

# Auto dealers Will Churchill and Corrie Watson have plans to 'Kentrify' West Magnolia Avenue

By Scott Nishimura

West Magnolia Avenue, a prime area of dining and entertainment for Mistletoe Heights residents, is undergoing another transformation.

Independent retailers and restaurants around Fort Worth routinely lament they can't get onto the Near Southside's popular West Magnolia Avenue, where rents run high and there's little available space.

The Fort Worth auto dealers and entrepreneurs Will Churchill and Corrie Watson – the twin grandchildren of the Cadillac dealer Frank Kent – have purchased several buildings on the Near Southside for cash, using profit from the sale of their Honda dealership and another piece of real estate downtown.

The portfolio includes several buildings in a line on West Magnolia. Incoming tenants include Heim Barbecue and Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken.

Those two join the popular Churchill-Watson-owned Kent & Co Wines and a new event venue

Continued on Page 4



Emma and Travis Heim, owners of Heim Barbecue, soon to open at 1109 W. Magnolia Ave., once the site of Mijo's Fusion restaurant. Photo courtesy of Hutson Creative.

# New year, new schedule, new look for newsletter

Dear neighbors,

After discussion at an officers meeting of the Mistletoe Heights Association, a motion was made and approved at the Nov. 17 members' meeting to publish the Mistletoe Express every other month instead of monthly.

So after this combined December-January issue, you will be seeing the newsletter in February, April, June, August, October and December.

We would like to thank Joe Halbach for his dedication to doing the layout, beginning with the April 2013 issue and ending with the September 2015 issue.

He can have a well-earned rest, as we now have a new layout volunteer.

Elisa Rode, a neighbor on Edwin Street who is an advertising professional, volunteered in August to take over the layout. She and her team have given the newsletter a fresh, updated look, and we really appreciate it.

As always, we welcome articles and photos for consideration. The deadline remains the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Send your ideas to newsletter@ mistletoeheights.org.

Thank you. Mary Ellen Peipert, editor

### Making merry

December is a festive time in Mistletoe Heights. Check out our photos of holiday activities on Pages 3 and 6.



### December is a festive time ...

It's fitting that this neighborhood is called Mistletoe Heights – for during the holiday season a pretty special place becomes even more special.

A proliferation of holiday parties, street lamp posts festooned with evergreen garlands and scarlet ribbons, porches strung with festive lights, Kwanzaa wreaths, menorah candles and a Christmas tree in the Triangle.

The Christmas season begins with the annual bow-tying party.

More than 20 neighbors gathered Nov. 22 at the home of Susan and Gary Willis to prepare the decorations for the neighborhood lamp posts. Some cut garlands and ribbons, some tied bows, and all enjoyed the magnificent array of snacks and refreshments.

With plastic bags filled with garlands and bows, volunteers then hit the streets over the next few days, climbing ladders to affix the decorations.

The highlight of the season is the annual neighborhood party, hosted this year and last year at the beautiful home of Mark and Susie Mitchell on Mistletoe Drive.

By all accounts, the Dec. 6 gathering was a superlative, well-attended affair, even topping last year's party.

We would especially like to thank the Mitchells for once again going above and beyond.

Neighbors Barbara Taylor and Jeff Gibbons provided musical entertainment, and Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by to pose for photos with the guests.

The evening also featured the official lighting of the Christmas tree in the Triangle, in front of the Mitchells' house.

After a round of neighborhood caroling on Dec. 20, it was time for the last-minute preparations for Christmas and for gathering with family and friends near and afar.

-Jim Peipert









# in magical Mistletoe Heights













What would you like to see in the newsletter?

We want your feedback! What topics would you like to see in the newsletter? Send us your suggestions:

newsletter@mistletoeheights.org.

# Twin grandchildren of the auto dealer Frank Kent are transforming the face of the Near Southside

Continued from Page 1



An architectural rendition of Heim Barbecue, soon to open at 1109 W. Magnolia Ave. Photo courtesy of 97W.

called The Space, which they opened in November.

Churchill and Watson are leveraging the combined parking of the buildings to help address concerns that the adjacent Fairmount neighborhood has increasingly raised in recent years about traffic and side street parking generated by Magnolia businesses.

They're also using the no-debt position on their properties to offer attractive opportunities to potential tenants, the two told *Fort Worth*, *Texas* magazine's *FW Inc.* magazine in an interview this summer.

