



The Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.com

March 2010



Snow day!

The Big Snow! The snow storm blanketed North Texas for 24 hours starting Feb. 11th bringing a new record snow of 12.5 inches for a 24-hour period here in Fort Worth. The total snow for this winter is 15.7 inches, making it the second biggest record in North Texas snow history, beaten only by 17.6 inches of snow from the winter of 1977.

Some folks lost trees and some lost power but despite the obstacles of clean up and cold homes, it certainly was a spectacular sight.



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Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, March 14, 2010, at 2 a.m. Daylight Saving Time begins. So be sure to "Spring forward" one hour on your clocks before you go to bed or you just might be late on Monday morning.

YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS MAY BENEFIT FROM NEW 2010 TAX LAW CHANGES.

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Letter from the president

By Jeff Davis

Mistletoe Heights has a rich history of leadership.

From Terri Ellis' first presidency, volunteers have served in some capacity, either for special projects or as officers of the neighborhood association.

There are so many examples of this commitment to our neighborhood that I won't begin to list everyone. But our annual events -- the Easter egg hunt, the July 4 parade, pumpkin judging, holiday socials, wrapping of light poles for the Christmas season -- and such special projects as Newby Park and the yard-of-the-month awards all contribute immensely to our identity as a special neighborhood.

Also, the work of our Historical Committee is among the most important done in Mistletoe Heights. And where would we be without the newsletter?

However, we have a problem: Hardly anyone ever leaves the neighborhood -- voluntarily. Think about it! So the demand on those willing to serve seems to have reached an unhealthy level.

Hey, I was elected to the presidency at a meeting that I didn't attend! And this is my third year in the post. It's been great fun, and I thoroughly enjoy my involvement with everyone. I desperately want to continue to serve in some capacity, but it's time for new blood to take the mantle of leadership.

It's time for all the officers and those who continue to do so much for the annual events, committees and the newsletter to share their experiences and mentor those who want to keep Mistletoe Heights the kind of neighborhood where none of us will ever want to leave.

Of course, the more folks who show an interest in helping, the easier and more fun any chore will be. So let me know if you might want to help -- even if it's a teensy bit.

I promise that it will be painless and the rewards warm and fuzzy. Get to know your neighbors. Call me at 817-999-6154 or e-mail me at jeffdavis@republictitle.com. I'll even continue to volunteer my house for the quarterly meetings and gladly furnish the chips and wine!

Mistletoe Express did not receive the meeting minutes from the February Mistletoe Heights' Association meeting to put in the March issue. You should be able to read the minutes in next month's newsletter, and keep up with what is going on.

Bike Fort Worth

Bike Fort Worth is the City's comprehensive bicycle transportation plan for developing a friendlier bicycle environment. Recommendations for supportive policies, programs and facilities are included to increase bicycle transportation within the City of Fort Worth.

The City has identified three goals to benchmark the success of the plan:

- Triple the number of bicycle commuters
- Decrease bicyclist related crashes by 10 percent
- Attain official designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community through the League of American Bicyclists.

A bicycle transportation network will improve livability in Fort Worth by providing an alternative travel option to residents of the City and improved access to other modes of transit.

For comments or questions regarding the Bike Fort Worth plan, contact Julia McCleary, 817-392-2593.



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Easter Egg Hunt at Newby Park

Get your baskets ready and hop on over to the Mistletoe Heights Easter Egg Hunt at Newby Park on Saturday, April 3, at 10 a.m.

To participate, deliver two dozen candy- or toy-filled plastic eggs to 2341 W. Magnolia Ave. by Thursday, April 1.

Be sure to put your child's age, name and phone number on the bag.

Remember to bring your Easter basket and camera on Saturday.

Rumor has it that the Easter Bunny will make an appearance!

Coffee, juice and doughnuts will be provided compliments of the Neighborhood Association.

For more information, call Susan Pressley at 817-923-6061 or 817-308-1484.

If it rains, we will hold the Easter Egg Hunt at 2 p.m. that same day. If it's still raining at that time, the hunt will be cancelled and your eggs can be picked up at 2341 W. Magnolia Ave.



Tree limbs, debris to be picked up on regular collection schedule

Many neighborhoods in Fort Worth were impacted by the record snowfall and are experiencing broken tree limbs and downed trees. Residents can help the collection process by cutting, bundling and stacking tree limbs and keeping brush and yard waste separate from other bulky piles. This will allow collection crews to dispose of debris as quickly as possible.

