

# Fort Worth's Near South Side is attracting a wide variety of new eating and drinking places

By Scott Nishimura

The Near South Side's dining and drinking options continue to burgeon. Here's some of what's coming up:

GUS'S: Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken is landing on West Magnolia Avenue with its first North Texas location. The company, a Memphis institution, has leased a 3,720-square-foot spot in a former office building at 1065 W. Magnolia Ave. that owners Will Churchill and Corrie Watson are retrofitting for Gus's. Gus's will open next spring and will sell beer. Some other Gus's restaurants also do a Sunday waffle and chicken brunch with mimosas and bloody Mary's, and the Fort Worth franchisee says he expects to look into that possibility.

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## **Arts Goggle**



This fall's Arts Goggle was the biggest and best yet. See photos on Page 13.

# A dilapidated 1923 triplex becomes a duplex and a modern urban oasis

By Will Northern

I inherited an affinity for historic real estate at a young age from my father. Growing up in a home built in 1932 in Forest Highlands, a subdivision near TCU, I came to appreciate the character associated with Craftsman homes.

It's no wonder that my wife, Elizabeth, and I were drawn to Mistletoe Heights. In January 2013 we closed on our first home: 2226 W. Rosedale St. South.

The property was built in 1923 and was complete with multiple units

and a carriage house. The first owner of record was H.D. Withers, who acquired



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## **President's Corner**

By Josh Lindsay



I hope you're enjoying this fall weather, neighbors. We sure have waited long enough for it.

On Oct. 9, during a brief respite from the heat, we had an outdoor movie in Newby Park that was fantastic.

The film, Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, was

great. But seeing the little ones running around in the dark with their glowing wristbands and necklaces really made my

It was a beautiful scene and we couldn't have done it without Chad Jung's audio/visual expertise and the Rustad family keeping everyone supplied with popcorn.

By this time, you have hopefully survived the Mistletoe Heights Halloween experience.

That's always a good time in the neighborhood!

Next up on our agenda is the November quarterly meeting. Linda and Hank Pereth have graciously agreed to host the meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m, at 1126 Mistletoe Drive.

This is an important meeting, at which we elect officers for the coming year.

The last meeting was a lot of fun (really!), and I hope to see you at this next one.

Thanks for helping make Mistletoe Heights the best place to live in Fort Worth.

> **Josh Lindsay** president@mistletoeheights.org 2238 Mistletoe Blvd.



Skeleton at the prow of a pirate ship looks out over Mistletoe Avenue.

## Pirates have landed on Mistletoe **Avenue**

By Jim Peipert

Every year around this time, Callan Rustad and his dad, Eric, of Mistletoe Avenue build something with a Halloween theme.

This year it's a pirate ship, with a skeleton at the prow, a marshmallow cannon powered by compressed air, a gangway that retracts into the ship, and a cargo hold with a secret escape hatch.

The ship is a work in progress, and you might see it if you walk down the 2200 block of Mistletoe Avenue, as we did on a Sunday evening during the new Wine and Walk event.



Callan Rustad prepares to fire his marshmallow cannon off the prow of his pirate ship on Mistletoe Avenue.



Eric Rustad, staple gun in hand, gets ready to reattach the eyepatch of the skeleton at the prow of the pirate ship on Mistletoe Avenue.

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## What would you like to see in the newsletter?

topics would you like to see in the newsletter? Send us your

newsletter@mistletoeheights.org.



# The Near South Side is attracting a wide variety of new places to eat and drink (Continued)

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HEIM'S: Heim's Barbecue, which earlier this year started business in a food truck at 201 E. Hattie St., will open March 3 in another Churchill-Watson building at 1109 W. Magnolia. In the interim, Heim's will soon add Thursdays to their current three-day-a-week, Friday-Sunday service at the food truck. The 3,500-square-foot restaurant will have seating for about 80 inside and 40 on the rear patio. The restaurant will have market-style service, with a bar built into the serving line on the east wall. A prominent feature of the dining room will be community tables.

The restaurant will have two 1,000-gallon smokers and an Oyler smoker at the rear of the building. The restaurant will open with a Friday-Saturday lunch and dinner service, and move from there to a full seven-day schedule by July 1.

SMALL SHOPPING CENTER: In the same building with Heim's, Will Churchill and Corrie Watson will add a small 800-square-foot retail space that will sell YETI coolers, Big Green Egg cookers, Maui Jim sunglasses and Kent & Co. grills.

