solution. Common surfaces such as the TV remote and the computer keyboard are often overlooked and can harbor the flu at higher levels than most items in the home. What's the first thing you grab when you are sick?

Wash your hands for the length of two stanzas of "Happy Birthday" and be sure to wash the back of your hands as well. If you sneeze or cough, be considerate and cover the cough or sneeze with your sleeve not your hand.

You can infect someone with the flu 24 hours before symptoms appear and you may be contagious for up to 7 days, children may be contagious for up to 10 days.

The flu virus can live on surfaces for up to 8 hours, so if you are touching common surfaces do not touch your eyes, mouth, or nose until you thoroughly wash your hands.

Do not let pregnant women care for others sick with the flu. Try to isolate the sick person to a particular room and try to keep that door closed. Keep the bedside of the sick person clean, and when washing the linens of a person with the flu, do not hug the linens when changing the bed. And yes, not just the sheets need to be cleaned but the blanket needs to be cleaned as well, as do the pillows. Allergy pillow protectors that can go in the wash can keep the virus out of the pillow. Be sure to wash the mattress pad as well. Keep the eating utensils of the sick person separate and be sure to wash them separately or use disposable utensils. The sick person should not be cooking for others. Give the sick person a separate hamper. Keep their tooth brush and toothpaste in a plastic bag after use, and toss after the flu.

Use the best air filters possible for the house and spray the intakes with Lysol or Oust.

The practice of good personal and home hygiene is so important during this particular flu season. Children will need gentle reminders.

Drink plenty of water, eat fresh fruits and vegetables and be sure to get good restorative sleep. Odds are if you do contract the flu, you will be miserable for a week and then return to normal, but consideration for others as this new strain comes through the country maybe the best holiday gift you can give your family, co-workers, friends and neighbors.

Have a happy flu-free season.



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MHA Meetings and Events

November 17th

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 17th meeting.

Fort Worth Symphony presents

"Home for the Holidays"

11/27/2009 thru 11/29/2009

Bass Performance Hall

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The FWSO tradition; Christmas carols, a family sing-along, the Dorothy Shaw Bell Choir a even old St. Nick himself! Also the Southwestern Seminary Master Choral will perform.

<http://www.fwsymphony.org>

Chesapeake Energy Parade of Lights

11/27/2009

Downtown Fort Worth

festivalinfo@dfwi.org 817.336.2787

Featuring over 100 entries, Spectacular floats, thousands of lights and lots of smiles. Our holiday tradition features a Holiday Fun Zone presented by XTO and culminates with the lighting of the Fort Worth Christmas Tree in Sundance Square. Reserved seating is available!

<http://www.fortworthparadeoflights.org>

Lamp Post Decorating Party

11/22/2009 Sunday after Thanksgiving

2237 Irwin (Blue house, 3rd down from Forest Park)

4pm (Home of Gary & Susan Willis)

Kids Welcome!

Show Your Spirit



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Mistletoe Heights Kid's Coloring Page



The Two Hour Turkey

Editor

In my lifetime, I have made about 200 turkeys. Many of my early birds were cooked under the tutelage of Scottish women with a strong genetic penchant to roast a bird until it looked like a remnant from an archeological dig. As my mother came from a family of 12 children, the turkeys that were chosen were so big, the wings of these birds would touch the oven walls. An additional bird was lovingly overcooked and sent sealed in numerous sheets of Reynolds wrap in a car by some aunt, along with another back-up smaller bird cooked at a neighbors in their basement in the old stove, equally as dry and unappealing and wrapped ready for space orbit.

Thank goodness these Scottish women made a great stuffing, fantastic mashed potatoes and even better gravy, because the meat regardless of where it came from, or who cooked it, was like the bottom of a shoe. In the Scottish-American tradition, everything that started out green and fresh became yellow and wilted by the time you waited for that petrified turkey to be ready to serve.

So, as I began to cook on my own, I asked myself the big Thanksgiving question, “why did these meals stink?” And the answer was simple, the turkey takes too long.

What takes three days to prepare and 7 hours to cook winds up being eaten in 14 minutes. You feel beaten up, and all the feigned oohs and aahs seem cheap and meaningless. After your third load of dishes, and the hand-washing all of the “good china”, you wonder who invented this holiday?