The City will not be conducting special collections. The normal collection process will be used to collect debris. Bulk collection will take place on normal pickup schedules.

The City is reminding residents about its policies for bulk and yard trimming collections:

Residents may stack 10 cubic yards of loose brush for curbside pickup.

If residents set out more than 10 cubic yards at one time, they are subject to paying for any amount over 10 cubic yards. Ten cubic yards of loose brush is about 8 feet long, 6 feet wide and 6 feet tall.

Limbs must be no larger than 4 inches in diameter and no longer than 8 feet.

Residents may cut tree limbs to 4 feet in length (or smaller), bundle and tie them with string or twine. Bundles should not weigh more than 40 pounds. There is no limit on the number of bundles residents may set out.

Larger limbs — up to 18 inches in diameter and no

longer than 8 feet — as well as large root balls and stumps are considered bulky items and will be collected according to residents' regular monthly bulky pickup schedule. These piles are also limited to 10 cubic yards.

Residents should not leave intact, downed trees or extremely long limbs at the curb that are larger than the prescribed dimensions expecting them to be picked up.

Regardless of size, limbs are not to be placed under overhead power lines, in front of parked cars or near any obstacle that could be damaged by collection equipment.

Do not place any plastic bags, garbage, roofing material, appliances with Freon®, or electronics in bulky or brush piles.

Yard waste and loose brush will be picked up during weekly collections. Residents should place loose brush at the curb by 7 a.m. on their garbage/recycling pickup day. For monthly bulk collections, residents should place items on the curb no later than 7 a.m. Monday of their assigned week.

Residents can take tree limbs and yard waste to one of the City's three drop-off stations.

For more information about pickup schedules for garbage, recycling, yard trimmings, brush pickup or damaged carts, call the City Call Center at 817-392-EASY (3279) from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

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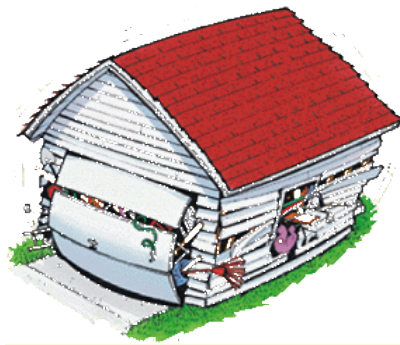


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Get an early start on The Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Garage Sale

1. Clean out your garage of everything, cover all items you are keeping with a tarp outside of the garage, especially expensive items and keep them blocked off from buyers. Clean cob webs and dirt in the corners, ceiling and wash any windows. Sweep and/or mop the garage floor.
2. Put up your tables. If you need more tables, try to borrow some from a neighbor.
3. Clean all the rooms of your house, one at a time, including closets. Cull through each room for things you no longer use or want and wish to sell, and toss out items that really do belong in the trash. Put a price tag on each sellable item in the room. Place all the priced items from that room on a table in your perfectly clean garage.
4. Organize your tables by similar items. This helps people located items they're looking for.
5. Organize clothes by type or size. On each clothing label, put a price and size. Keeping clothes super organized will increase the clothing sales.
6. The checkout table should be the only way in and out of the sale. This keeps people from walking off with unpaid items. If you have jewelry, put each item in a Ziploc bag and price and keep these items near the person holding the cash at the checkout table. It is often an impulse purchase. Keep any smaller high priced items on this table in clear sight.



Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood
Garage Sale: **April 17, 2010**
Rain date: April 24

7. Ask your friends and family to help in either the culling of items in your rooms and closets, and/or the sale itself. They can help you see clearly as you white-knuckle the box filled with granny's Jell-O molds.

8. Be sure to get a garage sale permit from the City of Fort Worth.

9. Set out signs on the front of your property, put free ads in the Mistletoe Express, the Mistletoe Bulletin Board,

Craig's List and the *Star-Telegram*. Send emails to local friends and neighbors as well. Put up signs on any local bulletin board you can think of.

10. Contact the charity of your choice prior to the sale to pick up un-purchased items from your sale for the day after. They often have a waiting list for pick-ups. This is also an important opportunity for local charities and an excellent way of holding back items from the landfill.

11. Get cash the day before. You will need plenty of singles, fives, and tens, and several dollars in coins. Do not leave a cash box on a table. Better to have an apron with the money as many people have either taken money out of a cash box or taken the entire cash box from a sale.