POURING GLORY: Pouring Glory, a growler store and barbecue restaurant, has opened at 1001 Bryan Ave., a block north of Rosedale Street. Owner Kevin Von Ehrenfried, who launched the Humperdinks brewpub in Arlington in 1995, has



inside seating for about 60 people, outside seating for 30-45 people, and a main patio on the east side of the building. Customers can choose from among 40-50 beers. They can buy a growler on site and fill it up, or bring their own and fill them. The growlers, under state

law, are only for consumption off site. On site, customers will be able to buy "tasters" and pints.

UT SOUTHWESTERN: This isn't a drinking establishment, but it's coming and is filling a big hole on the Near South Side. The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center is building a major new multidisciplinary outpatient clinic in the new shell of a hospital at the northeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and South Main Street that Victory Medical started construction on and then left earlier this year. UT Southwestern, using a \$25 million gift from Fort Worth

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Make plans now to join BRIT for our second annual Artisan Market featuring a number of talented local and international artisans.

Shop a variety of hand-crafted items including jewelry, photography, embroidered textiles, watercolors, all natural bath products and lovely hand-made children's items. The market will also feature local, artisanal food producers with festive, gift quality food items for sale.

## Saturday, November 7, 2015 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

1700 University Drive
(inside the FW Botanic Garden/BRIT campus)

brit.org/events/more-children-families/artisan-market



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philanthropists Monty and Texas Moncrief, has purchased the 6.3-acre site. UT Southwestern will complete the "first building" on the site in September 2016; future, asyet-defined phases are upcoming. The clinic "will offer the expertise of UT Southwestern faculty specialty physicians [...], improving access to UT Southwestern's medical care, research, and educational opportunities," the university said.



CHIPOTLE: Close to Mistletoe Heights, a Chipotle Mexican Grill is under construction at Eighth Avenue and West Rosedale Street. It's the latest chain restaurant to come to the Near South Side, joining Jason's Deli, Firehouse Subs, Starbuck's and Torchy's Tacos.

HOT DOGS: Bentley's, a family-owned "hot dog joint," is opening in the little building at 1515 W. Magnolia, west of Ellerbe's. Follow them on Facebook for updates on construction.



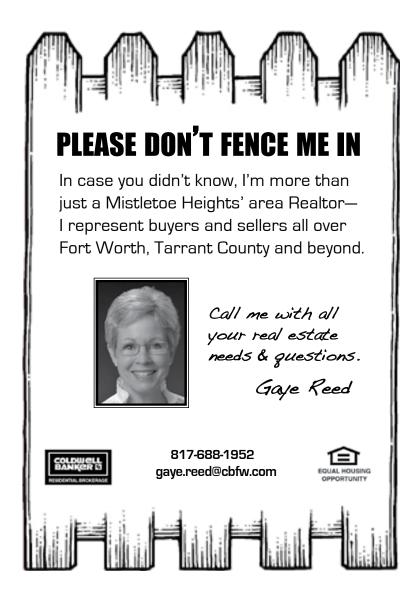
EATZI'S: This isn't technically the Near South Side, but it's coming. Eatzi's Market & Bakery is coming to the University

Park Village shopping center and will open in 2016 or 2017, replacing Chili's in a 5,300-square-foot space.



SALSA LIMÓN: Salsa Limón has opened a new location, directly across from the TCU campus, at 3005 S. University Drive, where Sol de Luna was last year.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Scott Nishimura, who lives in Mistletoe Heights, is executive editor of FW Inc., a new magazine launched by the same publishing company that puts out Fort Worth, Texas Magazine. Some of this material was in Fort Worth, Texas Magazine.





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## Volunteers needed

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

MHA is looking for four to five people to ioin the Historical Preservation Committee.

Help us ensure the integrity of the architecture in our community.

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



## Halloween in Mistletoe Heights

Ghosts and goblins, skeletons and witches, pumpkins and gourds – and even a Canadian goose with a witch's hat – popped up in Mistletoe Heights as Halloween approached. Here are a few photos.











## A dilapidated 1923 triplex becomes a duplex and a modern urban oasis

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acquired the property for \$9,250.

It was later deeded to Frances Alicia Withers through an affidavit of heirship. During the Great Depression in 1937, the property's value fell dramatically to \$7,263.77 – 22 percent – leaving the total price per square foot at \$2.18.

