



Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.com

February 2011

Thanks, River!

River Reece, 5 of West Magnolia decided to sell our Central Market reusable grocery bags door to door to neighbors and made \$77 in sales to go toward our Entrance Beautification program. River will be going out again to sell our Central Market bags to more neighbors. The association wants to thank River for his contagious enthusiasm. If you see River selling bags, be sure to let him know how much you appreciate his contribution.



Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Meeting

7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15
Jeff Davis' home
2325 Mistletoe Dr.



Artwork by Melissa Kahout

Kiss a Horned Frog!
Happy Valentine's Day
to our TCU Rose Bowl Winners!



Congratulations to our Porch Tree Winner

Mecca Givens' family is our winner. Here is her tale:

"We started putting our tree on the porch Christmas 2000. We had decided to do this because Ella was 15 months old and I didn't want her first real Christmas memories to be of us trying to keep her away from the tree, keep it from falling on her and then there was the crazy old cat who was serious trouble around the tree as well. I thought we would stop putting the tree out when Ella got a bit older and the very old cat died. Right about the time Ella was safe around the tree, we had another baby and then the cat ended up living another 8 years (19 total)! Eleven years later, the tree on the porch has become our tradition."

Such a great tradition. Way to go, Mecca!

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Get on the Mistletoe Heights email 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 email list. If you have any questions or concerns about the email list, contact moderator@mistletoeheights.com.

Welcoming new neighbors

By Beth Krugler

We, of course, don't want to see anyone leave our wonderful little neighborhood, it seems like we're always feeling good about the new folks who come in to take their places.

This past month, our Association delivered welcoming baskets to **Kyle Pels** (who's new on South Rosedale) as well as to **Andrea Karnes** and **Quincy Hollaway** (along with their children, Ivy and Elliott Hollaway) on Irwin Street. We also just delivered the basket to **Kent and Grace Mitchell** and their two boys and baby girl on Mistletoe Blvd.

And just FYI: Although the Realtors in our midst are great sources of information on the arrival of new homeowners, everyone is invited to be our eyes and ears, letting us know when new folks move in. Please email either Meralen Tyson (meralen@sbcglobal.net) or Beth Krugler (beth@bethkrugler.com) and we'll get right on it.

One more note with regard to who is considered "new" in the neighborhood: We realize that we somehow managed to skip a few newcomers over the past several months. So, at this point, we suggest you let us know of folks who moved into the neighborhood no longer ago than September 2010. Our apologies go out to those whom we may have inadvertently missed. But please know that we're happy you're here. Welcome!



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Yard of the month: 2225 Weatherbee St.

The February citation for Yard of the Month goes to Ashley and Courtney Sartain of 2225 Weatherbee St.

The Sartains moved to Mistletoe Heights about 18 months ago and have been diligently making improvements to their home and yard. The said that their main goal was to give their home a “clean look,” which they accomplished by transforming the appearance of the yard, painting the home’s exterior an attractive gray shade with white trim and replacing the roof.

Courtney started the yard transformation by resodding much of the grass, reshaping and outlining the front flower beds with tumbled stone and replacing the shrubs with dwarf Indian hawthorne bushes and Kimberly Queen ferns.

Last summer, they included cool caladiums, and this fall they added large purple mums and white pansies.

Their street view is framed by a sprawling multi-trunked live oak to the east and a large sweet gum tree to the west that balances the other side of the front yard.

It’s obvious that the Sartains love their bungalow-style home and their inviting wrap-around porch.

Ashley said she felt that the front porch was an extension of the home’s living space. When entertaining in pleasant weather, they enjoy opening the side doors to allow guests to flow in and out onto the porch.

She added two white-painted, high-back rocking chairs with coordinating gray and white pillows along with a new mailbox and floor lanterns. Two large potted palms adorned the front porch until freezing weather arrived and were taken inside.

As our February winners, the Sartains will receive a complimentary gift certificate from a generous Calloway’s Nursery. Thank you to Ashley and Courtney for adding so much to the charm of Mistletoe Heights.

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Kindergarten Meet & Greet

Lily B. Clayton Elementary School invites you to visit Thursday, Feb. 3, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Lily B. Clayton Auditorium.

You'll meet the principal, the kindergarten teachers, other parents and children. You can ask questions, receive an informational packet, and tour the school. This is especially helpful to families with children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2011.

Children are welcome!