This Two Hour Turkey Recipe might help those who don't care if the bird is stuffed. It serves 6 to 8. *Safeway has a two hour turkey recipe, so does Julia Child and a thousand others.*

In the days before making your big dinner, be sure to clean your oven.

1 Fresh or thawed turkey weighing 12lbs.

Olive oil, kosher salt and black pepper

Preheat the oven to 475 degrees and use an oven thermometer as a backup.

Clean the bird's cavities and pat the bird dry generously cover the bird in olive oil and sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Do not salt the bird if it has a saline solution in it.

Place on a v shaped rack into a roasting pan. Do NOT STUFF!

Insert a meat thermometer into the thickest part of the breast. If the bird is getting too dark, cover with foil. When the turkey is 160 degrees, (start checking at the 1 hour mark) remove your bird from the oven and set in a warm, draft free spot and cover well with foil.

Let the turkey rest for 30-45 minutes while you make your sides and gravy. If the legs still need more time, you can microwave them for 2-4 minutes.



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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.

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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Neighborhood Police Officer

Mark Russell

Office 817-871-8885

Mobile 817-991-8472

Email: 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.

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Mistletoe Heights Porch Tree



For the last several years, folks have begun to put out a Christmas tree on their porch. This is a great new tradition for our neighborhood, since the porches of our homes are such a prominent a feature.

Some neighbors even exchange secret neighbor gifts under their porch tree. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone started this tradition and we created a beautiful unifying way of decorating our homes in Mistletoe Heights this season?

We plan to put out our porch tree this year, and hope that our neighbors will do the same. Perhaps we can have a porch tree contest much like the Pumpkin Carving Contest.

Editor



YARD OF THE MONTH – 2325 Mistletoe Drive

The November Yard of the Month honor goes to our MHA President, Jeff Davis, at 2325 Mistletoe Drive. Jeff has recently redesigned his front yard and driveway area. A new circular driveway and motor court were installed. A new stonework fountain and stone pillars capped by a copper arbor will soon be covered in yellow blooming Lady Banksia roses. Mature oak trees in the front expanse of St. Augustine grass were left untouched, but the beds surrounding the house have been totally revamped. A profusion of new plantings of varying heights will provide seasonal color. Dogwood will bloom in spring, followed by azaleas, then hydrangeas in summer. Japanese maples will lend color contrast in the fall. Knockout roses, caladiums, daisies, umbrella plant, potato vine, ornamental peppers, and turks cap add color to the new beds.

A flagstone walk sloping up to the double front door and porch is currently flanked by palms in oversized pots, near beds containing giant liriopse, wood ferns, and dwarf mondo grass. Fig vine hugs the stone wall by the fountain, along with mountain laurel, boxwood, and sedum. Colorful plants including wisteria and clematis surround the stone waterfall fountain. Stone and crushed rock border the new driveway. Magnolias and dogwood and additional hydrangeas mark the southeast property line.

Congratulations to Jeff and thanks to Calloway's Nursery for providing a gift certificate to our winners.



Great Gourds!!!!

On the evening before Halloween the dedicated Mistletoe Pumpkin Perusers hit the streets. We were soon delighted with imaginatively carved pumpkins and their enthusiastic creators. The fine American art of carving a Halloween pumpkin is alive and thriving in Mistletoe Heights. The esteemed panel of gourd graders unanimously found the "Grand Prize" entrant at Shirley Swartzwelder's house at 2309 Irwin. The winner was a gourd within a gourd...the outer one served as a window with an owl and frog the inner pumpkin was lit and included a couple of witches.

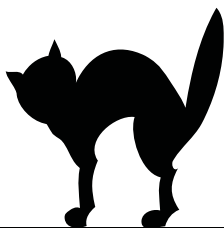
There were many young carvers which greeted the judges and we got pictures of most and send congrats to all carvers!