Churchill and Watson entered the Near Southside in June last year, when they opened Kent & Co. Wines at 1101 W. Magnolia.

In the last several months, Churchill and Watson have added:

- The Quorum Architects building, 707 W. Vickery Blvd., at the entry to the future Hemphill Connector tunnel that will link Hemphill Street to Taylor Street downtown at West Lancaster Avenue. Churchill and Watson paid about \$200 per square foot for the property, according to Quorum.
- The historic Anderson Furniture building, at the southeast corner of South Main Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in the heart of the city's South Main Urban Village. Churchill and Watson plan to take the existing building and add to it. "That's going to be a full-blown development plan," Churchill said in the magazine interview. "Retail, office, live-work is the rough development plan." It's too soon to tell how large the project will be at this point, he said.
- 215 S. Main St., the former Wendy Davis campaign

headquarters – 12,000 square feet over three floors. Churchill and Watson have taken the first floor for their new business offices, and office tenants have the second and third floors.

- Cartan's Building, 1201 W. Magnolia. Churchill and Watson will add 3,800 square feet to the existing 9,600 square feet, increasing the first floor by more than 2,300 square feet and second floor by more than 1,400 square feet. Cartan's and a 921-square-foot tenant which hasn't yet identified itself will expand on the first floor. The second floor will include three office suites, one already rented, Churchill said. The others, 1,600 and 1,200 square feet, are available. Churchill and Watson also will add a 900-square-foot patio on the second floor for tenants' use.
- 1309 S. Adams St., The Space venue.
- 1065 W. Magnolia. Churchill and Watson have entered a partnership with another owner. Gus's, a Memphis, Tenn., institution, will open in a 3,720-square-foot restaurant in the

6,600-squarefoot building in the spring. The building has other office tenants.

• 1109 W.
Magnolia. Heim's is taking 2,800 square feet in the 8,388-square-foot building. Churchill and Watson will open



an 800-square-foot retail space that will sell YETI coolers, Big Green Egg cookers, and Maui Jim sunglasses. An office tenant is in the building. "We will most likely move them to another of our buildings, and we will be looking for a tenant at Henderson and Magnolia," Churchill said in the interview. "I'd like a cool apparel tenant. We'll see what comes." Upstairs in the building, Churchill and Watson have built two 900-square-foot, two-bedroom residential lofts that are available for \$2,000 monthly rent.

Churchill and Watson were looking to quickly re-invest the profits from the sale of the Honda dealership.

They also sold a tract at the southeast corner of West Lancaster and South Main Street. The sales set up a so-called 1031 tax exchange under which Churchill and Watson reinvested the profits and deferred capital gains.

### The 'Kentrification' of West Magnolia

Continued from Page 4

"We're not actively pursuing anymore," Churchill said in the magazine interview. "We have a big investment, and we have to build out."

Churchill and Watson have maximum flexibility to recruit strong opportunities because they have no debt on the properties, Churchill said.

"We weren't buying these through the eyes of a traditional investor," Churchill said. "Our plan is to finish these projects and do what's right for them and our families and then pass them on."

The two are building a stable of auto and non-auto businesses. Churchill will run the auto businesses, including Frank Kent Cadillac and Frank Kent Hyundai, "and we are looking to grow," he said. Watson will run the non-automotive businesses.

Churchill and Watson contributed to trying to help solve the parking problems off of West Magnolia in talks with the neighborhood and Fort Worth South, offering 100 percent valet parking for events at The Space and adding parking through their acquisitions.

Fort Worth South painted no-parking zones on intersection curbs, added pylons at certain Magnolia street crossings, pointing drivers' attention to pedestrians, and is promoting the Alston Street garage north of Magnolia.

"We have over 150 parking spaces either leased or owned, all behind us or across the street" on Magnolia, Churchill says. "We're very cognizant of who we're putting in there; we're trying to balance the tenant mix between daytime users and nighttime users with maximizing the parking."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Neighbor Scott Nishimura is executive editor of FW Inc. at Fort Worth, Texas magazine.



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### **President's Corner**

By Josh Lindsay



Hey, Neighbors!

I'm writing this just before Christmas.

It's sunny, and 70 degrees. It's the gorgeous part of the ups and downs that we get here in North Texas this time of year.