Any questions? Contact Kristi Parker 817.296.7334 or bkparker@charter.net

Meetings, events and fun

- ESPN Live Broadcasts! Through February 6. Downtown Fort Worth- Chisholm Trail Parking Lot, Sundance Square.
- Valentine's Day, February 14. Yes, Mom does like flowers!
- "The Ten Tenors," February 22-27. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St, Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 & 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday. Information: 817-212-4325.
- Neighborhood Meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 15th. Meeting at Jeff Davis' home, 2325 Mistletoe Drive.



Are you ready for some football?

Super Bowl XLV, Cowboys Stadium,
5:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, FOX/Channel 4

Street closures during Super Week

Beginning this week, several streets will be closed downtown due to Super Week-related events. In an effort to keep residents and visitors informed of closures, the City has a website - www.fortworthgov.org/superweek - that provides the latest road closure maps for Fort Worth and much more.

Fort Worth Super Week will run from sunup on Monday, Jan. 31, through the late hours of Feb. 6. A great deal of planning has gone into making sure Super Week is a safe and exciting time for both residents and football fans alike. Part of this planning is closing streets to make room for several attractions and the thousands of pedestrians expected to visit downtown Fort Worth.

To help visitors and residents in their travels, the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) is expanding the free Molly the Trolley service. From Jan. 28 to Feb. 6, the Trolleys will circulate around downtown and to the Stockyards. The Trolleys will also run between downtown and the Fort Worth Cultural District from Jan. 28 to Feb. 5. Regional train service is available via the Trinity Railway Express from downtown at the Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center.

Get the latest updates about events, traffic changes and public safety during Super Week at www.fortworthgov.org/superweek.

Composting: Easy and environment-friendly

By Marjorie Day

Composting is a natural way to dispose of your organic waste, create a useful by-product and help the environment.

Removing organic waste from the trash bin shrinks the volume of your garbage, saves money for Fort Worth by reducing waste headed for the landfill and enriches your garden's soil with free, homemade compost.

Yard waste, such as leaves, lawn clippings, fruit and vegetable leftovers, coffee grounds, tea bags and egg shells, can all be easily composted.

You'll want to keep critters away from your pile. So don't add meat, bones, such fatty food wastes as cheese, grease and oils, dog and cat litter and diseased plants. Don't add invasive weeds or weeds that have gone to seed to your pile.

Mother Nature provides bacteria, fungi, molds, earthworms, insects and other soil organisms to eat all types of organic material and transform it into nutrients that your plants can use. Without these essential organisms, our soil would be dead and unable to sustain us.

Organic material contains carbon and nitrogen, which nourish the organisms in your compost pile. Brown, woody materials, such as autumn leaves, are high in carbon. Green, moist materials, such as grass clippings, are high in nitrogen.

The compost recipe is simple -- three parts "brown" to one part "green." It will yield finished composting in three to eight months. A leaf-only recipe will break down in about eight to 15 months.

Grass clippings or food scraps composted alone will result in a stinky compost pile that won't break down properly. Mix leaves, straw or shredded newspaper with green materials.

Your compost pile needs air. A lack of oxygen will slow the composting process and cause odors. Turn your pile, fluff it with a hoe or pitchfork, or build air passages into the pile with branches.

Your compost pile should be as damp as a wrung-out sponge. Make sure that leaves are damp when you add them to the pile because they won't break down if they're dry. Because moisture evaporates as the pile heats up, let rain and snow replace it, or add water during dry spells. A cover helps retain moisture in hot weather.

Check out the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens' Compost Outpost for various choices in creating compost piles.

Set up a bin in a convenient, shady area with good drainage. Keep it near a water supply so that it can be watered if dry. A pile should be no more than four feet by four feet. This smaller size will help maintain the heat generated by the composting organisms during the winter. A smaller pile may not retain heat, but it will eventually compost.

Start the pile with a layer of "brown" and then a layer of "green" materials. Remember the recipe of 3 to 1: three "browns" to one "green."

Shredding the leaves or running over them with a mower will shorten the composting time. Be sure to bury food scraps in the center of the pile. Add water to the pile if it becomes dry. A complete turning of the pile top to bottom in spring and fall with a pitchfork or other tool results in finished compost in a year. Turning your pile more frequently will make your compost pile work faster and will result in usable compost in much less time.

When your pile looks like rich, dark soil, it's ready to go. Apply one to three inches of compost prior to planting.

Composting is easy and contributes to your community and city.

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The eyes and ears of the police

By Robert DeVargas

I recently attended a four-hour Citizens on Patrol (COP) training course provided by the Fort Worth Police Department.

Two of those attending were from Mistletoe Heights and several other participants represented neighborhoods on the city's west side.

