



MISTLETOE EXPRESS

A FRONT PORCH COMMUNITY

December 2016- January 2017
www.mistletoeheights.org

President's Corner

Wishing you the best, from our house to yours

By Josh Lindsay



The Mistletoe Heights email list is already buzzing with messages about delivered packages opened or going missing.

Keep an eye out for each other. It gets a little tiring repeating that message but there it is.

Really the only message I want to deliver this year is that I wish you a wonderful holiday and new year.

I hope you spend time with the people you love. I hope you get to go some place that you enjoy. I hope you get something you want under the tree.

This is the best place to live in a wonderful city, and I'm lucky to have you all as neighbors.

All the best.

Josh Lindsay

president@mistletoeheights.org

2238 Mistletoe Blvd.



The longtime writer of the Yard of the Month column, Bruce Horn, reflects on his 50 years making things bloom in Mistletoe Heights.

See story on Page 10

A visit with former neighbors on a trip to upstate New York



Sevan Melikyan and Maria Guralnik at the Wired Gallery, which Sevan owns and operates in High Falls, N.Y.

By Tom Richey

In September, Eileen and I journeyed to New York state to visit friends and family.

While spending several days at a friend's house on Sleepy Hollow Lake near Athens, N.Y., I determined that High Falls, N.Y., was only about an hour's drive south.

We decided to head down that way to visit some old Mistletoe Heights friends who moved there in 2009. Sevan Melikyan and his wife, Maria Guralnik, lived at 1114 Buck Ave. for many years before selling their home and moving to

High Falls.

While in Fort Worth, they both worked for the Cliburn organization and were very involved in the local art world.

In addition, Sevan was editor of the *Mistletoe Express* and played drums with the Usual Suspects, a local group, as well as various neighborhood pickup bands. He also was a respected artist, exhibiting at the Fort Worth gallery William Campbell Contemporary.

I didn't know why Sevan and Maria had moved to High Falls, a tiny hamlet of 627 in the Shawangunk Mountains, and was curious.

I arrived at Wired, the art gallery that Sevan owns and manages, in time for lunch and toured the gallery with its representative works of the Hudson River School, some beautiful works indeed.

We spent a little time visiting with Maria, and found that she was originally from High Falls. Mystery solved!

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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 mistmoderator@mistletoeheights.org.

Check out our website: mistletoeheights.org

Friend us on Facebook: facebook.com/mistletoeheights

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.

— Josh Lindsay, MHA president



Facebook Chat Room www.facebook.com/groups/mhneighbors

NextDoor page www.mistletoeheights.nextdoor.com

Webpage www.mistletoeheights.org/contacts

Mark your calendars!



Jan. 9-Feb. 4, 2017 – Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. www.fwssr.com.

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017 – Mistletoe Heights neighborhood meeting. Location to be announced.

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Reporting graffiti, trash and weeds



Confused about which government entity to contact about graffiti, trash and weeds along Interstate 30 and other locations?

It's now possible, through the efforts of Detra Call Brown of Fort Worth's

Graffiti Abatement Program, to route all complaints through the city.

The multiple entities responsible for different portions of the interstate are: the city's Maintenance Department, the North Texas Tollway Authority, the Texas Department of Transportation, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and the Fort Worth & Western Railroad.

Reports received through the city will be channeled to the appropriate entity.



Report through:

myFtWorth app

Online: <http://www.fortworthpd.com/online/coplogic-start-report.aspx>

Email: graffiti@fortworthtexas.gov

Phone: 817-212-2700

Directly to Detra Call: detracall@fortworthtexas.gov

Directly to Dewonna Wagner (Detra's assistant):
Dewonna.Wagner@fortworthtexas.gov

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Professional Tax Services

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Email: JeriJo@charter.net
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Estes, Jason & Courtney	Keesee, Craig & Kathy	Semple, Hunter & Denise
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Thank you neighbors, for your contributions to our neighborhood association!
You donated \$6080 this year!



2016 Levels of Giving
Magnolia - \$100 and up
Holly - \$50 to \$99
Mistletoe - Up to \$49

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!

Yard of the Month: We need someone to write the Yard of the Month column, a short article describing a noteworthy and good-looking yard, perhaps describing some of the plantings and other garden features. No need to worry about photographs. Jim Peipert will take them for you. This is a job that could be taken on individually or by a couple of friends. Thanks to Bruce Horn, it has been a favorite fixture in the newsletter for the last three years and we hope someone will step up to continue it.

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

Advertising manager: We need 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.

Newby Park Gardening Committee: We need a group of people to work on a rotating basis to care for the plants and flowers in Newby Park. Rosaline Eastepp Takes will provide information about the specific duties involved and will manage the schedule.

