

MISTLETOE EXPRESS

A FRONT PORCH COMMUNITY

February - March 2016
www.mistletoeheights.org

We have some amazing people in Mistletoe Heights, and this is a spotlight profile on one of them, Chris Gaines

The rain in Maine could well delay your plane

By Jim Peipert

The next time your American Airlines flight pushes away from the gate on time, you might thank neighbor Chris Gaines.

Chris, who lives in the 2200 block of Mistletoe Boulevard, is a senior air traffic coordinator and operations coordinator at American's Integrated Operations Center, just south of Dallas/Fort Worth Airport.

The two-story, \$88 million building, which officially opened Sept. 15, is "mission control" for American's global network.

It houses more than 1,400 employees who plan, oversee and

dispatch an average of 6,700 flights per day operated by American, American Eagle and US Airways, which is still in the process of being merged with American.

Among Chris's tasks in this grand ballet on any given day are to make sure American's flights to and from major hubs around the country have full crews, the correct amount of fuel for the journey, are fully serviced and maintained and, of course, to keep them all running safely and on time.

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Chris Gaines relaxes for a moment at his workstation during his shift at American Airlines' Integrated Operations Center just south of DFW Airport.

The 13th annual Hidden Gardens of Fort Worth Tour is showcasing private gardens in our historic Mistletoe Heights neighborhood!

Save the date: Sunday, May 15, noon to 6 p.m.

By Suzy Coleman

Every year, more than 1,000 garden and architecture enthusiasts across the Metroplex and beyond look forward to the Hidden Gardens of Fort Worth Tour.

As we've noted previously in the newsletter, this year's Hidden

Gardens Tour will feature gardens in Mistletoe Heights.

The main event, the Hidden Gardens Tour is on Sunday, May 15. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the day of the tour.

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Hidden Gardens Tour of Fort Worth

Save the date: Sunday, May 15, noon to 6 p.m.

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The title "Hidden Gardens" is well chosen, as the garden owners' names are never disclosed, and only ticket purchasers receive the actual addresses of the gardens on the tour.

The festivities will begin Friday, May 13, with the Sunset Tour and Dinner honoring the garden owners. The Sunset Tour is open to any interested party, and is not restricted to those showing their gardens.

The Sunset Tour includes transportation to the gardens, followed by cocktails on the lawn and a seated dinner at the magnificent Thistle Hill mansion.

It's a magical evening and we look forward to your

presence at the Sunset Tour and Dinner from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Ticket prices for the Sunset Tour will be announced and published later. You can contact Suzy Coleman at www.historicfortworth.org, or call 817-336-2344, ext.100.

Both events are threefold in the benefits that they offer. Our guests appreciate and enjoy the garden owners' labor of love and they can gather ideas to enhance their own backyard paradises.

They also get to see the various styles of architecture used when the area was developed.

Many visitors have never been in some of the neighborhoods that have been featured on the annual tour, and the tour provides an opportunity to learn about their history.

All in all, it's a delightful way to spend a Friday evening and/or a Sunday afternoon!

The event benefits the preservation programs of Historic Fort Worth Inc., which include the maintenance of Fort Worth's first and second historic landmarks, the 1904 Thistle Hill mansion and the 1899 Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House, so that they may be kept open for the public to enjoy.

Please visit Historic Fort Worth Inc.'s website at www.historicfortworth.org to learn more about the organization, upcoming events and how to become a member.



The photos on this page were shot by Jim Peipert during the 2015 Hidden Gardens Tour of Fort Worth.

Ted Cruz's family history has a connection to Mistletoe Heights

By Jim Peipert

In case you missed it in the *Star-Telegram*, the evolving backstory of Ted Cruz's presidential candidacy has a Mistletoe Heights connection.

The first husband of the mother of the Republican senator from Texas was born in the now-defunct St. Joseph's Infirmary on the south side in 1928 and grew up on Irwin Street in Mistletoe Heights.

