



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Josh Lindsay



January is tough. The weather is bleak. The holidays are over, and all I have to show for them are bills and extra pounds. If the kids aren't on holiday, they seem to be at home with a fever or cough.

My bike riding reaches its lowest point of the year. Yuck.

Then, miraculously, we have one of those weekends that Texas teases us with in the middle of winter. Suddenly it feels like spring is here.

It was a beautiful, long Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend and, despite sniffles and lingering coughs, we trooped out for long walks, trips to the Fort Worth Stock Show, the Kimbell Art Museum, the Museum of Science and History, and even some live music and tasty local beer here on the Near Southside.

I know Texas will turn it around on me again and send more winter weather, but I can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

The neighborhood association officers have gotten together to nail down a preliminary calendar of events for the year, which is included in this newsletter.

Our primary goal is to improve communication and unity among neighbors and these events are one way that we try to achieve that.

Putting the calendar together and the hint of spring weather during the MLK weekend have gotten me excited about the upcoming year. We have some great things planned and I look forward to meeting you at our neighborhood events in 2015.

Continued on Page 3

If walls could talk...

Lena Pope's home was at 2205 Harrison Avenue for more than five decades

By Jim Peipert

In the December-January issue of the Mistletoe Express, MHA President Josh Lindsay wrote an item about how to track the history of your house by using Tarrant County's online resources.

So I decided to give it a test run – not with our house, but the house next-door, which has a much more interesting history.

The gray-brick, Tudor-esque house at 2205 Harrison Ave. was the Fort Worth home of Lena Pope, who on Jan. 1, 1930, founded the Fort Worth institution that bears her name: the Lena Pope Home for dependent, neglected and homeless children.



Lena Holston, one of 11 children of William M. and Susan Lavonia Holston, was born in Natchitoches, La., on Dec. 14, 1881, according to The Handbook of Texas. She was educated at the State Normal School at Natchitoches (now Northwestern Louisiana State University) and taught for several years in Louisiana schools.

In the early 1900s, she married Ewell Hicks Pope, a lumber salesman, and in the 1920s, the couple moved to Fort Worth, where Ewell's lumber business flourished. Many of the houses in Mistletoe Heights and other south side neighborhoods were built during that time, and I would bet that timber from the Pope lumberyard is in many of our houses.

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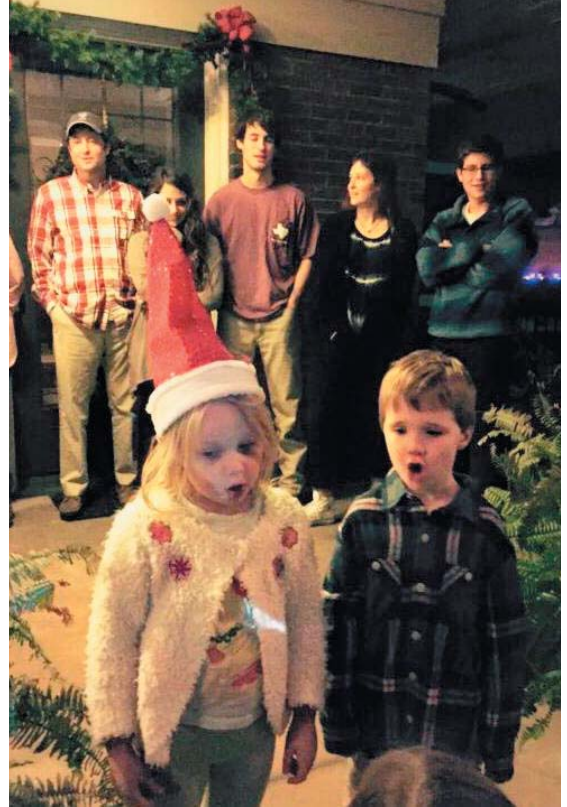
Here we come a caroling



On the Monday before Christmas, Dec. 22, new MHA President Josh Lindsay organized what we hope will become a tradition in Mistletoe Heights – caroling through the neighborhood.

About two dozen neighbors of all ages turned up at the Lindsays' front porch on Mistletoe Boulevard to stroll through the neighborhood, knock on doors and sing for anyone who wanted to listen.

“For me it was lovely stress-free holiday fun,” Josh said in thanking the neighbors who turned out on a chilly night. “I am so lucky to live in this neighborhood and have such wonderful people around me.”