Wine and Walk leader: We are looking for a person or family to provide a gathering place and starting point for Wine and Walk. Wine and Walk is a fun, informal gathering of Mistletoe Heights residents, including adults, children, strollers and pets, for a leisurely stroll through the neighborhood for 30 to 45 minutes while sipping our favorite beverages. It usually takes place on Sunday evenings at about 7 p.m. in nice weather. It’s a wonderful way to meet new and old neighbors, and all we need is someone’s driveway to start from. Hosts do not need to provide refreshments; it’s BYOB. Hosts may need to send out a reminder email regarding dates or cancellations.

Street representatives: We are looking for street representatives for the 2200 block of Weatherbee Street, the 2100 block of Harrison Avenue, the 2100 block of Morphy Stree, and the 2300 block of Mistletoe Avenue. The street reps deliver the newsletter to the individual houses on their respective blocks every other month (February, April, June, August, October, December). The bundle will be delivered to your house for distribution. This job takes only about 15-20 minutes and would be much appreciated.

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

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!

A visit with former neighbors in a town where artist Marc Chagall once lived

Continued from Page 1

She is a professor of arts management at State University of New York at Purchase, a nearby campus of SUNY.

Sevan and I departed for lunch, but on the way viewed many of the interesting facets of the little art center that truly is High Falls.

Russian-French artist Marc Chagall lived there for several years and many of his works depict life in the area. Sevan showed me the house Chagall lived in and his studio.

We also visited the remains of the Delaware and Hudson Canal, built in the early 1800s to transport coal from Pennsylvania to Kingston, N.Y., on the Hudson, for shipment to various Northeastern locations.

The remnants of the canal can be seen on Google satellite views. The canal was abandoned in 1899. Most of the older architecture in the area was composed of not only typical colonial, but also early Dutch-built stone houses from the late 1600s through the 1700s.

That part of New York state was, of course, originally settled by the Dutch. (New York City was originally New Amsterdam.)

Trivia question (no Googling): Which president was from

Kinderhook (not too far from High Falls), and whose campaign coined the term "OK" from his nickname "Old Kinderhook"?

We also drove up Mohonk Mountain to view Mohonk Mountain House, a spectacular resort built in 1869 at New Paltz and still in service with beautiful views of the mountainous area. The hotel is worth Googling as the Victorian architecture is wonderful.

Sevan did mention, however, that the snow never seems to go away. He was quite incredulous that in early May snow is sometimes still visible. My response: "Why do you think we don't live in that part of the world any more?"

It was great seeing Sevan and Maria again. They were some of my favorite people in the neighborhood and I hated to see them go.

They send their warmest regards back to Mistletoe Heights and both say it was one of the nicest places they've ever lived.

If you knew Sevan and Maria when they lived in Mistletoe Heights and want to reconnect with them, they are both on Facebook.

Holiday recycling tips

Live Christmas trees



Dispose of your live or flocked Christmas trees (no decorations, lights or tree stands and no artificial trees) as part of the normal weekly yard waste pickup following the holidays.

Trees must be less than eight feet long. Cut the trees into sections if necessary. Do not put trees in a plastic bag.

Another option: Take them to any of the following tree drop-off stations:

2400 Brennan Ave.

5150 Martin Luther King Freeway

6260 Old Hemphill Road

North Texas Holiday Grease Roundup Cease the Grease!

December 2016 through Jan. 9, 2017

Environmental Collection Center, 6400 Bridge St., Fort Worth; Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Recycle used fats, oils and grease from your holiday (and other) meals.

When fats, oils and grease are washed down the drain, they stick to the inside of pipes, harden and build up, causing clogs and sewer backups and overflow. Instead of putting these materials down the drain, recycle them!

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.

What would you like to see in the *Mistletoe Express*?

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

Send us your suggestions: newsletter@mistletoeheights.org.

SHOULD YOU WORK WITH US? PROBABLY NOT.

Our firm isn't for most people. If you thrive on discovering the latest "hot-stock", prefer trusting your gut over sticking to a strategy, or believe in chasing returns by jumping in and out of the market, there are plenty of other firms you can call.

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It's a time to make merry and be jolly in Mistletoe Heights

The crisp autumn days of late November and early December are a time to make merry and be jolly in a neighborhood whose very name evokes holiday cheer.

On Nov. 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, neighbors gathered at the home of Gary and Susan Willis in the 2200 block of Irwin Street for the annual Boy-tying Party.

This is the event at which the red ribbons and the green garlands are cut and the bows tied to decorate the neighborhood lampposts. An array of delicious homemade snacks fueled the bow-tying and ribbon cutting.

Then, on the evening of Dec. 4, neighbors gathered again for the annual Mistletoe Heights Christmas party, always a special occasion for the neighborhood children because of a visitation by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

This year's party was at the Mistletoe Drive home of Val and Scott Ewing, who tended bar and served up the evening's signature drink, a chocolate martini. "Heaven in a glass," as one neighbor described it.