My Christmas wish to all of you is that you see many days like this in the coming year, and, more important, the good fortune to have the time and means to

enjoy them with the people you love.

The neighborhood officers recently got together to go over the calendar for next year.

Take a minute to find it here in the newsletter and save those dates on your own calendar.

It was fun to make the calendar because it prompted me to think back to the events from last year.

A calendar full of events wouldn't mean much if we didn't have a bunch of people willing to help out and show up to make those events great.

This is a neighborhood packed with involved and interesting

people and it has been a pleasure getting to meet so many of you over the years.

Looking forward to the next year, I'm excited about the neighborhood being chosen to host Historic Fort Worth Inc.'s Hidden Gardens of Fort Worth tour.

It will be a proud moment for Mistletoe Heights and well deserved for our active gardeners.

We have a number of other traditional events, such as movie nights, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Fourth of July parade and our quarterly neighborhood meetings.

Many of the locations for our quarterly meetings are still to be determined.

If you would be willing to host a small group of your awesome neighbors for an early evening get-together, please let us know so we can fill in the blanks in our calendar.

Looking forward to another fun year here in the greatest neighborhood in Fort Worth.

All the best.

Josh Lindsay
president@mistletoeheights.org
2238 Mistletoe Blvd.

# **Get connected**

Get connected. Be more engaged. 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.



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

### Minutes of the MHA Nov. 7 members' meeting

#### **Attendees**

Officers: Josh Lindsay, Chad Jung, Jeri Jo Blackmon, Mary Ellen Peipert, Valerie Ewing

Neighbors: 27

**Special guest speaker:** Tim Halden (tim@fortworthbikesharing. org)

Hosts: Linda and Hank Pereth at 1126 Mistletoe Drive

7:05 p.m.: The meeting began with Josh Lindsay, Mistletoe Heights Association president, introducing the special guest speaker: Tim Halden of Fort Worth Bike Sharing.

What is bike sharing? It is a dense network of public-use bicycles designed to extend the reach of a public transportation system. It's green, healthy and good for the environment. It was born out of the Fort Worth Transportation Authority. Federal grants pay for the equipment.

Each bike is equipped with GPS, making it difficult for a bike to be stolen. The bicycle vendor is a subsidiary of Trek.

Bike sharing is not bike rental. How it works is you buy a membership that covers 30 minutes of use per day. Any minutes over 30 can accrue charges upwards of \$100 per day. However, if you dock your bike within 30 minutes, the clock is reset. So, in effect, you can ride for 24 hours a day and not accrue additional charges if the bike is docked every 30 minutes.

Annual membership is \$80, and you can sponsor a bike for \$50 per year, which provides advertising. Tim Halden's

speech was followed by Q&A. He was then he thanked for his time and left the meeting.

7:30 p.m.: Call to order by Josh Lindsay. A motion was made to accept the minutes from the Aug. 18 neighborhood meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### Officer reports

- Josh: Packages have gone missing off of porches; Josh asked everyone to keep alert for suspicious activity during the holiday season. He thanked Chandler Walters for the Sunday wine and walk events, which provide a great sense of community.
- Chad: Researching a sprinkler system for the Triangle. Cost \$4,000 for installation. It is yet unknown how much it will cost to provide power and water from the city. We are looking into having a Christmas tree in the middle of the Triangle this season. A motion was made to approve \$750 to spend on the cost of a tree. It was seconded and approved. The tree lighting will coincide with the annual Christmas party Dec. 6.
- Jeri Jo: Treasury report. Dues donations are up this year. However, the newsletter needs more advertisers to break even.
- Miscellaneous: More trees are needed as a sound buffer for the berm along West Rosedale South Street. Josh mentioned that Cornell Gordon said work would start in late October or early November. However, there has been no activity as yet.

8 p.m.: Committee reports



Tim Halden, director of sales and community relations for Fort Worth Bike Sharing, addresses the Nov. 17 meeting of the Mistletoe Heights Association.