The last night at Mijo's



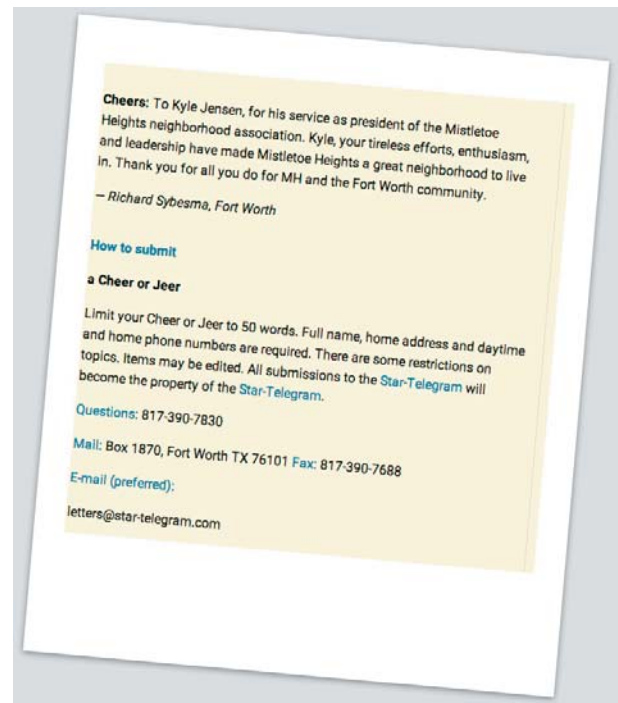
Neighbors Jeff Gibbons and Barbara Taylor, known as the duo Everybody's Darlin', performed Jan. 10 at the closing night of business of Mijo's Fusion restaurant and bar at 1109 W. Magnolia Ave.

Over the past few years, Mijo's has been a gathering place for Mistletoe Heights residents, particularly when Jeff and Barbara performed, usually on the third Friday of every month.

Mijo's manager, Walter Lowe, says the restaurant is looking for a new venue on Magnolia, but it may be as long as six months before a new Mijo's emerges.

Meanwhile, Jeff and Barbara, who have performed at the Mistletoe Heights Christmas party and other neighborhood gatherings, will be playing at other venues. Watch for upcoming performances on the MHA Residents email group and on their Facebook pages.

Cheers for Kyle



In case you missed it, the following “cheer” appeared in the Dec. 13 edition of the *Star-Telegram*, submitted by neighbor Richard Sybesma.

Thanks to Kyle Jensen and thanks to Richard for helping put our neighborhood on the map.

President's Corner

Continued From Page 1

First up is a neighborhood meeting at the Peiperts' house, at 2217 Harrison Ave., on Tuesday, Feb. 17, followed soon after with the Cowtown Marathon cheer station gathering on Feb. 27.

Check out the rest of the events on our calendar inside. If you have an event that you would like to add or organize, or if you would be willing to host an event (see all the TBDs in the calendar!), please get in touch.

Stay warm. Spring is on its way!

All the best,

—**Josh Lindsay, MHA president**

Get connected. Be more engaging. Please share with us your experiences of good will in the neighborhood to newsletter@mistletoeheights.org and write me at president@mistletoeheights.org. Here are some ways to find out what's going on in the neighborhood.

1. Facebook Chat Room www.facebook.com/groups/mhneighbors
2. NextDoor page www.mistletoeheights.nextdoor.com
3. Webpage www.mistletoeheights.org/contacts

Volunteers needed

We need more volunteers! Help us make this neighborhood better.

MHA is looking for four to five people to join the Historical Preservation Committee. Help us ensure the integrity of the architecture in our community.

Contact Chad Jung if you are interested, vicepresident@mistletoeheights.com.

Be aware! Lock your vehicle!



Residents who have a housekeeper or other persons working in their homes should warn them to always lock their vehicles.

On Jan. 22, a housekeeper working in a house on W. Rosedale S. St. had her unlocked car broken into sometime between 10 a.m. and noon. The battery and a stereo were stolen.

Neighborhood police officers warn residents and visitors to always lock their vehicles and to never leave anything visible inside them.



Where does the money go?

Did you ever wonder what your Mistletoe Heights Association dues are used for?

Some of the things paid for by the voluntary donations from neighbors are the annual Mistletoe Heights Christmas party and light post decorations, as well as expenses for Newby Park, such as watering, flowers, fertilizer and trees.