His name is Alan Wilson.

He attended Paschal High School for three years before his family moved to Dallas, earned three degrees, including a Ph.D., in math and science at Rice University in Houston and currently is a longtime resident of London.

The information was contained in a Jan. 16 story by Maria Recio of the *Star-Telegram's* Washington Bureau. It came to light as part of the continuing controversy over Ted Cruz's birth in Canada.

When Cruz was born on Dec. 22, 1970, in Calgary, Alberta, his mother was listed on the birth certificate as Eleanor Darragh Wilson, according to the *Star-Telegram* story.

The American-born Eleanor Darragh and Wilson were divorced around 1963, Wilson told the *Star-Telegram*. She married Cuban-born Rafael Cruz in 1969. But for some reason the last name of her first husband appeared on Ted Cruz's birth certificate. Rafael Cruz was working in Canada at the time.

Wilson, speaking by phone to Recio from London, said he knew that Eleanor "had married a man named Cruz," but that he had no idea that the Texas senator is the son of his previous wife, whom he had met when they were both students at Rice.

Wilson, 87, said he still remembers Fort Worth well. "I was born there – 15 years of memories," he told Recio.

His parents, Joseph Alan Wilson and Burness Elizabeth Elliston, were locally well known. The father was in advertising and later became an oil executive.

Wilson said he attended the 50th reunion of his Paschal class in 1995. "I saw Fort Worth as it had been transformed," he told the *Star-Telegram*, adding that it was the last time he saw the city.

For more information, here is a link to the *Star-Telegram* story:

<http://www.star-telegram.com/news/nation-world/national/article54993300.html>

PLEASE DON'T FENCE ME IN

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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.

This month's amazing person: Chris Gaines

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Chris Gaines points to a weather radar monitor showing a band of snowstorms moving across Chicago.

So you might also blame Chris if your flight is canceled or delayed. But don't be too hard on him.

Running the world's largest airline, with a mainline fleet of 949 planes – not counting the smaller aircraft operated by American Eagle – is a monumental undertaking.

Air traffic coordinators and operations coordinators like Chris have to take into consideration the vagaries of the weather, crewmembers calling in sick, last-minute mechanical problems, the volume of air traffic in busy corridors such as along the Eastern Seaboard and even an occasional terrorism alert.

On a recent Monday in January on his shift from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Chris was sitting in front of about 10 large-screen monitors looking after all of American's Boeing 737s operating that day.

The woman sitting next to him in front of a similar computer array was handling the wide-body jets on routes west to such destinations as Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

On one of the computer screens in front of Chris was a list of all of the scheduled 737 flights.

American has 226 Boeing 737s in its fleet, the most of any type of aircraft. So keeping track of all the 737 flights can be challenging.

But it was a quiet day and only one of the 80 or so flights on the screen had a glitch – so far. Chris said the flight wasn't scheduled until that evening and he already had found a solution.

The dispatchers and coordinators that day were keeping watch on the weather at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, where bands of snow were moving across the city and out onto Lake Michigan.

O'Hare Airport handles about 100 flights per hour on its eight runways, but inclement weather, requiring the planes to be de-iced, can drop that hourly rate to 60 or lower. And the resulting delays ripple throughout the system.

A Nor'easter, packing heavy winds, rain or snow blowing down the coast from Maine can severely disrupt traffic in one of the world's busiest air corridors: Washington-New

York-Boston. Such a storm might well cause flight delays or cancellations at major hubs as far west as Dallas-Fort Worth.

But for Chris, 57, it's just another day at the office. As of next June, he will have been with American for 30 years and has had to deal with his share of monster storms, engine shutdowns and emergency landings.

Born in Winnfield, La., Chris spent much of his early life in central and southern Louisiana. He moved to Crossett, Ark., in his teens and went to high school there.

He got into aviation with the Air Force from 1976 to 1982, first at Nellis Air Force Base at Las Vegas and then at RAF Mildenhall, in Suffolk County northeast of London, working in base operations.