Hard to believe when compared to today's real estate values! When we first considered the property in the fall of 2012, it wasn't much to look at. Vacant and neglected for 15 years, it had weathered—to put it lightly.

The front yard was overgrown with weeds and had two overgrown hackberry trees rubbing against the roof. The back yard looked like a jungle. The driveway and parking area were hidden by layer upon layer of caked dirt.

Upon approaching the property, one immediately noticed the front balcony had become disconnected from the exterior wall and column; it was sagging a couple of feet, exposing the unpainted, original red brick.

A previous owner had used a cement-like material as flooring that weighed it down and allowed rainwater to collect beneath the wood, causing the support beams to rot.

Many of the window frames had exposed wood that was cracked and soft due to weathering. To top it off, the exterior paint selection on the front of the house was a neutral tan color. However, the back of the house contained sections of light pink.

All in all, it was easy to see that the exterior of the house was

going to need a serious facelift – but that was before we stepped inside.

Once I entered the property for the first time, I knew it was going to take a lot of work. I just didn't know how much.

I learned that in its present state, the house was set up as a triplex. There were two doors in the front. One of the doors accessed the downstairs unit – a two-bedroom, two-bath apartment containing about 1,400 square feet with an open living and kitchen floor plan that is desirable by today's buyers.

It even came with a free toilet sitting in the middle of one of the bedrooms.

The other front door opened onto a haggard, carpeted staircase leading to a landing with two doors facing one another.

Each unit contained about 700 square feet, with one bedroom, one bath, a kitchen and a utility area. But the layouts weren't quite identical.

The two units shared the front balcony (which we didn't dare step onto), and both had back exterior doors from their respective kitchens that were bolted shut because a back balcony had long since been removed. We lovingly referred to them as our "doors to nowhere."

# "Once I entered the property for the first time, I knew it was going to take a lot of work."

It would have made sense to leave the property's floor plan as it was, in a triplex configuration. However, after referring to the city of Fort Worth's zoning map, I learned that the area was zoned, "B-two family," making a triplex "non-conforming"

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The second-story balcony was sagging and detached from the main structure when the Northerns purchased the property.

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in the view of the city.

This presented more challenges. Rehabbing the house would require making the property conform to current zoning. This meant combining the two units upstairs and reconfiguring the electric meters from three to two. That's exactly what we did.

After getting a game plan together with our contractor, Brian Bogle of Bogle Constructs, we set to work. We were determined to bring this diamond in the rough back to life. We started with the heavy lifting. We replaced the roof, installed several new piers and repaired the fallen balcony by using devices that can best be compared to car jacks with upright 2x4s to hold the balcony in place.

The cement-like flooring and rotted beams were removed from the balcony and replaced with treated lumber.

The balcony was then affixed to the house by removing the floorboards in the second-story rooms in the front and installing massive bolts through the exterior wall and through the two massive front columns to bear the weight.

We later put roofing shingles on the base of the balcony, which were then covered by a weatherproof decking material.

If you walk by the house today, you'll find a safe, secure balcony usually guarded by two cats.

Next, we made modifications to the floor plan.

As mentioned earlier, we removed the wall separating the two upstairs units' kitchens to create a long, galley kitchen complete with new cabinetry, countertops and sink.

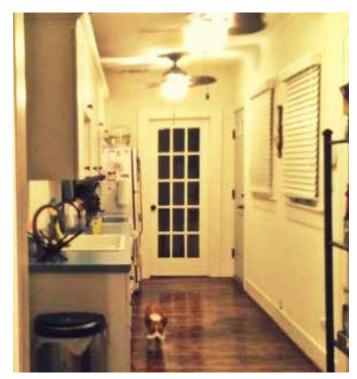
The first night after signing the contract in 2012, my wife and I ventured over to the house with flashlights and a hammer to try busting a hole through the wall separating the two kitchens.

We didn't have much luck. It was hard as a rock.

Another change to the floor plan included removing a wall separating the living area and bedroom from one of the units upstairs to create a large living room.

There was a set of French doors in the wall that we repurposed as single doors to divide the new galley kitchen and large living room from the utility room in the back corner.

The final large change we made was moving a commode from a cramped bathroom across the hall into a hall closet to make a water closet.