The training, which I found informative, dealt with the nature of criminal activity in the area, how to observe and report incidents and the overall responsibilities of COP volunteers as they become the eyes and ears of the police.

Essentially, COP volunteers are "visible scouts" whose very presence deters crime and whose job it is to observe and report.

I also enjoyed meeting the neighborhood police officers. Mistletoe Heights has two NPOs: David Cloninger, who oversees the portion of our neighborhood east of Forest Park Boulevard, and Sidney Keith, who oversees the west side.

To become "official," each COP volunteer must attend the four-hour training course (pizza and drinks included), ride along with a patrol officer for one shift, observe a 911 call-taker for an hour and observe a FWPD dispatcher for an hour. In some cases, volunteers may also have to do one drive-along with an experienced COP volunteer.

Officer Keith showed me a list of former COP volunteers from Mistletoe Heights and I was surprised to see nearly two dozen names. It seems to me that we can afford to raise a small cadre of volunteers who will go through the training and begin to watch out for each other in an official capacity.

I know we do that already. After all, we love being called "nosy neighbors." But the training opened my eyes to many things about criminals, their tricks, how they operate, what to watch for and what I can do about it. It may not be enough to just be nosy. We should also be informed and ready to act.

Programs like this are a lot like fixing a leak in your roof. When it's raining, it's too late. The time for diligence is before the storm comes. And although the holidays are behind us, and the usual rise in criminal activity may now abate some, now seems like a good time to assemble and train a team of COP volunteers for our sweet neighborhood.

For more information please contact either officer:

Officer David Cloninger

David.Cloninger@fortworthgov.org
817- 992-0181

Officer Sidney Keith

signey.keither@fortworthgov.org
817-944-1038

Message from Officer Keith

I am looking for a Gold 1996 Ford explore with LP starting with 445??? They are pulling into drive ways and walking to the front door. When they get there they ring the door bell and knock loudly several times. When the home owner does not answer they walk around back and kick the door in. The two Hispanic males were confronted by a home owner on Avondale and Shirley which is the west side of University. There was a burglary during the same time (1200-1800) just east of University on Winton Ter. They may be related to this burglary suspect vehicle. Please keep your eyes out and if some one knocks on your doors and you do not know them, then don't answer the door. If possible take pictures of them and gather as much information for the police to use and track them down. If they do not go away then yell through the door to let them know you are in the house so that they will go away. If you see this vehicle please call 911 and then me. We need to get it identified. Thanks.

_ Officer Sidney Keith #3360

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2011 Bank Travel Itinerary

- Feb. 18 - Bureau of Engraving and Printing
- March 5 - Murder Mystery Dinner (Southfork Hotel)
- March 31 to April 1 - San Marcos Outlet Mall (Overnight trip)
- April 7 - Dividing the Estate (Dallas Theater)
- April 29 - Canton. First Monday Trade Days



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Residential building permits: When do you need one?

Submitted by *Kathy McReynolds*

Know the City codes before you start your next home-improvement project.

Interior remodel: Changing, moving or repairing walls or floors and replacement of drywall that results in a total area of 16 square feet or more in any wall or ceilings require a building permit.

Mechanical: Changing, moving or repairing mechanical equipment such as a central heating and air conditioning system, duct work, and exhaust fans require a mechanical permit.

Plumbing: Changing, moving or repairing plumbing, including water heaters and shower pans, requires a plumbing permit.

Siding: Replacement of missing or decayed siding requires a building permit.

Roofing: Replacement of decking material, lathing boards, sheathing boards, rafters or ridge boards requires a building permit. Shingle work does not require a permit, but there is a limit on the number of shingle layers allowed.

Storage sheds: All storage sheds require a building permit. There are additional zoning requirements associated with the location, maximum height and square footage, depending on

property lot size. For information, refer to Chapter 5 Supplemental Use Standards, Article 5.301 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Other small structures: All accessory structures require a building permit. This may include gazebos, outdoor fireplaces, fountains with plumbing, wind turbines, solar panels, radio towers, swimming pools, including prefabricated above-ground pools over 5,000 gallons, freestanding satellite dishes over 12 feet tall, retaining walls over 4 feet tall, etc. There are additional specific zoning requirements associated with the location, maximum height and square footage, depending on property lot size. For more information, refer to Chapter 5 Supplemental Use Standards, Article 5.301 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Where can I find more information?

If you need additional information related to building permits or zoning regulations, visit the Planning and Development Department at www.FortWorthGov.org/planninganddevelopment or call 817-392-2222. To view the zoning ordinance, visit www.FortWorthGov.org/zoning.

