



Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.org

October 2012

FERAL CATS

My Adventures as a Foster Parent

By Susan Pressley

A few months ago a new neighbor moved onto the 2300 block of W. Magnolia. Nobody really noticed her much at first. She was nice enough but she kept to herself. After a while I realized she might be pregnant. I mentioned it to several neighbors but no one really knew anything about her. As it turned out, our new neighbor was pregnant and before we knew it there were five kittens running around our block.

A group of concerned neighbors started talking about this dilemma. There were six cats on our block that weren't fixed and that number was sure to increase unless we took action. But no one took ownership of the problem, and nothing was done. Then one morning a 7 year-old girl found one of the kittens dead in the street. It was a heartbreaking reminder that we couldn't ignore this. Finally, my neighbors and I agreed to work together to trap, neuter, foster, and find good homes for the kittens. One of us also agreed to care for the mother cat. We contacted neighbor Rose Lynn Scott to help us. I'd like to share our story in the hope that it might inspire more people to help feral cats.

***Our decision to do nothing about a stray cat was a mistake.** The biggest lesson we learned was that we should have trapped and neutered the cat when she first showed up. It is much easier to trap and neuter one cat than it is to do it for five. Another thing that would have made our job easier was trapping the kittens when they were very young (4-6 weeks). We waited until the kittens were about 8 weeks old before we started trying to trap them. The



first two kittens we caught were pretty tame. It took several more weeks to catch the other two and they were much wilder.

***A very important lesson we learned (the hard way) is never try to pick up a feral kitten when the mother is around.** Cats are good mothers and they will try to protect their young. If you pick up a kitten, the mother cat may think that it is in trouble and bite you.

Kittens can be neutered starting at 8 weeks old, so after the kittens were caught Rose Lynn took them to a low-cost spay/neuter clinic where they were fixed and vaccinated for rabies for \$15 a piece. The clinic also tipped one of their ears. This indicates they have already been fixed in case they are trapped by someone else. Out of the four surviving kittens, three of them were females.

*** Kittens can get pregnant as early as 4 months old and they can have 2 to 3 litters a year.** The cat on W. Magnolia had a litter of 5 kittens. Do the math.

Continued on Page 2

JUDGING ON TUESDAY, OCT. 30

Mistletoe Heights Pumpkin Carving Contest!

By Steve McReynolds

Occasionally there is a promise of fall in the air as the mornings are once again becoming crisp. Before you turn around it will be time for the annual Pumpkin Carving Contest.

The rules for this event are simple:

- The Night before Halloween (which means Tuesday, Oct. 30, this year), the elite gang of gourd judges hit the street to judge this year's offerings.

- All REAL & CARVED PUMPKINS are judged soon after dusk.

- The Grand Prize winner will get either 100 shares of Apple stock or a \$50.00 prize (to be decided later).

- All honorable mentions get a fabulous write up in the newsletter.

Plan your gourds' grimace now get the whole family involved and remember judging occurs the night before Halloween and

styrofoam/plastic pumpkins are not in the judging.

NEW NEIGHBORS: Trick-or-treaters flock to Mistletoe Heights from all over town so be prepared to deliver the hospitality and treats. (And keep an eye out for the Mistletoe Halloween Street Band on their annual roam).



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Stray cats (cont.)

I agreed to foster three of the kittens. The mother cat and the fourth kitten were released back to my neighbor's yard after they were neutered because they were too wild to tame. The first two kittens that were caught quickly adapted to life with two young children, a dog, and two cats. They stayed in a large, wire crate in our living room and we took them out to pet them or play with them often. We also let them run around the bathroom or kitchen (any small, enclosed room).

*** Kittens are small and can fit in places where it is extremely difficult to get them out.** For example, a kitten is just small enough to fit underneath our sectional sofa but yet it is somehow too large to slide back out from the same sofa.

Within a couple of weeks the first two kittens were adopted. Then my neighbor told us she had caught the third kitten. What a difference two weeks makes! This kitten was not as adaptable as the first two. She hissed when we got close to her and she scratched if we tried to pet her. I knew that someone was going to have to handle her eventually, but I was terrified of this two pound ball of hatred. Then Rose Lynn came over to help. She used gloves to pick her up and then swaddled her in a towel. She took her to my bathroom and pet her for over an hour. Rose Lynn explained that feral kittens have to be handled as soon as possible if there is any hope in taming them. I made a commitment to put aside my fear and start "pet therapy" sessions with this tiny kitten. I am happy to say that "Julia" has made huge improvements and we have recently decided to keep her. I guess it's kind of like owning one of these old houses – when you put enough blood, sweat, and tears into something it's hard to let it go.

My neighbors and I are very glad we worked together to fix this problem. There are 3 kittens that

have good homes now and my neighbor has 2 new helpers that will keep the rodent population down in her yard. Feral cats that are too wild to tame can still be companions that provide joy and friendship, even if it's on a hands-off basis. Just trap, neuter, release, and then provide food and water for them.