12. If you have high end items that you wish to sell, consider putting them into an estate sale, eBay, Craig's list or a well-known consignment shop in the DFW area.

Husband dreams in a small space

By Marjorie Day

Our 1917 bungalow, created as a reaction to Victorian ornamentation, was an architectural response to a return of life to the basics. Each room has its primary purpose. The bathroom is for bathing. The bedroom holds a bed. The closet contains enough clothes for a week. The garage holds one car. Our home is simple, unadorned and honestly masculine in nature.

But not every male bungalow owner feels very manly about his living space and its purpose. Many wish to repurpose a space to suit their "modern needs." Today, our culture calls out for its men to seek a "man-room."

Husband's man-room, with pool table, custom-built bar and mood- lit by a Schlitz clock, has a built-in monolith flat-screen TV, state-of-the-art sound system, a barbecue area directly outside the man room entrance and a long wall created especially for his prodigious baseball hat collection, with a recessed ceiling spot illuminating the room's major focal point, a professionally matted, glass-framed

T-shirt honoring a long-since-defunct annual back-yard North Carolina Pig-Picking Music Festival that has a logo with a pig playing a banjo, another pig smoking something from a Moroccan hookah pipe, and a cannibal pig licking his chops over at a much less fortunate pig on a rod rotating over a fire pit.

Many years back, Husband was badly bit by the man-room bug. In every home we've lived in, the potential renovation of the basement or even the attic into his perfected man-space pops up at various odd moments of conversation.

On this occasion, it seems the garage was the perfect venue. He rose from his TV chair throne and began his search for investigative man-tools. After a few expletives on the state of hidden pencils, tape measures and little pads of paper, the family junk drawer gave Husband his tape measure, pencil and pad. So off he went, a warrior man to our one-car garage for his annual remodeling exercise in futility. I smiled warmly as he passed me in hopes



to convey that I was a willing participant in making this unrealized dream come true.

After a few minutes, husband stood in the doorway and looked at me plainly, "A pool table won't fit in there."

I calmly looked away and thumbed my magazine, desperate to act nonchalant, and said, "Really?"

Husband looked at the garage in the back doorway, sighed deeply and went off for a man-sulk. Thank goodness for Gustave Stickley and friends, because their influence in American architecture has once again stopped the creation of yet another man-room.

Yard of the Month: 2220 Mistletoe Blvd.

The record snowfall of February was still melting when our committee selected the Yard of the Month for March.

The honor goes to Josh Lindsay, his wife, Lili Meisamy, and their two daughters, Mateen and Mitra, who live at 2220 Mistletoe Blvd. Their red-brick, bungalow-style house and yard weathered our winter storm very well.

Their curbside beds are planted with hearty nandina, rosemary, iris, liriope and English ivy. A robust guava cactus accents the west side of the house and an established live oak highlights the east side. As you climb the rather steep steps, a vintage golden St. John's wort becomes the focal point of the yard. Watch for vibrant yellow blooms this spring and summer. Dutch iris are to the left, and dwarf yaupon, burford holly and red-tipped photinia border the front porch.

When we met the family we also met their pets, Leroy, a 14-year-old rescue Catahoula hound, and two cats, Teeny and Boots. Congratulations to all and a special thank you to Calloway's Nursery for providing a gift certificate to the winners.



Gardening is for the birds

By Dottie Guffey

It's hard to believe that spring is just around the corner after our record snowfall in February.

The birds became the focus of the back yard, outlined sharply against the white background. Did you see the cedar waxwings strip the berries from the bushes while the red-breasted robins pecked the earth for insects?

Have you ever wondered about the ingredients in the "Garrett Juice" of Howard Garrett, "the Dirt Doctor"? Here's the recipe:

- Compost tea: Follow the label directions, or, if homemade, use two cups per gallon of water.
- Seaweed: One tablespoon per gallon.
- Molasses: One tablespoon per gallon.
- Natural apple cider vinegar: One tablespoon per gallon.

Feed this mixture to all growing plants to make them happy. And next year the birds will be happy in your yard, too!



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MHA Meetings and Events



MH neighborhood meetings:

May 18 at 7pm at Jeff Davis' house, 2325 Mistletoe Drive.
Other meeting times: August 17, and November 16.