### Minutes of the MHA Nov. 7 members' meeting

Continued from Page 7

- Berm update: Rosaline Takes had previously chaired the berm/sound wall development effort. However, she is stepping down and a replacement is needed. Robert Comacho volunteered himself. Welcome Robert as the new point person for the berm and sound wall!
- Jerome sidewalks: Elizabeth Northern reported that the sidewalks have been delayed until sometime in 2016.
- Apartment complex adjacent to Newby Park: Randy Primrose is the founder of Magnolia Property Co., the developers of this new multi-resident building. Although we have no official word, the design may be similar to other projects they have done, including Magnolia Lofts at 801 Vickery Blvd. and Magnolia Park at 2901 West Fifth St. The structure will be about three stories tall and have 30 units. You can visit the website of Magnolia Property Co. to see its projects: www.magnoliapropertycompany.com

8:15 p.m.: Old business

Update on the pedestrian bridge to connect our side of the Trinity River with the bike trail north of the miniature train.

We may see construction in summer 2016.

8:20 p.m.: New business

- Bow-tying party, Sunday, Nov. 22 at 2 p.m.
- Frequency of the newsletter will be changed to every other month. A motion to approve was seconded and passed. Elisa Rode has been helping Mary Ellen Peipert with production and layout. All in attendance agreed they have been doing a beautiful job.

8:29 p.m.: New officer elections

Steve McReynolds: All current officers have agreed to continue on for the next year.

President Josh Lindsay Vice President Chad Jung

Secretary Val Ewing Treasurer Jeri Jo Blackmon

Newsletter editor: Mary Ellen Peipert

8:31 p.m.: Meeting adjourned.

# **Fort Worth Bike Sharing**



Since 2013, Fort Worth lays claim to the only citywide bike share system in North Texas. Fort Worth B-Cycle features a network of 350 public-use bicycles available for checkout from 44 bike share stations located throughout downtown, the Near Southside, the Cultural District, the TCU area and the Trinity Trails.

Membership rates include \$8 for a one-day pass, \$15 for a three-day pass and \$20 for a seven-day pass. Each pass

includes unlimited rides of 30 minutes or less during the membership period. Each time you dock the bike at a station, the clock resets to 0 minutes. Riders begin to accrue overtime fees should they keep a bike out for longer than 30 minutes at a time without docking at a bike share station.

To learn more, go to: http://fortworthbikesharing.org/

# Neighbors death

Mistletoe Heights resident Sally Taylor, of 2217 W. Rosedale S. St., passed away on the morning of Monday, Dec. 14, at her home.

Sally, 62, was a retired librarian in the Fort Worth school district and could frequently be seen walking her beloved dog around the neighborhood, particularly near Newby Park.

A memorial service was held Dec. 18 at her family's home in Alvarado.

Condolences may be sent to Sally's mother at:

Sylvia Taylor 8812 East FM 917 Alvarado, TX 76009

If people wish to remember Sally, the family has asked that donations be made to a library of the donor's choice instead of sending flowers.

### Volunteers needed

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

Are you new to the neighborhood and would like to get involved? Here are a few great ways, and you will get to meet a lot of interesting neighbors!

**Historical Preservation Committee:** We are looking for four to five people to join the Historical Preservation Committee. Help us ensure the integrity of the architecture in our community.

**Advertising manager:** We are looking for someone to solicit and manage ads from local businesses. You would work closely with the treasurer. It would require only a few hours a month. (See separate item in this newsletter for more information.)

**Social chairperson:** Are you a "people person"? We are looking for someone to help coordinate neighborhood events. Most of them already have established leaders, so it would just be a matter of coordination. Other duties would involve finding locations for members' meetings and the Christmas party and providing snacks, drinks and tableware for such meetings. All costs would be reimbursed.

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

Robert Camacho of Clara Street has volunteered to lead the Berm/Sound Wall Committee. Thank you very much to Rosaline Eastepp Takes for her previous dedicated and thorough service and to Robert for taking over this important watchdog committee.

A special thank you to Chad Jung for procuring the Christmas tree and lights and setting them both up on the Triangle. This was a tremendous job and has added immensely to the festive feel of the neighborhood. This could be the start of a great tradition!

# Mark your calendars!



Members' meetings are quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month. Dates of the meetings for 2016 are Feb. 16, May 17, Aug. 16 and Nov. 15.

Wine and Walk has been suspended for the winter. Watch the newsletter or email for a date of reinstatement.

Thanks to Chandler and Marcus Walters for starting this fun tradition.

