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The Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.com

April 2010

Don't miss the Mistletoe Heights Easter egg hunt!

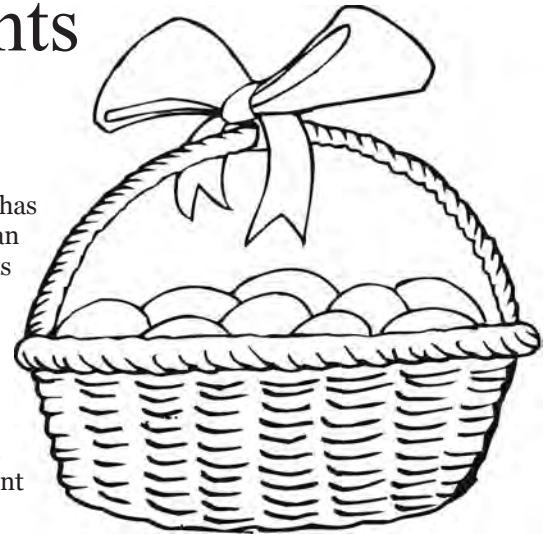


Get your baskets ready and hop on over to the Mistletoe Heights Easter Egg Hunt at Newby Park. This year the egg hunt will be on Saturday, April 3 at 10:00 a.m. To participate, deliver 2 dozen candy or toy filled plastic eggs to 2341 W. Magnolia Ave. by Thursday, April 1. Be sure to put your child's 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 be making 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 it at 2:00 that same day, and if it is still raining the hunt will be cancelled and your eggs can be picked up at 2341 W. Magnolia.



Neighborhood garage sale set for April 17, rain date April 24

1. Declutter your garage. Set up your tables.
2. Organize your tables by similar items.
3. The checkout table should be the only way in and out of the sale. Keep any smaller high priced items on this table in clear sight.
4. Ask your friends and family if they want to bring over their stuff. Remember, one man's trash is another's man's trash - I mean treasure!
5. Be sure to get a garage sale permit from the City of Fort Worth.
6. Set out signs on the front of your property. Send emails to friends to let them know you're participating in the garage sale.
7. Contact the charity of your choice prior to the sale to pick up un-purchased items from your sale.

Why plant a tree this Arbor Day?

On this Texas Arbor Day, April 30, consider planting a tree to reduce the Fort Worth heat and save yourself some money as well. You can save hundreds of dollars a year in cooling costs because of well-thought-out tree placement.

Plant trees to shade your home

Trees shading a home can reduce air-conditioning needs. Carefully placed trees can save up to 25 percent of an average household's energy needs for cooling.

The most energy savings and the best use of a shade tree come when deciduous, broadleaf trees are planted about 10 to 20 feet from the west, east, and/or northwest of the house. The trees will shade the house during the summer, reducing energy needs for your air-conditioning. In the winter, they will lose their leaves and

allow the sun to warm your home, saving on heating.

Plant trees to shade the paved areas of your property

Trees shading concrete driveways and sidewalks will not only greatly decrease a sidewalk's surface temperature but the air above the sidewalk.

In the summer, trees shading paved areas can cool down temperatures by as much as 12 degrees. A city's heat is greatly increased by its unshaded, nonpermeable surfaces.

In an area as hot as Fort Worth, planting a tree to shade a nonpermeable surface is an important contribution to the well-being of the city.

Plant broadleaf trees near, but not right against, sidewalks and driveways.

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Get on the Mistletoe Heights e-mail list

To subscribe to the Mistletoe Heights Residents mailing list, go to www.mistletoeheights.com, click on "Email List" and look for the section "Subscribing to Residents". Enter your email address and name and click "Subscribe". Be aware that you may need to add residents-bounces@mistletoeheights.com to your address book so the incoming emails are not treated as spam. We're still missing lots of neighbors on the e-mail list.



1633 Park Place
Fort Worth, Texas 76110

(817) 923-2282

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.

I'm already your neighbor, I'd like to be your friend—and Realtor®.