My family's experience as a foster family was exceptional. There is nothing quite as satisfying as earning an animal's trust. It was fun to have some cute kittens around and it was also a wonderful learning opportunity for my children. Children are very good at fostering kittens because they often have a lot more time, patience, and hope than adults.

If you see a feral cat in the



neighborhood, I encourage you to get involved. Over 3,000 feral cats are euthanized at the city's animal shelter a year. You can take a step toward preventing this by trapping and neutering the feral cats in your area. For more information on feral cats, go to www.alleycat.org.

*** Valerie Ewing had a similar experience with a stray cat that showed up at her house and now she is fostering 5 kittens.** If you are interested in giving one of these kittens a good home, please contact her at agdoco52hotmail.com.

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the date

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To subscribe to the Mistletoe Heights Residents mailing list, go to www.mistletoeheights.org, 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.org 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.org.



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Lily B. Clayton Uniform Drive

If your Sweet Lily B student is growing, growing, growing - Please consider donating your outgrown uniforms to Lily B. Clayton. There are three easy ways to donate:

1. The week of October 15-19 send the old uniforms to school where baskets will be outside the school office and library.
2. Drop the uniforms anytime at 2115 Warner Road.
3. Contact Erin East at erin_east@hotmail.com and she will pick up the uniforms.

Please support Lily B, and give new life to your outgrown uniforms! The annual uniform sale will be held November 3, time TBA.

PLEASE!



**Clean up after
your dog**

Please pick up after your dog

Please remember to bring a baggie to pick up after your dog. If you are trying to be more green and don't want to fill our landfills with plastic bags, then we ask that you take a small shovel on your walk and pick it up. Then you can take it back to your house and drop it in your own front yard.

Thank you to all of those courteous dog owners who carry bags and clean up after their dogs!



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FESTIVAL TIME!

OCT. 13, 2012 | 1-4 P.M.

Frontier Fall Fest



Grab your pumpkins and shuck your corn...it's time for a good old-fashioned Frontier Fall Fest! You'll be able to grind grain

by hand, shell corn, thresh wheat, "bob" for apples, press tortillas and more. We'll also have help celebrating the harvest with flintknappers, the Greater Fort Worth Herb Society, drovers from the Fort Worth Herd (minus the longhorns), the Embroiderer's Guild of America, Wyatt Earp dealing the card game Faro, Cooper Dan "Five Buckets" Tatum, and Buttermilk Junction Old Time String Band, just to name a few! Bring your own carved or painted pumpkin to enter our "best design" contest (judging at 3 p.m.) This will also mark the official launch of *Log Cabin Kitty*, a children's book inspired by legendary Village feline Pepper the Cat. Author Donna Rubin will be here to sign your copy (available soon in the museum store)! For a small additional fee, you can even make your own festive corn husk doll to take home! Cost is regular Log Cabin Village admission, plus \$3 craft fee for corn husk doll. The Log Cabin Village is located at 2100 Log Cabin Village Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76109. For more information, call 817-392-5881 or go to www.logcabinvillage.org.

OCT. 27, 2012 | 6-9 P.M.

Firestation Community Center Fall Festival

Firestation at 1601 Lipscomb will once again be hosting its Fall Festival. This festival is a community event for the general public, neighborhood residents, families and friends. Fire Station uses this event every fall as an opportunity to bring the community together for food and fun for the whole family. The fall festival attractions will include games, pumpkin decorating, crafts, face painting, costume contest, raffles and more.

Admission is FREE, tickets will be sold for 25 cents each to be used for games and concession.

Last year Firestation partnered with The Cultural Arts Center and presented Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, with a celebration that remembers and honors the departed by creating alters decorated with food and handmade decorations.

This year The Cultural Arts Center presents NBC5 news personality, Deborah Ferguson, below, who will be participating in the festival events.

For more information, call 817-924-9971



Mistletoe Heights Association Annual Dues Drive

It is time again to collect dues donations for our neighborhood association. All residents of Mistletoe Heights are members of the association and dues donations are completely voluntary. Any amount is welcomed and appreciated.

In addition to the seasonal social gatherings, landscape maintenance, newsletter and directory publications, dues donations fund a number of special projects.

We conclude our dues drive in the fall. Various levels of giving will be recognized in upcoming newsletters with the final recognition for the year being published in our November newsletter, if received before Oct. 15.

Levels of giving for this year are:

Mistletoe - up to \$25

Holly - \$26 to \$50

Gardenia - \$51 to \$75

Magnolia - \$76 and up



Thank you for supporting your neighborhood association. Together we can make Mistletoe Heights an even better place to live.



☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please return your dues donation to:

Mistletoe Heights Association
c/o Jeri Jo Blackmon
1408 Mistletoe Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76110

Please check here if you wish your donation to remain anonymous ☐

Forest Park Road Diet

By Susan Pressley

There are a couple of things I'd like to share with you about the Forest Park road diet.

- The city is in the process of reading through all of the comments submitted online and at the meeting held Sept. 10. They estimate this will take until the end of October.

- The city updated the FAQ handout from the meeting and posted it on their website. It doesn't have a lot of new information on it, but it does have some. You can view it at http://fortworthtexas.gov/uploadedFiles/Transportation_and_Public_Works/Projects/1209_ForestParkFAQs.pdf.