# In the city

Link to report graffiti: fortworthtexas.gov/codecompliance/myFtWorth

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



# Mistletoe Heights Association Supporters

As of December 18, 2015

Names in bold print have contributed since the last newsletter

Magnolia							
Anonymous	Evans, Tim & Rita	Mitchell, Mark & Susie					
Barrow, Wade & Brook	Ewing, Scott & Valerie	Northern, Will & Elizabeth					
Blackmon, Jeri Jo	Gensheimer, Chris & Martha	Parrish, Bill & Sue					
Brewer, Tom & Terri	Greer, J.A.	Pressley, Brent & Susan					
Conville, Loralu	Grunde, Paul & Barbara	Proctor, John					
Csanadi, Randy	Hale, Tommy & Pat	Reed, Gaye					
Davis, Jeff	Hulsey, Price	Smith, Flavious & Melanie					
DesRoche, Frank & Pamela	Jung, Chad	Sybesma, Richard & Wendy					
Dyson, Maynard & Laura	Krugler, Beth	Vinson, Paul & Mary					
Edwards, Chris & Alison	Lowry, Bruce & Lisa	Vories, Andrew & Patricia					
Ellis, Luke & Terri	McReynolds, Steve & Kathy	Yantis, Richard & Christi					
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Blanton, Paul & Carol	Hager, James & Tammy	Rogers, Marc & Kathy Jo					
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Brock, Dan & Lisa	Key, John & Michelle	Sevadjian, Margaret					
Carmody, Jeff & Erin	Lindsay, Josh	Tyson, Gerry & Meralen					
Cetto, Allen & Cheri	Holly McFarland Family	Walker, Gene & Kathleen					
Cornelsen, John	Myers, Mike & Diane	Weinburgh, Molly					
Crabtree, Marcie	Newburn, Alicia	Whitney, Garrett & Sharon					
Mistletoe							
Anonymous	Gude, Richard & Judy	Pereth, Hank & Linda					
Bruner, Woody & Debbie	Haynes, Barry	Perry, Brian & Kathryn					
Callarman, Teresa	Hobson, Jack & Nancy	Sippel, Jimmie					
Cates, Karen	Keesee, Craig & Kathy	Stemple, Irene					
Cole, Willard & Aline	Konur, Sanjay	Taylor, Stephen & Megan					
Dickson, Craig & Dana	Lundgren, Bev	Teague, Joy					
Dowdle, Roy & Faye	Manion, Elizabeth	The Body Garage					
Fershtand, John & Chris	Martin, Bill	Thomas, Andrea					
Graham, Gerry & Kelli	McKeever, Kent	Thompson, Doug					
Graham, Russell & Shallah	McQuerns, Sam & Martha	White, Natalie					
Graves, Leo & Dorothy	Peipert, Jim & Mary Ellen	Wild, Beth					

Thank you neighbors, for your donations to our neighborhood association!

You have contributed \$7,135 this year



## Mistletoe Heights 2016 Calendar

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	
Mistletoe Heights neighborhood meeting	TBD	7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 16	
Easter Egg Hunt	Newby Park	10 a.m., Saturday, March 26	
Mistletoe Heights/Berkeley neighborhood garage sale	All over the neighborhoods All day, Saturday, April 2		
Spring Movie Night	Newby Park	8 p.m., Friday, May 6	
Historic Fort Worth Inc. Hidden Gardens of Fort Worth tour	Gardens in Mistletoe Heights	Saturday, May 14	
Mistletoe Heights neighborhood meeting	TBD	7 p.m., Tuesday, May 17	
Fourth of July parade	Triangle Park	6:30 p.m., Monday, July 4	
Mistletoe Heights neighborhood meeting	TBD	7: p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 16	
Fall Movie Night	Newby Park	7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 7	
Pumpkin carving contest	All over the neighborhood	Spooky eve, Sunday, Oct. 30	
Mistletoe Heights neighborhood meeting	TBD	7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 15	
Bow-tying party	The Willis home, 2237 Irwin St	2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 20	
Neighborhood Christmas party	TBD	5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 4	