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Mark your calendars!



The next neighborhood meeting will be held on Tuesday Feb. 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Ellen and Jim Peipert, 2217 Harrison Ave. It turns out that Feb. 17 is Mardi Gras, so king cake will be served.

Mistletoe Heights Association members' meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of the month. Meetings for 2015 are Feb. 17, May 19, Aug. 18 and Nov. 17.

As of January, all Fort Worth City Council meetings are to be held in the evening, enabling more people to attend. Meetings are in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1000 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. The meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Mistletoe Heights wins award



MHA President Josh Lindsay (left) and former MHA President Kyle Jensen (right) accept the Health and Wellness Award from Carlos Flores, president of the Fort Worth League of Neighborhood Associations, on Jan. 8.

On Jan. 8, I was invited to attend the Fort Worth Neighborhood Awards dinner hosted by the city and the Fort Worth League of Neighborhoods.

In attendance were representatives from neighborhoods all across the city, as well as city officials, City Council members and Mayor Betsy Price.

The dinner was held at the large conference room in the Botanical Gardens main building.

I'm pleased to announce that Mistletoe Heights was named as a finalist in the mayor's Health and Wellness category, thanks to the efforts of Susan Pressley and former MHA President Kyle Jensen on the Walking School Bus project.

The mayor made a point of telling the audience that students still approach her at various events to tell her that they are walking to school because of the project.

Way to go, Kyle, and everyone else who had a part in this project!

The big winner of the evening was a coalition of Lake Worth neighborhoods that came together to create many events to celebrate the centennial of Lake Worth's creation.

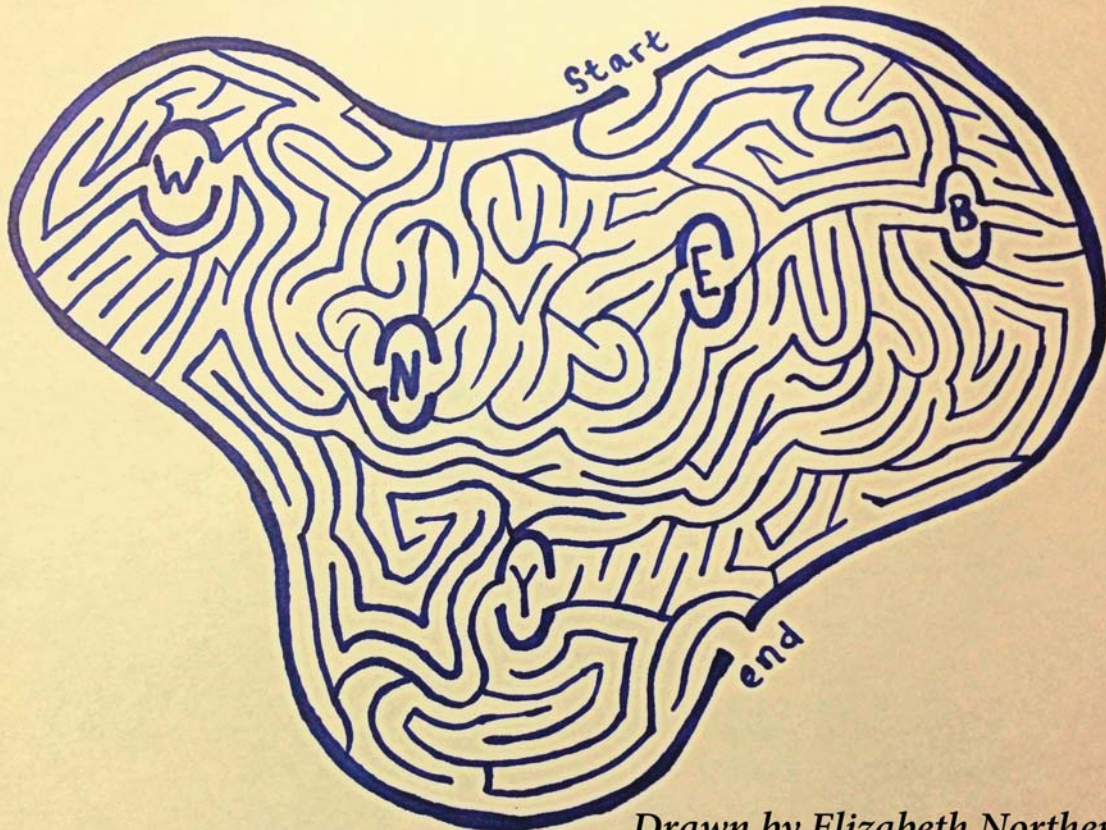
-- **Josh Lindsay**

Follow the trail to some ...