Some Great Gourds:

"Double Trouble"-2312 Irwin
"Rose-headed Trio"-1126 Buck
"Green Slimy Skullkins"-2343 Mistletoe Blvd.
"Fangy and Flamey"-2222 Magnolia
"Traditional Fangy Thangy"-2241 Magnolia
"Wild Eyes"-2240 Magnolia
"Wild Kat"-1220 Buck
"Gruesome Gourds"-1220 Buck
"Hi-Bye-Lips"-2337 Mistletoe Ave.
"Franken Pumpkin"-2228 Mistletoe Ave.
"Avery x4" (Ava's adventure)-2218 Harrison
"Cock-eyed Attitude"-2225 (?) Irwin
"Here comes de Judge"-2210 Weatherbee
"Holy Pumpkin"-1101 Clara
"Batz Alive"-1101 Clara
"Skullishness"-1355 Mistletoe Dr.



Although not part of the contest, seasonally decorated porches greatly contributed to the harvest season in Mistletoe Heights.



Grand Prize Winner



"Witches' Window"



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One bedroom apartment available. Washer/dryer, refrigerator, covered parking and more. Contact Jeri Jo Blackmon for more details at 817-923-4393 or JeriJo@Charter.net.

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

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.

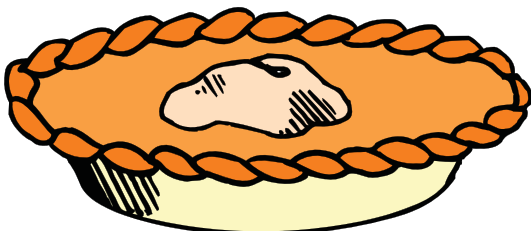
Starting May 28, furniture, toiletries and other household items can be dropped off at PNS from 10 am. to 2 pm on Thurs and Sat., at 5501 Thelin St., Suite 131 Quantity donations can be picked up (on Thurs & Sat 10 am and 2 p.m.) to schedule (call 817-632-7415).

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

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

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Apartment for Rent

One bedroom apartment available October 1st. Twenty foot ceilings, hard wood floors, washer/dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, covered parking. Contact Jeri Jo Blackmon for more details. JeriJo@Charter.net or 817-923-4393.

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

Volunteer Family needed for the July Forth Ice Cream social. Please contact jeffdavis@republictitle.com

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R

Mistletoe Heights Association														
Dues 2009														
														As 10/15/09
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
\$ 11	1												1	\$ 11
\$ 15		2	3	4	2	3	4	4	1	3	2	1	29	\$ 435
\$ 20				1						2	1		4	\$ 80
\$ 25	1	3	5	8	6	7	7	3	4	5	3		52	\$ 1,300
\$ 30	1					1							2	\$ 60
\$ 35								1					1	\$ 35
\$ 50			2		2	5	1	4	2	4			20	\$ 1,000
\$ 75				1	1			2		1			5	\$ 375
\$ 100	1		1		2	1	1	5	1				12	\$ 1,200
\$ 175							1						1	\$ 175
\$ 200				1									1	\$ 200
Total families	4	5	11	16	13	17	14	19	8	15	6	1	129	
Total dollars	\$ 166	\$ 105	\$ 370	\$ 365	\$ 555	\$ 600	\$ 385	\$ 1,020	\$ 315	\$ 485	\$ 125	\$ 15		\$ 4,881



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Mistletoe Heights Holiday Bow Tying Party

Don't let the neighborhood Lamp Posts be bowless this holiday season. "Tie one on" at the annual Holiday Bow Tying Party!

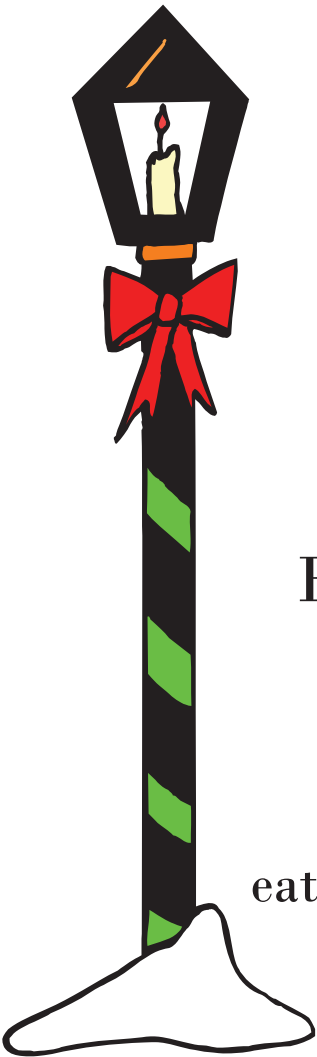
Sunday, November 22

Starting at 4:00 pm

2237 Irwin

Blue House, third down from Forest Park
(Home of Gary & Susan Willis)