View of the second-story galley kitchen with a refinished hardwood floor and a corgi puppy

It was a brilliant move (because I thought of it) since it required us to run plumbing from the ceiling of the downstairs unit to feed the commode. This redesign of the plumbing provided the opportunity to install washer and

dryer hookups in the utility room that sits adjacent to the water closet.

Other improvements consisted of replacing ductwork throughout; refinishing the original hardwood floors and installing hexagonal black-and-white tile in the bathrooms; scraping the sprayed-on acoustic material, known as "popcorn," from the ceilings; installing crystal door knobs; painting the interior; retrofitting one of the fold-down

ironing boards into a cupboard; and installing crown molding.

A year later, we saved up and constructed a metal staircase and back balcony, giving purpose to the "doors to nowhere" and providing beautiful views of Fort Worth's downtown, the train bridges and highways, and the Midtown development.

It truly is a beautiful urban landscape.

We continue to improve upon our landscaping and have added a small fire pit to the backyard oasis. Our cleared-out jungle of a backyard is just the right size for our corgi puppy to feel like a queen.

We have thoroughly enjoyed calling this work in progress home, and we look forward to spending many more years in the Mistletoe Heights neighborhood!

## **Thanksgiving**

Many neighbors will be cooking at home this Thanksgiving. And, of course, there's always the possibility that a harried chef might need some crucial last-minute advice. Here are some places where you might get it:

## USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline

(888) 674-6854 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. Closed weekends and holidays, except Thanksgiving. Special hours of operation on Thanksgiving are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., EST.

## Reynolds Turkey Tips Line

(800) 745-4000. Open through Dec. 31, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## **Butterball Turkey Talk Line**

(800) BUTTERBALL (800-288-8373). Available Nov. 1 through Dec. 28, weekdays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST; Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST; Thanksgiving Day, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST; Nov. 24 to Dec. 25, weekdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST



## Mark your calendars!



Most Sundays – Wine and Walk. Gather at the home of Chandler and Marcus Walters, 2204 Mistletoe Ave., at 6 p.m. Bring beverage of choice, kids, dogs, strollers, scooters, etc

Nov. 17 – Members' meeting at the home of Hank and Linda Pereth, 1126 Mistletoe Drive, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This is an important meeting, at which we will elect officers for the coming year. Please attend and make your voice heard.

Dec. 6 - The annual Mistletoe Heights Christmas party will be held at the home of Mark and Susie Mitchell, 1410 Mistletoe Drive, from 5 to 8 p.m.

## In the city

Shred it. Recycle it. Donate it. Shred up to five boxes of personal documents.

Get rid of up to four passenger tires, electronics, small appliances, household items, furniture, clothing and clean, dry plastic bags.

Saturday, Nov. 14 - America Recycles Day 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at LaGrave Field, 301 Northeast Sixth Street, Fort Worth, 76164. Rain or Shine!

Link to city online pothole reporting form: https://cityoffortworth.wufoo.com/forms/pothole.report



## **Mistletoe Heights Association Supporters**

As of October 15, 2015

## Names in bold print have contributed since the last newsletter

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Barrow, Wade & Brook	Ettinger, Alan & Phyllis	McReynolds, Steve & Kathy				
Blackmon, Jeri Jo	Ewing, Scott & Valerie	Mitchell, Mark & Susie				
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## Thank you neighbors, for your donations to our neighborhood association! You have contributed \$6,110 this year



2015 Levels of Giving Magnolia - \$100 and up Holly - \$50 to \$99 Mistletoe - Up to \$49

## In the Cultural District

#### **Amon Carter Museum of American Art**

Tales from the American West: The Rees-Jones Collection; Eighteenth century through the 1920s. Sept. 5, 2015-Feb. 21, 2016. That Dav: Laura Wilson: Diverse communities of the West, outside the suburban middle class. Sept. 15, 2015-Feb. 14, 2016. Pasture Cows Crossing Indian Creek, Comanche, Texas: Esther Pearl Watson; May 19, 2015-May 30, 2016.



#### Kimbell Art Museum

Permanent Collection and special exhibits: Castiglione: Lost Genius. Masterworks on Paper from the Royal Collection, Nov. 22-Feb. 14, 2016.

Gustave, Caillebotte: The Painter's Eye, Nov. 28-Feb. 14, 2016.

#### Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

Highlights from the Permanent Collection, Aug. 22, 2015-March 20, 2016. Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic, Sept. 20, 2015-Jan. 10, 2016; street life in Harlem, images of African-American men. Exhibition at Artes de la Rosa - El Dia de los Muertos: The Life of the Dead in Mexican Folk Art, Oct. 3-Nov. 7.

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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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The officers of the Mistletoe Heights Association encourage you to support the businesses that advertise in our newsletter. These organizations pay to be in our newsletter and support our neighborhood. Their business also makes

this publication possible. Without them we would not be able to provide printed newsletters to every household in the neighborhood free of charge.

## **Advertising Submission Process**

All ads must be paid for by the 10th of the month previous Artwork should be emailed to: advertise@mistletoeheights. to the month in which the ad will appear. Artwork for all ads org. Should you have any questions, please email advertise@ should also be submitted by the 10th of the month prior. mistletoeheights.org.





A perennial contender for Yard of the Month over the years is the home of Claudia Camp and David Gunn at 2212 Mistletoe Blvd.

## Like our warm-season blossoms, YOM will be dormant until spring

By Bruce Horn

depend upon the weather finally cooling off.

I've lived in Fort Worth for almost 70 years and that's what I've observed: Halloween, and not really before!

And as we move into cooler weather, it's really difficult to choose a single yard for an award. So I've made a choice: the November Yard of the Month Award goes to almost everyone in Mistletoe Heights.

Almost everyone in our neighborhood takes great pride in the appearance of their property and their yards. Almost everyone cleans up the leaves in their yards and in the street (or has someone else do it).

Many of us put in some color pots or some pansies in our beds, trying to have something vibrant in our landscape as the majority of plants become dormant for the winter.

As we all know, it entails no small expense to maintain a nice yard. Some of us do it ourselves, and some hire professionals to do it. Either way, one can walk around the neighborhood and see just how much care goes into the exterior appearance of our homes.

We can all rest assured that our wonderful neighborhood will continue to be beautiful and that our property values will remain stable. And having neighbors who work so hard (or hire others to do that for them) to ensure beautiful landscapes is a large part of that.

Maybe we shouldn't judge by appearances. But, let's face the back. You deserve it. See you in springtime!

As we wind down to Halloween, we can pretty much it, we all do! A nice-looking block simply looks nice! And all who live there benefit from others' commitment to having a lovely landscape.

> As we move into winter, the Yard of the Month column will be taking a sabbatical. There's really not much to write about in the winter anyway.

> I guess I could single out a house with comments like, "They raked their leaves." But that's something that almost everyone does anyway. So I've decided to let it rest (just like my flower beds) for three months. When spring rolls around the column will start up again.

> Finally, I want to say thanks to those who have provided feedback to me about the column. What many readers don't know is that my wife of more than 40 years, Betsy, is a big part of my work.

> I know the plants, but she knows the design terminology and is an expert on color theory. I make notes based on my judgment and then Betsy helps me put those into workable

> In the specific articles with really juicy adjectives, she helped me with those. I couldn't have done it without her.

> So! That's it for me for now! Congratulations and thanks to almost everyone in Mistletoe Heights for what they do with their landscapes.

Reach your hand over your shoulder and pat yourself on

## **Arts Goggle 2015** was perhaps the best so far

This year's fall Arts Goggle on Oct. 10 along West Magnolia Avenue was, by all accounts, one of the biggest

This was the first time that the city and Fort Worth South, organizer of the event, closed off Magnolia from Eighth Avenue (just east of Mistletoe Heights) to Hemphill Street.

The free, family-friendly event, which opened at noon and ended at 10 p.m., attracted a crowd as diverse as the neighborhoods of the Near South Side, with music from about 50 bands and accompanied by about 350 vendors selling art, food and drink.













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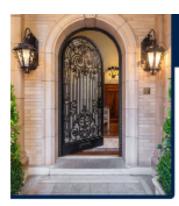
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fortworthtexas.gov		Melissa Kohout (East side)	817.313.1419	Forest Park Blvd.	
Police—nonemergency	817.335.4222	Rosaline Eastepp Takes	817.207.9750	Steve McReynolds	817.926.7955
Garage sale permits	817.392.7851	(West side)		•	
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trinityrailwayexpress.org		Street reps (listed by block	cs)	Marc & Kathy Jo Rogers	817.923.3304
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## MHA yearly memberships

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