A-Maze-ing Places

To solve the maze and find the answer to this month's A-Maze-ing Place, you must go through each letter in the correct order.

The answer to this month's A-Maze-ing Place, with some information about it, can be found on Page 10.



Drawn by Elizabeth Northern

Most improved yards



1300 Buck Ave.



2400 Harrison Ave.



By Bruce Horn

Both of the two most improved yards for February happen to be on Buck Avenue.

Although the address of Flavious and Melanie Smith's house is 2400 Harrison Ave., the legal description of the rear of the property is a "projected front yard," around the corner on Buck.

The improvements they've recently made are nothing short of stunning. They had a fountain put in and redid their fence. Now, it is a combination of masonry and wrought iron that is a perfect complement to their Prairie Style home.

A large autumn glory maple has been planted in back along with a large crape myrtle.

Melanie told me that she's particularly excited about the viburnum (snowball bush) that was installed in the back.

They moved a Japanese maple from the front to the back and also had a redbud put in the parkway. Altogether the combination of the plantings, the water feature and the gate to the new garage work together to make the yard truly a thing of beauty.

The other residence is that of Mike and Michelle Valerio at 1300 Buck.

Immediately upon moving in, Mike went to work redoing the front yard. He removed the clump of yaupons (a clump like that belongs only in the Big Thicket) and created a very clean look with simply a well-kept lawn.

He installed a foundation line planting of shrubs. I didn't want to take the chance of waking their son Colton, however, so I don't know what kind of shrubs they are!

Mike also redid the sidewalk. It had gone from the driveway to the porch and Mike removed it and put in a stepping-stone approach perpendicular to the porch. He and Michelle meticulously planted grass between the stepping stones, and that adds to the charm of it. The Valerios' hard work has really paid off!

The improvements to both these homes reflect their owners' love of their properties and add to the beauty of our neighborhood.

Thanks to all of you, Smiths and Valerios!

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To subscribe to the Mistletoe Heights Residents mailing list, go to mistletoeheights.org, click on "Email list" and look for "Subscribing to Residents." Enter your name and email address, and then click "Subscribe." Note: You may need to add residents-bounces@mistletoeheights.org to your address book to receive emails. If you have questions or concerns, contact moderator@mistletoeheights.org.

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If walls could talk....

Continued From Page 1

Although The Handbook of Texas says the Popes moved to Fort Worth in the 1920s, a search of Tarrant County deeds shows that E.H. Pope purchased the property at 2205 Harrison on Aug. 16, 1919, apparently with the intention of building a house on the lot in what was then a brand-new neighborhood. The website of the Tarrant Appraisal District says that the one-story home at 2205 Harrison was built in 1921.

At the time, Lena Pope would have been in her late 20s, and she became heavily involved in charitable social clubs and Broadway Baptist Church.

The founding of Lena Pope Home, according to the institution's website, was prompted by a tragic death in the family.

"Conrad Pope, the first-born of Ewell Hicks Pope and Lena Holston Pope, was fascinated with building mansions," the website says. "In fact, his most beloved possession was the tool set he received one Christmas morning.

"Tragedy struck the Pope family when young Conrad became terminally ill with diphtheria. As he lay dying, Lena Pope asked her son what she would do without him. Taking the hammer out of his tool set, he told her, 'I see a big mansion out beyond the blue. You and my Daddy must fill it with children.'

"Conrad's last special request was Mrs. Pope's motivation and inspiration to begin her lifelong commitment to helping children," says the Lena Pope Home website. "From a heart torn with grief came the strength Lena Pope needed to make her son's vision a reality. With the help of the Martha Sunday School Class of Broadway Baptist Church, she built several homes and eventually a 'mansion' on a hill in west Fort Worth, filling them all with children."

At the outset, Lena Pope and her Sunday school class made preparations for six abandoned children to be housed in a rented dwelling. But on the opening day, says The Handbook of Texas, 25 children arrived "and Mrs. Pope and her church friends were quickly faced with the need for more space, more money, and a license from the city.