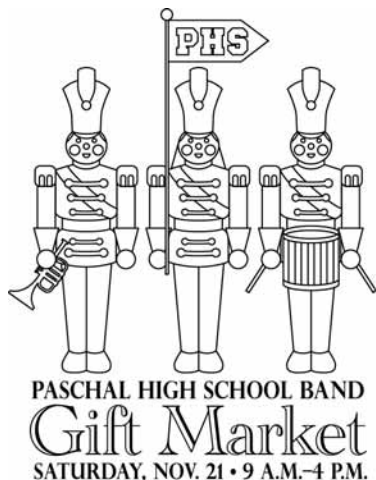
If you think you can't tie a bow, you can still eat, drink and give encouragement to those who can!



Decorators Needed!

Christmas will be here before you know it, and we still need two more streetlight decorators. Volunteers are needed for the 1200/1300 blocks of Mistletoe Drive and for all of Jerome. This is a piece of cake job. Decorations will be delivered to your door around Thanksgiving. All you need to contribute is about 45 minutes and a ladder. It's a great project to include the kids on.

Please call Steve McReynolds @ 817-926-7955
or email @ mcreyno1@earthlink.net.



Are you Christmas shopping for one of those impossible people?
Are you looking for truly unique gifts this holiday season?

Your solution is the Paschal Band Gift Market! On Saturday, November 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., browse merchants specializing in beautiful handcrafted items and one-of-a-kind creative gifts. Whether you're looking for an extraordinary piece of jewelry, that special used book, an exquisite wooden letter opener, or a spectacular hand bag, the market's more than 60 merchants can help you find it.

The Paschal Band Gift Market also offers a lovely shopping experience sure to stir your Christmas spirit with live music and delicious home-baked desserts. A gift to you: Admission and parking are free.

The Gift Market, which benefits the Paschal Panther Marching Band, winds through the hallowed halls of Paschal High School at the corner of Berry Street and Forest Park, just east of TCU in Fort Worth.

For more information, contact Darlene Burns at phsbandbooster@yahoo.com, or online at paschalpanthers.org.



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9/05

WINTER COLOR

By Dotty Guffey

There is a solution to dry dull lawns during the winter months. The year before last, a nice neighbor gave us some winter rye seed he had left over. So we scattered the seed in the front yard. All the neighbors were impressed with our winter lawn and frankly, so were we. Ever since, we have planted winter rye in the front and back yard.

Winter rye is easy to grow. Plant the seed after August, up to a couple of weeks before the first freeze. Sow at least six to eight pounds per 1,000 square feet. Winter rye will germinate in about 5 to 7 days if watered daily. Let it grow until it is about 6 inches tall, then mow at 4 inch setting on the mower for the first two weeks, and thereafter cut to 2 inches. Water the ryegrass weekly if winter is dry. The only disadvantage is mowing on a weekly schedule.

In addition to the velvety green ryegrass, choose a ground cover such as English ivy and/or monkey grass for the shady areas. Add color with sun loving pansies and there you have it, a splash of brilliance and gleam in the dull winter months.



Okay, Butterball didn't pay for this ad but if it saves a family a Thanksgiving story it will be well worth it. Call if you don't know what you are doing or if you just want to talk turkey with a pro.

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Thank you, Neighbors!

2009 Dues Contributors as of 10/15/09

Up to \$24	\$25 to \$49	\$50 to \$74	\$75 and over
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Please send your
donation
to Jeri Jo Blackman at
JeriJo@charter.net

The Mistletoe Heights Association thanks these neighbors for their generous dues donations to our neighborhood.

Your donations fund activities such as the July 4th Party, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Party, Christmas Street Light Décor, Fall Party, Welcome Baskets and other activities. In addition, your donations help defray the cost of publishing the monthly newsletter and pay the water expenses for the berm and Newby Park.

Dues donations are entirely voluntary and can be given at any time in any amount. We began our dues drive in the Spring of this year. Although the drive has now ended for 2009, we urge you to continue your generous donations.

Thank you for your support!