Water rate increases

Residents are reminded that changes to water and wastewater rates take effect with the new year. A typical residential customer's monthly water and wastewater charges will increase by 11 cents.

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Minimum square-footage formulas

By Marjorie Day

Many of us in Mistletoe Heights live in tight quarters and have trouble with furniture flow in our small rooms. But there are formulas to follow.

Entry

The clear opening of a doorway should be at least 36 inches. The average person needs between 3 to 5 square feet of space to put on and remove a coat. Keep it simple.

Hallways

A hallway is a great place to incorporate furniture but you need a minimum of 36 inches to walk comfortably.

Living room

Your living area's social space needs to be only 10 feet across. For cozy conversations, reduce the space between furniture to 15 to 24 inches. Everyone can reach the coffee table without getting up. The path between sofas, coffee tables and ottomans needs to be only 18 inches wide.

Kitchen

The kitchen lies in its work triangle: fridge, sink and stove. The triangle is no more than 26 feet, with no leg of the triangle less than 4 feet. You need 36 square feet of storage for a family of four. Another 6 square feet

is suggested for each additional family member. Can you ever have too much storage? We think not.

Dining room

Your dining table should provide a minimum of 2 feet of space per person. To pass behind seated diners, allow at least 44 inches. If you just need to squeeze past, go with 36 inches.

Bedroom

You need at least 4 feet of open space in front of closets for dressing. A minimum of 30 inches of space between beds, dressers and armoires is needed. The latter two require room to open and standing room in front of them while they are open.

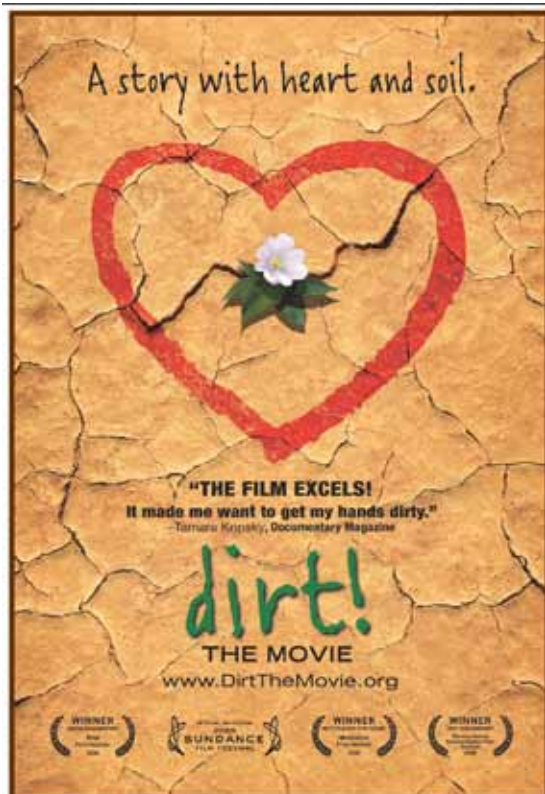
Bathrooms

You need 30 inches from the front edge of a toilet, tub/ shower to any opposite fixture, wall or obstacle.

Closets

A pole parallel to the wall, about 12 inches from both sides, for hanging clothes is suggested. Twenty-four square feet is suggested as a minimum for two people; add 6 square feet for each additional person. These

guidelines are, of course, for Buddhist monks who have two orange robes and two pairs of sandals.



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Valentine's
Day!**

Monday, Feb. 14



Coyotes among us

With winter upon us, coyote sightings have increased in Fort Worth.

The city's Animal Care and Control Division cautions the public to discourage any contact with coyotes and provides the following tips for limiting environments that attract them:

- Do not feed coyotes. When coyotes begin associating humans with food, they lose their natural fears and may become aggressive or dangerous.
- Eliminate water sources. Standing water attracts rodents, birds and snakes that coyotes can prey on.
- Position bird feeders so coyotes cannot get to the feed. Coyotes also may be attracted by birds and small animals lured by the feeder.
- Do not discard edible garbage. Coyotes are opportunistic and will feed on any table scraps.
- Place trash containers out the morning of pick-up. Leaving them out overnight offers opportunity for coyotes to scavenge.
- Do not leave your barbecue grill out-



side or uncovered. The smell and the contents in the drip pan can attract coyotes.