There was an accident on Sunday, Sept. 23, at Wilshire & Forest Park. Two cars were stopped in the middle of Forest Park because the first car was trying to turn left. Another driver rear-ended the second car causing a three vehicle accident. The driver who caused the accident wasn't speeding or driving recklessly. She just didn't see the brake lights or realize there were cars stopped in the middle of the road. At least one person was taken away on a stretcher and the damage to the cars was substantial (www.flickr.com/photos/susanpressley). A center turn lane is one of the biggest benefits to the road diet because it would protect us while we are trying to turn left into our street or driveway.

Complaints during TCU games

Just a quick reminder that when TCU plays, if there is a complaint or concern, please call me at the number below. I work all day and that is what I am going to be here for. Please do not hesitate to call.

Officer Sidney Keith
#3360
FWPD – West Division
Zone 1 – NPO W514
C 817-944-1038
Email: sidney.keith@fortworthgov.org

Crime stats

By Officer Sidney Keith

Here are the crime stats for last week of September. I had 2 robberies of persons 2 nights in a row. 1 was along the sidewalks of the Marquis at gun point and suspect approached him demanding money. The other was at the shell station at which the suspects approached him while he was getting gas. They told him to take them to the 7-11 across the street. We have video of the suspects. Suspects black males and times are between 0200-0430 hrs in the morning. It appears they are robbing when the victims get out of the bar.

There was an indecency w/child and injury to child. Indecency was at the school and appears to be bogus upon reviewing the video tape of the school. The other was a suspect getting mad at a pizza place and throwing a piece of pizza which hit a small child burning them. Both suspects been identified. There was an assault BI that was a fight at the high school and the school officers are handling that.

There was a burglary of a building at the Shine carwash and the suspect was on video taking 4 tires from the building. Also there were 2 BMW's which broke the window taking a back pack and GPS. TCU students are leaving items in the vehicles.

If there are any questions please feel free to email me or call me. Thank you.

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Community health initiative

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This flyer is inviting citizens to participate with the Forces of Change Assessment subcommittee to examine and identify the Forces of Change that will affect our community between now and 2022.

The flyer contains all of the information including a name and phone number for questions.

Please feel free to share with your neighbors.

Sincerely,

Madelyn Gibbs

Neighborhood Education Coordinator

Planning and Development

City of Fort Worth

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Fax: 817-392-2107

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GOING OUT OF TOWN? Call Riley Gensheimer. Neighborhood teenager available for pet sitting and plant watering. Riley Gensheimer (age 15) of 2337 West Magnolia is available to take care of your home while you are away. I will bring in the mail, water plants and feed your pets for \$10-\$15 a day. Call 817-991-8214

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Advertising rates to change February 2013

The Mistletoe Express keeps chugging along!
But in an effort to keep the newsletter coming to Mistletoe Heights residents free of charge, our advertising rates will increase as of February 2013. These rates are more in line with other neighborhood newsletters. The circulation of the Mistletoe Express is about 500, but the readership goes much further. And your ad is part of the newsletter that is emailed to resident each month and put on our website, www.mistletoeheights.org.

The new rates are as follows:

Business card (1/8 page) \$25

Quarter page \$50

Half page \$100

Full page \$200

For information, or to place an ad, contact Cynthia Wahl, 817-228-5220, or email cunninghamwahl@yahoo.com.



Do you love landscapes?

Are you an admirer of abundant gardens?

We need volunteers to pick the Yard of the Month. The newsletter publishes 10 times a year (double issue of Dec./Jan and June/July).

You would need to choose a yard and talk with the owner about what they plant and if they have any great tips for the rest of us!

Please contact Anna Fuller, annahfulle@hotmail.com.

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Mistletoe Heights Association

Income & Expenses

January through August 2012

	Jan - Aug 12
Income	
Advertising Income - Newsletter	4,341.00
Christmas Cards - 2011	45.00
Dues Donations	2,816.00
Interest Income	0.88
Total Income	7,202.88

Expense	
Bank Charges	0.51
Easter Egg Hunt	222.77
Flag Program - Triangle	120.00
Maintenance - Newby, Berm, etc.	1,607.14
MHA Entrance	193.45
MHA Meeting Facility Rental	200.00
MHA Xmas Party - 2011	167.78
Newsletter Expenses	3,553.68
Traffic Committee Expenses	961.79
Water Expense - Newby	1,265.82
Welcome Baskets	279.50
Total Expense	8,572.44

Net Income **-1,369.56**

Bank Balance - \$18,428.42



Photo by Rodger Mallison

Mistletoe Heights Historical and Cultural District Guidelines

In 2002, Mistletoe Heights was designated a Historical District by the City of Fort Worth. The purpose of these guidelines is to discourage demolition of the District's historic buildings and serve as a guide for rehabilitation of existing buildings, construction of new buildings and addition and relocation of buildings so as to preserve the historic and cultural character and visual identity of the district. For more info, please see mistletoeheights.org.