After the Air Force, Chris worked a couple of years on an oilfield supply boat in southern Louisiana.

He returned to aviation in the mid-1980s, working first for the now-defunct Royale Airlines in New Orleans, then a couple of years for a charter company out of Love Field in Dallas.

In 1984, he moved to Southern California to work for Air Cal, based at the Orange County Airport. American Airlines bought Air Cal in 1987, and Chris moved in 1988 to Dallas-Fort Worth with American, where he's worked ever since in flight operations.

The state-of-the-art facility where Chris now works is named for Robert W. Baker, an American Airlines vice chairman who retired in 2002 after a 35-year career with the airline.

With 149,000 square feet of workspace, the building includes 2.1 million pounds of structural steel anchored to 105 caissons drilled to an average depth of 30 feet. Its steel and concrete construction is designed to withstand an EF-3 tornado, with winds of 136 to 165 mph.

A modern marvel of communications and logistics, the setup at the Integrated Operations Center allows Chris and his colleagues to communicate instantaneously with the cockpit of any aircraft under their watch, with the Federal Aviation Administration on any safety issues and with control towers at American hubs around the country.

Toward the end of his shift at 10 p.m., problems sometimes crop up at American's eastern hubs because



Chris Gaines with a display of American Airlines logos through the years

This month's amazing person: Chris Gaines

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that's when overnight flights are departing for European destinations.

American travels to 339 destinations in 54 countries from its hubs in Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix and Washington, D.C.

To unwind from his high-pressure job, Chris has a cabin in Arkansas that he retreats to periodically. He also used to pilot gliders and hot-air balloons.

And then there's anthropology and archeology, in which Chris has undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of North Texas.



Chris Gaines with a model of the newest addition to the American Airlines fleet, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner

In the late 1990s and 2000, he did field work in north central Portugal, studying land formations such as caves and rock outcroppings that would have been conducive to habitation by prehistoric hominids.

Chris moved to Mistletoe Heights in the summer of 2012. He bought a bungalow at 2223 Mistletoe Boulevard that had been extensively damaged by fire in 1935 and remodeled extensively in years since.

According to local lore, Chris says, the house in the 1930s was owned by a fellow not well liked in the neighborhood – a professional gambler whose wife was reputed to be a bit of a floozy.

During the fire in 1935, the story goes, the husband rushed back into the house to try to save his wife. But they both died in the conflagration.

Chris says he doesn't believe in ghosts. But on occasion he has returned from work to an odor of smoke and strong perfume.

Perhaps that's a story for a future newsletter.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jim Peipert is retired from the Star-Telegram, where he worked for 22 years, as national and foreign editor and then as a member of the editorial board. Before that, he worked more than two decades for The Associated Press as a reporter, editor and foreign correspondent in Chicago, New York, Moscow, London, Johannesburg and Nairobi.

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***Tuesday, February 9th**
***Tuesday, March 8th**
***Tuesday, April 5th**

For more details please call Aaron Seiffert at (817)348-8700 or (877)289-9600

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President's Corner

By Josh Lindsay



When people approach me about a neighborhood issue – positive or negative – I often get a contradictory (but very pleasant for me) statement something like this:

"Being president of the neighborhood association must be a thankless job. Thanks for being president."

A photo of my smiling mug goes into every

newsletter, so it seems like I have something to do with what gets done around here.

I count myself lucky to be involved with such a group of thoughtful neighbors, but I'm a very small part of the picture.

Take a minute to look over the back page of the newsletter.

Look at the list of all those officers, volunteers and street reps. Those are the people who actually get things done around here.

And after a year of doing this, I can tell you that that list

is very incomplete in terms of the larger group of volunteer neighbors who regularly put in time to make Mistletoe Heights a great place to live.