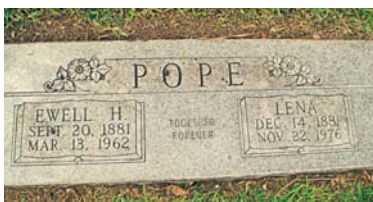
"Since none of the women was trained in social work," the online handbook says, "the Fort Worth Children's Bureau refused to grant them a license to operate an orphans' home until Mrs. Pope went to Austin and appealed to the head of the state welfare department.

"The Great Depression made fund-raising especially difficult. Ewell Pope lent financial assistance, and Mrs. Pope and her friends cultivated the support of Fort Worth's leading citizens, some of whom they persuaded to serve on the home's advisory board.

"The Lena Pope Home, under Mrs. Pope's direction," the handbook says, "was moved several times, always expanding; it ultimately acquired housing capacity for 250 children. The home eventually purchased eight city blocks at its present location on West Freeway with the help of Amon G. Carter, a member of the advisory board and owner and publisher of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*."

Lena Pope, who gave birth to a daughter, Dorothy, and a son, William, after Conrad, was known as "Mom" Pope. She managed Lena Pope Home until 1962, the year that her husband died, but she remained on the board of directors. By 1970, the home had housed more than 10,000 children.

In 1946, Lena Pope was named Outstanding Citizen in Fort Worth, and she became the first woman to receive the Fort Worth Exchange Club's Golden Deeds award, says The Handbook of Texas. In 1958, she was honored as "Queen for a Day," on a national television program of that name. Her autobiography, *Hand on My Shoulder*, was published in 1966. In 1967, she was named Texas Baptist Mother of the Year.



Lena Pope died Nov. 24, 1976, at age 95 in Taos, N.M. She is buried next to her husband, Ewell, in Fort Worth's Greenwood Cemetery.

According to Tarrant County deed records, it appears that the house at 2205 Harrison passed to the Popes' children, Dorothy and William, on Jan. 15, 1975, and sold almost exactly a year later to a family named Welborn.

So, you see, our neighborhood is full of history. We only have to unearth it.

If only walls could talk ...



This painting of Lena Pope hangs on the second floor of the new campus of the Lena Pope Home at 3200 Sanguinet St.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The signature headline on the article above is taken from a show that used to appear on HGTV. It told the stories of old houses and the people who lived in them. Judging from conversations at neighborhood gatherings, we're betting that many interesting stories could be told by the walls of homes in *Mistletoe Heights*, with the help of their owners, of course. We're hoping that "If walls could talk ..." will become a regular fixture in the *Mistletoe Express*. If your home has an interesting history, or was occupied by interesting people, other than the current occupants, please send your submissions to: newsletter@mistletoeheights.org.

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2015 Mistletoe Heights calendar

Event	Location	Date
New Years Day		Thursday, Jan. 1
Martin Luther King Day		Monday, Jan. 19
Presidents Day		Monday, Feb. 16
Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Meeting	The Peipert home, 2217 Harrison Ave.	7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17
Cowtown Marathon Cheer Station	TBD	7:30 a.m., Sunday, March 1
Mistletoe Heights/Berkeley Neighborhood Garage Sale		Saturday, March 28 (Rain date, Saturday, April 11)
Easter Egg Hunt	Newby Park	10 a.m., Saturday, April 4
Spring Movie Night	Newby Park	8 p.m., Saturday, May 9
Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Meeting	TBD	7 p.m., Tuesday, May 19
Memorial Day		Monday, May 25
Fourth of July Parade	Triangle Park	6:30 p.m., Saturday, July 4
Mayors Triathlon Cheer Station	TBD	7 a.m., Sunday, July 12
Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Meeting	TBD	7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 18
Labor Day		Monday, Sept. 7
Fall Movie Night	Newby Park	8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12
National Night Out	TBD	6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 6
Columbus Day		Monday, Oct. 12
Pumpkin Carving Contest		Friday, Oct. 30
Halloween		Saturday, Oct. 31
Veterans Day		Wednesday, Nov. 11
Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Meeting	TBD	7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17
Bow-tying Party	The Willis home, 2237 Irwin St.	2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 22
Thanksgiving		Thursday, Nov. 26
Neighborhood Christmas Party	TBD	5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6

In the Cultural District



Amon Carter Museum of American Art
Lone Star Portraits through May 17

Kimbell Art Museum

Permanent Collection and special exhibits:
The Collection of Nancy Lee & Perry R. Bass: 37 paintings and sculptures from Impressionist to WWII art, March 1- May 24.