Butterflies in the Garden

Feb. 27 thru April 6, 2010
Fort Worth Botanic Garden
817 871-7686

"Porgy and Bess"

03/02/2010 thru 03/04/2010
Bass Hall, 817 212-4325

"Fiddler on the Roof"

March 9-14
Bass Hall, 817 332-2272

Greater Tarrant County Auto Show

March 11-14
Fort Worth Convention Center
817-392-6338

Impossible Possibilities 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Day-5K Festival

March 13
Trinity Park
Josh Hernandez admin@impossiblepossibilities.org

Yo-Yo Ma with Kathryn Stott

March 16
Bass Hall, 817 212-4200

St. Patrick's Day

March 17

Fort Worth Home Show

March 19-21
Will Rogers Memorial Center
817-392-7469

"What It Is! Featuring Mavis Staples, Booker T. and JJ Grey"

March 25
Bass Performance Hall
817 212-4325

Walk MS: Fort Worth 2010 presented by Subway

March 27
Fort Worth Community Arts Center
Anna Leigh Kirk Office: 817-306-7003 (x2) Toll Free: 1-800-344-4867 (x2) Fax: 817-232-9019

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Free Classified Neighborhood Ads

Garage apartment available Feb. 1. Contact Jeri Jo Blackmon for more details at JeriJo@charter.net or 817-923-4393.

If you are interested in participating in or donating to The Presbyterian Night Shelter's 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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Graffiti abatement	212-2700
Lily B. Clayton Elementary	922-6660
http://schools.fwisd.org/clayton/	
Paschal High School	922-6600
www.paschalhs.org	
Historical Preservation	
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Hallyes@earthlink.net	
www.southsidepreservation.com	
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Volunteers

Historic Preservation Committee	
Kathy McReynolds	817-926-7955
Street Rep Captains	
Melissa Kohout (East side)	313-1419
Gaye Reed (West side)	817-921-0009
Welcome Baskets	
Joy Teague	817-923-2330
Advertising Manager	
Kelly Reece	817-773-1637
Newby Park	
Patsy Slocum	817-923-5510
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Hospitality	
Moksha Todd	817-247-2870
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Scott Ewing	214-403-7762 cell

Street Reps (listed by blocks)

East of Forest Park Phone (817)

2200 W. Rosedale South	
Carrie Johnson	926-9776
2200 Irwin	
Gary Willis	924-4000
2100/2200 Mistletoe Blvd.	
Gil DeHoyos	926-6409
2100/2200 West Magnolia	
Mecca Givens	927-2244
2100 Harrison	
Aaron Torkelson	907-5533
2100 Mistletoe Ave.	
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2200 Mistletoe Ave.	
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West of Forest Park

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Sue Duvall	926-8714
2300/2400 Mistletoe Blvd.	
Lisa Stewart	924-9666
2300 West Magnolia	
Susan Pressley	923-6061
2300/2400 Harrison	
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2300 Mistletoe Ave.	
Sam & Jack Bradbury	924-9869
2300 Edwin	
Grant Pannell	924-0051
1100 Clara	
Marc & KathyJo Rogers	923-3304
1200 Clara	
Betty Arvin	924-7088
1100 Buck	
Kate Herring	923-3843
1200/1300 Buck	
Simone Scott	924-3838
1100 Mistletoe Drive	
Meralen & Gerry Tyson	926-5909
2300 Mistletoe Drive	
Carol Benson	921-4000
Neighborhood police officer	
Mark Russell	817-88885 office
	817-991-8472 mobile

Publishing information

Editorial policy

Articles and letters to the editor are welcomed. To be published as written, letters must be addressed to the editor, signed and include a phone number.

Anonymous letters will not be published. Articles may be submitted for publication, signed or unsigned, subject to approval and editing.

Contact info helps, if we have questions for you.

Letters to the editor are limited to a half-page (approximately 350 words). Please send e-mail to perrellim@aol.com

Advertising information

To place an advertisement or for actual mechanical sizes, please e-mail Kelley Reece at kelley@metro-mailer.com

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Business-card size	\$18
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1/3 page	\$54
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Full Page	\$120
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Deadline for ads, stories and letters is the 15th of each month

MHA Yearly Memberships

Dues are \$20, \$30, \$60 or more. Your dues help pay for this newsletter, the Mistletoe Heights phone directory and many other neighborhood functions. Please send the fattest check you can to:

Jerri Jo Blackmon
1408 Mistletoe Drive

Classified ads

Submit your free ad to the editor by the 15th of the month. Please notify the editor at 817-914-8057 or email: perrellim@aol.com

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Design Cynthia Wahl

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