I'll scrape the tip of the iceberg and brag on the officers I meet with monthly:

We have a doctor taking notes for us, a CPA keeping our books and teaching me about Robert's Rules of Order, an events manager as vice president, and a librarian/newspaper editor dynamic duo putting together this amazing newsletter.

The volunteers around here are all-stars and deserve all the thanks.

They are an altruistic bunch, but I bet they would also say they do this because of what they get out of it.

I'm looking forward to another year with such a great group of neighbors.

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

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.

Check out our website: mistletoeheights.org

Friend us on Facebook: facebook.com/mistletoeheights

Support our advertisers

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 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.

Time to Find the Perfect Home!



**Peggy
McCready**

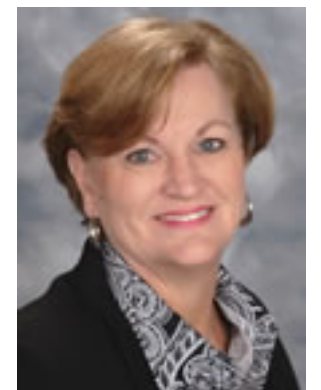
817-437-4851

PeggyM_Premier@Yahoo.com

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**Kathy
Dierker**

817-905-4854

KathyDierker@Hotmail.com

*Mistletoe
Heights
resident*

Easter egg hunt!

By Susan Pressley

Mark your calendars and start getting your Easter basket ready.

The annual Mistletoe Heights Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Newby Park on Saturday, March 26, at 10 a.m.

To participate, deliver two dozen plastic eggs filled with age-appropriate candy or toys to 2341 W. Magnolia Ave. by Thursday, March 24.

Be sure to put your child's age, name and telephone number on the bag.

Remember to bring your Easter basket and camera to the egg hunt. Rumor has it that the Easter Bunny will be making an appearance!

All neighbors are welcome to come to Newby Park Saturday morning to watch the egg hunt.

Coffee, juice and bagels will be provided, compliments of the Mistletoe Heights Association.

For more information, call Susan Pressley at 817-308-1484.

If it rains, the Easter egg hunt will be rescheduled for 2 p.m., and if it is

still raining, the hunt will be canceled and your eggs can be picked up at 2341 W. Magnolia.



Who do you know?

Do you know anyone connected with a business on Park Place, Forest Park Boulevard, Eighth Avenue, Mistletoe Boulevard, Rosedale Street, Magnolia Avenue or Park Hill?

The *Mistletoe Express* is looking for someone to contact local businesses to advertise in our newsletter.

Over the past few years, the number of advertisers has dwindled, and we need new advertisers to break even on the cost of the newsletter.

Ideally, having an advertising manager for the newsletter would remedy this situation. The position would require a time commitment of only a few hours a month

But if any individual neighbor has a contact with a business proprietor and would be willing to speak directly to that person about advertising in the *Mistletoe Express*, that would also be helpful.

If you are interested and able to help, contact treasurer Jeri Jo Blackmon for details about ad specifications, deadlines and pricing, or just look on the back page of the newsletter.

You know you know somebody!
Thanks!

In the city

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

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

Link to report animal issues, control, adoption:
fortworthtexas.gov; or call 817-392-1234.

Link to request permit for garage sale:
Fortworthtexas.gov; or call 817-392-2222.



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.

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@mistletoheights.com.



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Mark your calendars!



Tuesday, Feb. 16 – Mistletoe Heights Association members' meeting, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the home of Gerry and Meralen Tyson, 1351 Mistletoe Drive.

Saturday, March 26 – Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. at Newby Park. (See accompanying article for details.)

Saturday, April 2 – Mistletoe Heights/Berkeley Place neighborhood garage sale; all day, all over the neighborhoods. A permit is required and must be secured at least 72 hours prior to the sale. To see the rules and apply online for a permit, go to fortworthtexas.gov or call 817-392-2222.

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.

Editor's note: The date of Historic Fort Worth's Hidden Gardens Tour was incorrectly listed in the previous newsletter as Saturday, May 14. The correct date is Sunday, May 15.