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Yard of the month 2328 W. Rosedale South

The Yard of the Month award for April goes to Richard and Diana Stubbe at 2328 W. Rosedale South.

The Stubbes have lived in their red-brick cottage for about six years. The front façade of the house is distinguished by a steeply pitched gable, a center chimney with decoratively patterned brickwork and striped awnings over the front door and triple windows.

The door is flanked by white shutters with black carriage lamps. Two white vintage armchairs welcome visitors to sit and enjoy the garden.

Between the street and the sidewalk, two mature elm trees shade the property, and curving raised pavestones define beds of Asiatic jasmine. Jonquils add seasonal color to these beds.



Both sides of the property are enclosed with white picket fencing, and a profusion of plants thrive within the front yard. Juniper and boxwood frame either side of the front walk with English ivy and pansies beneath.

On the west side of the yard, a perennial garden is bordered with a stone path curving around to the side yard. It includes rosemary, Indian hawthorn, artemesia and currently blooming purple and pink hyacinths. Daisies and hollyhocks will provide color later in the season. Two planters of rose bushes are on either side of the front step, and blooming irises are beneath the window on the east side of the property.

Diana was thrilled about being chosen for yard of the month, and said that spending time working in the yard is like a gift to herself.

When told she would receive a gift certificate from Calloway's Nursery, she said, "Oh, more roses!" So look for more color to be added to this lovely garden.

Congratulations, Diana, and thank you to Calloway's for the generous support of our neighborhood.

Be Water Smart

**Don't water
between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

Our conservation goals cannot be achieved without this support. Become water savvy by following these water efficient guidelines, which are enforced via Fort Worth's conservation ordinance.

- Water before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m., unless by soaker hose, hand-held hose or drip irrigation.
- Maintain your sprinkler system, making sure there are no broken or leaky heads.
- Check irrigation zone coverage areas, so you don't water sidewalks or streets.

Set your timer to manual to ensure your system doesn't go off during a rain event.



Nice bonnet, babe.

Support *Mistletoe Express* advertisers

Dear Neighbors,
Please look over the advertisers in our issue and give them a call. It's so important to support the advertisers who support our newsletter. We are the only neighborhood that doesn't charge to receive a newsletter. Please recognize that the newsletter is supported by your dues and our advertisers. Many of our advertisers live here in the neighborhood. So keep the money in the family, so to speak. They will really appreciate your financial support.
Many thanks,
The Mistletoe Expressians

Minutes of the Feb. 16 meeting

This year's first quarterly meeting of the Mistletoe Heights Association convened at 7 p.m., Feb. 16, at the home of MHA President Jeff Davis.

Order of business:

Entrance to Mistletoe Heights: The project to improve the entrance to Mistletoe Heights will not go forward until completion of talks with the Texas Department of Transportation and the MidTown development on their input and possible contribution to the site.

Web site: The Mistletoe Heights Web site is being redesigned and is still a work in progress. Thanks to Scott Ewing, Marjorie Day, Cynthia Wahl, Jim Peipert, Martin Herring and Rose Lynn Scott for their work on the redesign.

Treasurer's report: Keep those dues coming.

MidTown: No news regarding the MidTown project. The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Thanks to all who were able to attend and to Jeff Davis for allowing the use of his home for the meetings. We look forward to seeing more of you at the next meeting.

— Mecca Givens

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Spring gardening

“Spring is what gets our spirits rising and our backs aching. It gives us long lists of things that need doing and lovely days to do them in. Who doesn’t love spring?”

— Judy Barrett

By Dottie Guffey

So get out there and enjoy yourself!

Take in a garden festival and visit your favorite nursery. Keep working on your soil to make it happy and healthy with organics. Don’t forget to plant some veggies with those flowers, and add herbs if they aren’t already in your garden.

The idea is to have a bountiful garden with plenty of tastes, aromas, colors and life. Spring means the return of life and growth after the winter, and the return of good ol’ gardening fun!