## Join the Mistletoe Heights email list

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

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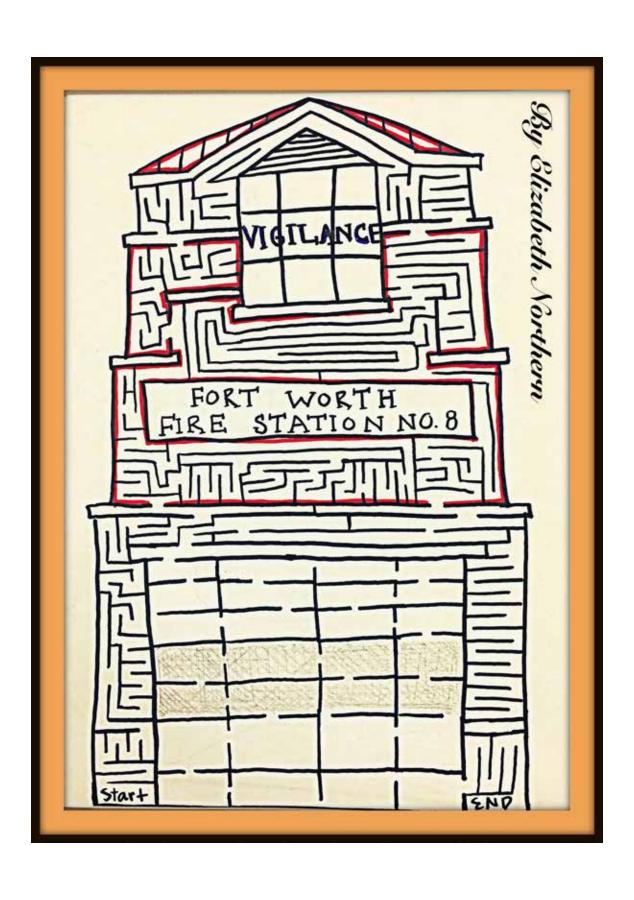
# Advertising submission process

All ads must be paid for by the 10th of the month previous to the month in which the ad will appear. Artwork for all ads should also be submitted by the 10th of the month prior.

Artwork should be emailed to: advertise@mistletoeheights. org. Should you have any questions, please email advertise@mistletoeheights.org.

# Follow the trail to some ... a-MAZE-ing places

The answer to this month's a-MAZE-ing place, with some information about it, can be found on Page 13.



### This month's a-MAZE-ing place is ...

### Fort Worth Fire Station No. 8



The closest fire station to Mistletoe Heights is Station No. 8 at 1101 12th Ave., on the southeast corner of the intersection of 12th Avenue and West Rosedale Street.

One of 42 fire stations in Fort Worth, Station No. 8 covers the city's Near Southside, including a wide variety of single-family and multi-family

homes, commercial buildings, factories and the medical district.

Built in 2005, the station is staffed by 36 firefighters who work in shifts and is home to Engine 8 and Ladder 8.

The apparatus floor has four drive-through bays and includes storage for equipment.

The living area includes individual bunkrooms, three offices for company officers, a kitchen and dining area, a television room, a watch room and a physical fitness room. Several other areas include storage, utilities and a laundry.

A distinctive feature of Station No. 8 is the Fort Worth

Public Arts installation in the front.

Called "United We Stand," the artwork is a bronze sculpture depicting 12 sets of firefighters' boots. The work was executed by Eric McGehearty and installed in 2006.

The phone number of the station is 817-392-6800.







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David Stewart

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Contact Jeri Jo Blackmon at 817-923-4393 or email Jeri Jo@Charter.net. 1408 Mistletoe Drive.

#### **HOME FOR SALE**

1126 MISTLETOE DRIVE 5 Bedroom-all-brick-and-decorative-masonry custom home is situated above the Trinity River and priced at \$887,000. For more information: CALL OWNER at 817-798-5909.

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### Jeri Jo Blackmon

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Email: JeriJo@charter.net Enrolled Agent licensed by the IRS

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#### **HARPIST**

Sally Sledge ministers on the harp as a worshiper, psalmist and vocalist. She has recorded two CDs: "Return to Your Rest" and "Cherished Times". She is available to play for home groups, church events, Bible studies, weddings, funerals, dinner parties or any special occasion. For more information and song samples, you may access her web site at www.sallysledge.com.

#### MISTLETOE HEIGHTS PET SITTERS

MISTLETOE HEIGHTS PET SITTERS is now booking for your vacation, or any other time. References available on request. Mistletoeheightspetsitters.com or 817-247-2870

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Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to help so many of you sell and buy homes in 2015!

I enjoyed being a part of starting so many new chapters and watching your families grow!

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817.392.2255		Street Rep Captains	017.072.0003	Vacancy	
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Police—nonemergency	817.335.4222	Rosaline Eastepp Takes	817.207.9750	Steve McReynolds	817.926.7955
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