Free classified ads

PET PORTRAITS

Easter is coming! Birthdays too! Portraits of your four-legged family members. Visit my website for examples. www.mkohouthorseportraits.com or call 817-313-1419. Questions welcomed!

TUTOR

K-3rd grade. Caring, encouraging, experienced (12 years) certified elementary school teacher is offering tutoring this summer. Contact Kathy Jo Rogers at 817.688.0905 or kathyjorogers@sbcglobal.net.

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Jeri Jo Blackmon, former IRS Agent and current Enrolled Agent licensed by the IRS will prepare and e-file your individual or business tax returns. Also, as a QuickBooks Pro Advisor, training is available for individuals or businesses who want to improve their skills or learn new skills using QuickBooks accounting software. Contact Jeri Jo Blackmon at 817-923-4393 or email JeriJo@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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Fort Worth, TX 76110

Cell: 817-925-7833
Fax: 817-924-7733

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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.

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FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIANA BRANDENBERG

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With emphasis on Olympic strokes. Contact Richard Sybesma, Head Swim Coach, TCU Box 297600, Fort Worth, TX 76129; 817-257-5646 or 817-257-7963

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PIANO LESSONS

For beginners and intermediates.
Mary Smith, 2300 W. Magnolia Ave.
817-927-8876.



Thank You!

**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!**

*If you're considering a move in 2016, call or visit our
website to arrange a complimentary consultation and
custom market review. I look forward to helping you.*

kw
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Helpful phone numbers, emails, addresses and websites

City information

City Code violations	817.392.1234
City of Fort Worth	
817.392.2255	
fortworthtexas.gov	
Police—nonemergency	817.335.4222
Garage sale permits	817.392.7851
Graffiti abatement	
817.212.2700	
Lily B. Clayton Elementary	817.922.6660
schools.fwisd.org/clayton	
Paschal High School	817.814.5000
paschalhs.org	
Historical Preservation	
Liz Casso	817.392.8037
liz.casso@fortworthtexas.gov	
Southside Preservation Hall	
817.926.2800	
Hallyes@earthlink.net	
southsidepreservation.com	
The T/Longhorn Trolley	817.215.8600
the-t.com	
Trinity Railway Express	817.215.8600
trinityrailwayexpress.org	
City Council District 9	
Ann Zadeh	817.392.8809
district9@fortworthtexas.gov	

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newsletter@mistletoeheights.org	

Volunteers

Historic Preservation Committee	
Roger Ross	817.372.6865
Street Rep Captains	
Melissa Kohout (East side)	817.313.1419
Rosaline Eastepp Takes	817.207.9750
(West side)	
Welcome Baskets	
Kathy Jo Rogers	817.688.0905
Denise Semple	817.733.0404
Advertising Manager	
advertise@mistletoeheights.org	
Newby Park	
Dottie Guffey	817.921.6288
Email Moderator	
Richard Yantis	817.924.2857
Webmaster	
Scott Ewing	214.403.7762
Historian	
Luke Ellis	817.339.2459
Yard of the Month	
Bruce Horn	817.526.4339

Street reps (listed by blocks)

East of Forest Park	
2200 W. Rosedale South	
Dottie Guffey	817.921.6288
2200 Irwin	
Gary Willis	817.924.4000
2100/2200 Mistletoe Blvd.	
Melissa Kohout	817.313.1419
2100/2200 West Magnolia	
Colleen Shutt	214.455.9097
2200 Harrison	
Aaron Torkelson	817.907.5533
2100 Harrison Ave.	
Vacancy	
2100 Mistletoe Ave.	
Pat Hale	817.924.5263
2200 Mistletoe Ave.	
Richard & Christi Yantis	817.924.2857
2100/2200 Edwin	
Katrina Pittman	817.921.2221
2100 Weatherbee	
Tanya Dohoney	817.313.6674

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.	
Vacancy	
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	
Irene 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
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.