Gustave Caillebotte: The Painter's Eye, through Feb. 14.
Castiglione: Lost Genius: Masterworks on Paper from the Royal Collection, through Feb. 14.

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

Rong Rong & inri (Chinese/Japanese collaboration team); Jan. 31- April 5.

Framing Desire: Photography and Video, Feb. 21-Aug. 3.



This month's **A-Maze-ing Place** is ...

Newby Park

The land at the northeast corner of Mistletoe Heights that became Newby Park was given to the city of Fort Worth in the last will and testament of philanthropist Etta O. Newby on March 19, 1951.

Her gift to the city came with the condition that the land be used "for the exclusive purpose of providing a neighborhood playground for children."

The will went on to say that "if all or any part of it is abandoned for that purpose, the abandoned portion should be sold for the full and fair market value thereof and the proceeds divided among institutions in the City of Fort Worth providing hospitalization or general care of children ..."

The playground portion of the park, which underwent a \$92,000 upgrade with funds approved in a bond election May 10, 2008, has become a magnet for neighborhood children.

The pavilion, built by the city with the help of donations from neighbors and local businesses, was officially dedicated Oct. 22, 2005. It is regularly used by weekend picnickers and is the venue for such neighborhood events as the Easter egg hunt, held annually on the Saturday before Easter, and for movie night.

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Garage sale permits	817.392.7851
Graffiti abatement	817.212.2700
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MHA officers

officers@mistletoeheights.org	
President	
Josh Lindsay	817.927.0323
president@mistletoeheights.org	
Vice President	
Chad Jung	817.2915849
vicepresident@mistletoeheights.org	
Secretary	
Valerie Ewing	817.791.9535
secretary@mistletoeheights.org	
Treasurer	
Jeri Jo Blackmon	817.923.4393
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Richard & Christi Yantis	817.924.2857
2100/2200 Edwin	
Katrina Pittman	817.921.2221
2100 Weatherbee	
Judy Gude	817.926.8843
2200 Weatherbee	
Susan Harwell	817.923.8806
2100 Morphy	
Vacancy	
Forest Park Blvd.	
Steve McReynolds	817.926.7955
West of Forest Park	
2300 W. Rosedale South	
Kimberly Helixon	817.927.4641
2300 Irwin	
Sue Duvall	817.926.8714
2300/2400 Mistletoe Blvd.	
Lisa Stewart	817.924.9666
2300 West Magnolia	
Susan Pressley	817.923.6061
2300/2400 Harrison	
Robert DeVargas	817.923.9393
2300 Mistletoe Ave.	
Jason Fuller family	
2300 Edwin	
Grant Pannell	817.924.0051
1100 Clara	
Marc & Kathy Jo Rogers	817.923.3304
1200 Clara	
Bryce & Laura Docker	bryedocker@hotmail.com
1100 Buck	
Kate Herring	817.923.3843
1200/1300 Buck	
Trisha Dianne Stemple	817.926.6546
Mistletoe Drive	
Meralen & Gerry Tyson	817.926.5909
2300 Mistletoe Drive	
Chris Fershtand	817.923.8422
Carol Benson	817.921.4000

Neighborhood police officers

Sidney Keith (West)	817.944.1038
David Cloninger (East)	817.992.0181

MHA yearly memberships

Voluntary dues are \$15, \$25, \$50 or whatever you can afford. Your dues help pay for this newsletter, the Mistletoe Heights phone directory and many neighborhood functions. Please make your check payable to Mistletoe Heights Association. Mail to: Jeri Jo Blackmon, 1408 Mistletoe Drive.

Free classified ads

As a MH resident, you get one free classified ad. Please submit copy by the 15th of the month. Notify the editor at 817.201.1909 or email: newsletter@mistletoeheights.org.

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 information helps, especially if we have questions for you.

Letters to the editor are limited to a half-page (approximately 350 words). Please send email to: newsletter@mistletoeheights.org.

Advertising information

To place an advertisement or for actual mechanical sizes, please email:

advertise@mistletoeheights.org

Rates:

Business-card size \$25

1/4 page \$50

Half page \$100

Full Page \$200

Pre-printed inserts \$100

8 1/2 x 11

Deadline for ads, payment and artwork is the tenth of the month.