Gardening tips

1. Feed the roses, wisteria and blooming trees.
2. Condition the soil and plant seedlings. My turnip, radish and tomato seedlings are in a fresh bag ready to be planted!
3. Some herbs are looking real sad so prune the dead stuff and wait for them to return to life but do not fertilize.
4. Cilantro, parsley and lettuce are ready for harvest. Enjoy!

Mow down air pollution with the Fort Worth lawn mower exchange

The next time you cut your grass with a gasoline-powered mower, you might want to think about this: one gas mower running for an hour pollutes as much as eight new cars driving 55 mph for the same amount of time.

As part of its efforts to raise awareness about air quality issues, the City of Fort Worth is hosting a lawn mower exchange program to help residents make the switch from gasoline- to electric-powered lawnmowers. The Mow Down Air Pollution program will give residents an opportunity to purchase a new, cordless electric mower for only \$99 – more than 70 percent off the retail price – by trading in a gasoline mower. Only a limited number of electric-powered mowers are available.

The Duracell-powered Neuton CE 5 mower offered in the program produces no pollution or carbon emissions and provides up to one hour of mowing on a single charge. It starts with the push of a button and, since it doesn’t use gas or oil, it never needs a tune-up.

Online registration for the Mow Down Air Pollution program opens Sunday, March 28. The new mowers are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The first 106 Fort Worth residents to register online at FortWorthGov.org/MowerExchange will be invited to exchange a working gasoline lawn mower – emptied of gas and oil – at La Grave Field for a voucher to purchase the new one. All the gas mowers that are turned in will be scrapped and the metal recycled.

This event is made possible with funding from contributions in settlement of an enforcement action brought by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.



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Keep quiet!

Some streets in Mistletoe Heights and on the edge of our neighborhood are busy arteries. And the noise of highway and rail traffic can be quite an onslaught. Add to that the deafening noise of yard-maintenance equipment and our bucolic neighborhood becomes a disturbia.

If your home is on a busy street, traffic noise can become a serious quality-of-life issue, making it difficult to enjoy your time outside and even devalue the price of your home. Noise is part of city life, but it can be tamed in part by what you do on your property and in the neighborhood.

Sound needs a barrier of more than 10 feet to really generate an effect. Local ordinances do not allow for the building of tall, dense fencing and walls. So creating an effective solution is challenging, to say the least. Here are some noise-pollution solutions:

Reduce the size of your lawn and plant native trees, both deciduous and evergreen. Deciduous trees make a pleasant sound in the wind and can reduce the effect of unnatural urban noise. Evergreens serve as a moderate sound buffer, but they work best blocking the mind to the visual sound cue. When you don't see the thing making the noise, the mind doesn't experience the sound as loudly.

A tall living green wall. Using dense trees and thick shrubbery in a wide lineup can reduce unwelcome sound and visuals. Living walls of trees and hedges are not subject to height limitations or city building codes.

Old-fashioned manual reel mowers. No air pollution, no ground water pollution, as there is no gas or oil to be spilled, and no noise pollution. So you can get up early on Sunday, mow your lawn and still have happy neighbors. And it always starts.

The leaf blower. Does anyone remember cleaning a yard with a leaf blower when growing up? Now they're everywhere. Reduce your use of them or stop altogether. Use electric and battery-powered blowers instead of the gas-powered ones, as they're not as loud. Many towns have ordinances prohibiting the use of blowers in the spring and summer or banning their use altogether. Use your rake and sweep your walk with a broom, and put your green trash in the compost bin.

Gas and electric clippers and edgers. Use hand clippers instead of powered clippers whenever possible. Use a shovel to edge your beds.

Water features. By placing water features in your yard, where you usually congregate, you can create the effect of less noise because the mind will go to the sound of running water. It needs to be a big enough feature to make a difference. Save the little tinkling fountains for inside. Sometimes placing several water features can really do the trick.

Foot-powered transportation. Walk or take your bicycle on short trips in the neighborhood. Be sure your car or motorcycle's muffler is working properly. Don't let your ride be a noise nuisance.