- Feed pets indoors whenever possible. Remove any leftovers if feeding outdoors.
- Do not allow pets to run free. Secure housing — especially at night — deters coyotes who see small dogs, cats, rabbits, etc., as potential prey.
- Clear brush and weeds from around your property. This deprives potential prey of cover and deters coyotes from hunting in the area.
- A fenced yard deters coyotes. Prefer-

ably, a 6-foot fence and, if possible, one that reaches 6 inches below ground level to deter coyotes from digging under.

- Do not leave small children outside alone if coyotes have been spotted.
- Discourage coyotes in your area. If approached, harass them by throwing rocks, shouting and making loud noises. The highest volume of recent reported sightings is near a wooded area that borders the Northeast Tarrant County College campus. Reports to Animal Care and Control staff indicate that students and area residents have been feeding these coyotes. As a result, the coyotes are becoming bolder and approaching people, which poses health and safety risks for area visitors, residents and their pets.

Coyotes and humans have co-existed in Fort Worth for a very long time. It is only when a coyote loses its fear of humans and becomes aggressive that it typically poses a threat.

To report coyotes that exhibit this type of behavior, contact Animal Care and Control at 817-392-PAWS.

Prevent vehicle burglary at home: Take, Lock, Hide

Everyone knows that leaving valuables visible in a parked car — especially an unlocked one — is an open invitation to thieves. We know it at the mall, but often we forget at home.

There were more than 24,000 vehicle break-ins in Tarrant County during 2009, and though residents are getting better at taking precautions in public places, the number of break-ins in neighborhoods is on the rise countywide.

Neighborhood vehicle break-ins can cause even bigger problems than a break-in at a shopping center. If you keep a spare set of house keys or a garage door opener in your car, the thief easily can gain access to your home.

A joint county task force, the Tarrant Auto Task Force, now is using the same strategy used to prevent auto theft to help crack down on burglary — the COBRA Bait Car Program. The program places vehicles equipped with cameras in areas where burglaries are likely, and when the thieves take the bait, officers have pictures of the suspects and can identify them easily. Fort Worth Police Department participates in the Task Force with two detectives assigned to the COBRA Program and coordinated by the department's Auto Theft Unit.

Even with this added enforcement, the best way to stop vehicle burglary is to take steps to prevent it from happening in the first place:

- Take your valuables, keys, bags and other items with you when you leave your car.
- Hide anything that you must leave in your car so that it cannot be seen from the window.
- Lock your car no matter how long you plan to be away from it.
- Do not leave your car running unattended.
- Mark your property with the Police Department's free RAPIDS program.

By taking these precautions, you can make a big difference in decreasing auto burglary and protect your possessions at the same time.

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Mistletoe Heights Association Income & Expenses Prev Year Comparison January through December 2010

	Jan - Dec 10	Jan - Dec 09	\$ Change	% Change
Income				
Advertising Income - Newsletter	5,399.00	3,264.00	2,135.00	65.4%
Central Market Bags	103.00	0.00	103.00	100.0%
Dues Donations	7,284.00	5,346.00	1,938.00	36.3%
For Robert Needham (Postman)	210.00	0.00	210.00	100.0%
Interest Income	5.24	6.38	-1.14	-17.9%
Total Income	13,001.24	8,616.38	4,384.86	50.9%
Expense				
Bank Charges	15.67	4.41	11.26	255.3%
Christmas Party - 2008	0.00	200.71	-200.71	-100.0%
Christmas Street Lite Decor	284.69	371.75	-87.06	-23.4%
Easter Egg Hunt	188.03	215.92	-27.89	-12.9%
Flag Program - Triangle	120.00	0.00	120.00	100.0%
Garage Sale Expenses	83.39	0.00	83.39	100.0%
Halloween	0.00	50.00	-50.00	-100.0%
July 4th Party	647.64	579.14	68.50	11.8%
Lily B. Clayton	0.00	95.00	-95.00	-100.0%
MHA Entry	188.89	64.86	124.03	191.2%
Neighborhood Postman	250.00	0.00	250.00	100.0%
Newby Park Improvements	22.43	0.00	22.43	100.0%
Newsletter Expenses	5,165.95	5,259.01	-93.06	-1.8%
Water Expense - Berm	893.23	0.00	893.23	100.0%
Water Expense - Newby	629.41	0.00	629.41	100.0%
Water Expense - Newby & Berm	0.00	2,360.21	-2,360.21	-100.0%
Website Expense	95.25	0.00	95.25	100.0%
Welcome Baskets	238.86	0.00	238.86	100.0%
Total Expense	8,823.44	9,201.01	-377.57	-4.1%
Net Income	4,177.80	-584.63	4,762.43	814.6%

I love my "gray Taco Bell"...

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