Playing music outdoors. Remember you are creating unnatural noise. Not everyone will enjoy listening to your state-of-the-art outdoor speakers blasting ZZ Top's greatest hits. Be mindful that sound travels and blaring music is invasive to the natural world and your neighbor's tiny bit of green space.

If everyone in Mistletoe Heights took on noise pollution as a nuisance that we all help to create, we could further improve the quality of life in the neighborhood.

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SUMMER ART CAMP!

Melissa Kohout is offering summer art classes. Classes are one week duration. For the last class, we will have a field trip to the zoo to do studies from life. Dates are not yet set. Please call Melissa for questions and details. 817-924-7063

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

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The Cowtown Great American Cleanup

On April 10, help keep Fort Worth beautiful by joining thousands of volunteers in the 25th annual Cowtown Great American Cleanup. Neighborhood associations, civic groups, Scout troops, businesses and individuals will pick up litter and debris from parks, neighborhoods and rights of way across the city from 9 a.m. to noon. Last year, more than 3,000 volunteers collected approximately 70,000 pounds.

Residents will also have the opportunity to drop off household hazardous waste products during the event. The Crud Cruiser will be at Trinity Park from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. for the collection of hazardous waste including paint, batteries and CFL light bulbs for proper disposal.

To get involved, gather your friends, family members and business associates, pick a site to clean up, and register online or call 817-392-3279.

The city provides free trash bags, T-shirts and gloves, while supplies last, to registered groups. After the cleanup, come to a volunteer celebration with entertainment, food and prizes, from noon to 2 p.m. in Trinity Park.

Easter leg of lamb

Serves 6

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

This is the main dish I make every Easter. *Buon appetito!*

1 6-pound leg of lamb
7 tablespoons of minced garlic
3 tablespoons of powered garlic
3 tablespoons of onion powder
3 tablespoons of chopped fresh rosemary
1 tablespoon of ground thyme
1 tablespoon of Italian seasoning
1 teaspoon of black pepper
¼ cup of olive oil
1 teaspoon of salt

Cut slits into the leg of lamb and fill the slits with small amounts of minced fresh garlic and chopped fresh rosemary. Do this evenly all over the leg. Cover the leg with olive oil and rub so it is well coated.

The dry rub:

Evenly cover the olive-oiled leg of lamb with the garlic powder, onion powder, ground thyme, Italian seasoning, black pepper and salt.

Put a thermometer into the thickest part of the leg.

Roast the lamb for 15 minutes at 450 degrees.

Reduce the oven to 350 degrees and roast the leg of lamb for about an hour and 20 minutes more. Your thermometer should register 145 degrees for medium rare meat. Remove the lamb from the roasting pan and tent with tin foil and let rest on a platter for 15 minutes before carving. This allows you time to finish your side dishes and it lets the juices stay in the meat when carving.



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district9@fortworthgov.org	

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Marjorie Day 817-914-8057	

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	
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Advertising Manager	
Kelly Reece 817-773-1637	
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E-Mail Moderator	
Richard Yantis 817-924-2857	
Hospitality	
Moksha Todd 817-247-2870	
Webmaster	
Scott Ewing 214-403-7762 cell	

Street Reps (listed by blocks)

East of Forest Park Phone (817)	
2200 W. Rosedale South	
Joanne Robinson	480-7082
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.	
Pat Hale	924-5263
2200 Mistletoe Ave.	
Richard & Christi Yantis	924-2857
2100/2200 Edwin	
Katrina Pittman	921-2221
2100 Weatherbee	
Judy Gude	926-8843
2200 Weatherbee	
Susan Harwell	923-8806
2100 Morphy	
Vacancy	
Forest Park Blvd.	
Steve McReynolds	926-7955

West of Forest Park

2300 W. Rosedale South	
Kimberly Helixon	927-4641
2300 Irwin	
Sue Duvall	926-8714
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Lisa Stewart	924-9666
2300 West Magnolia	
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2300/2400 Harrison	
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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

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Deadline for ads, stories and letters is the 15th of each month

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 Jerri Jo Blackmon
 1408 Mistletoe Drive

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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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