Retiring Yard of the Month columnist Bruce Horn reflects on ... 50 years as a gardener in Mistletoe Heights

By Bruce Horn

I've been gardening for half a century and have learned a lot.

I've made a lot of mistakes and thereby learned too many things the hard way, and sometimes the expensive way. I've read a lot of books. More important, I've sought out experienced gardeners and listened to what they had to say.

In this article I will share some of my insights, some of what I've learned and some of my own opinions.

I'll start with the fact that it took me many years and lots of wasted money to learn that Grandma knew what she was doing. People a couple of generations ago chose plant materials that were well suited to our soil and our climate in Fort Worth.

For example, many of our yards in Mistletoe Heights have *Nandina* and *Abelia* and even lilies that were put in when our houses were built.

Our house was built in 1926, the house next door in 1913. And the shrubs mentioned above are still going strong.

Who knows how long a *Nandina domestica* lives? I sure don't! *Nandina domestica* is the traditional shrub variety of *Nandina*, reaching a height up to 6 feet, 7 inches if left alone. There are other, hybrid versions of *Nandina* and *Abelia* that look great and do well, too.

I suggested only two shrubs in the above paragraph, and that is by no means a complete list of viable plants from which to choose. There are some excellent hybrids out there, but the good ones have been hybridized from plants that were already proven to be tried and true in our area.

An addition to the *Nandina* would be *Photinia fraseri*, commonly called red-tipped *Photinia*. It's great, and it was developed from the older *Photinia serrulata*. The old-fashioned *Photinia serrulata* blooms, the *Photinia fraseri* does not.

For those of us who grew up here, the old-fashioned *Photinia serrulata* is what we called yellow-jacket bushes when we were kids, because the blooms attract and are pollinated by yellow jackets! The blooms have a strong fragrance that you either love or hate.

Old-fashioned *Lantana microphylla* and *Lantana horrida* are similar, in that you either love or hate the fragrance of the blooms.

The horrida version was named by someone who apparently didn't like the fragrance! (I happen to love it!) And there are good hybrids of *Lantana*, too.

All kinds of *Lantana* are excellent choices for locations with hot, full sun all day long.

I read once that *Lantana* was brought to North America by slaves from west central Africa, where it was used in traditional herbal medicine. But beware! The word for those

of us not expert in

sub-Saharan African herbal medicine is that all *Lantana* are poisonous – not to the touch, only if ingested.

Although a few plants introduced to our area in the last quarter-century do very well, the upshot of what I mean is that I have learned over the years to stay away from trendy plants.

Avoid trendy plants

They're often interesting, and some of that interest stems (pun intended) from the sheer novelty of something we've not seen before.

In my experience, that's a mistake: It rarely works out. Some plants that are newish last a few years, but then we have a brutally hard winter or a brutally hot summer and those newbies perish.

Many years ago, I worked as a landscaper and I can't even remember how many times we put an expensive landscape into someone's yard and then were back the next year to replace the plants that up and died.

The causes were usually twofold: Bad choice of plant materials and poor aftercare/maintenance of the landscape.

The moral is to stick with what's tried and true. If you're putting something in a pot, go ahead and experiment. But if you're putting it in the ground with an eye on it becoming a permanent part of your landscape, look at what's been around forever and notice how it's doing.

Grandma did know what she was doing!

I know that some readers' reaction to what I've written so far runs something like, "But my landscape designer or my landscaper told me that such-and-such is an excellent plant."

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Lantana camara

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And he/she may have been right. As I wrote above, I don't pretend that what I specified in the first couple of paragraphs is an exhaustive list of desirable plants for Fort Worth. But it's also possible that he/she may have been simply selling you some plants.

The best advice for choice and location of plants comes from someone who is an expert in horticulture, not necessarily design.



Lantana microphylla

Seeking advice

That brings me to the next issue: To whom should we listen when seeking advice about our landscape?

I'm not being compensated in any way for what I'm about to write. It's an unsolicited report based on my actual experiences.

Many people are tempted to go to Lowe's or Home Depot to get plants. And, yes, you may save 10 or 50 cents per plant, but what you get from a proper nursery is expert advice – and that's worth much more in the long run.

Archie's Gardenland has been in business in the same location for 82 years. Yes, you read that right! They're experienced in what actually does well in Fort Worth.

When you're at Archie's you should look for Rick and Rosie Archie, Randall and Gina Archie, Steve McCoy, Will Girard, Roberto Mendoza and/or Abigail Zimmerman.

That list reveals that it's a family-owned business, and the people whose names I've listed have probably forgotten more about plants and treatment of plant problems than I have ever known.

You may have a favorite nursery already, but I strongly recommend Archie's Gardenland for any and all needs for your yard.

I don't know how many years of combined experience the owners and staff at Archie's have, but I'm pretty sure it's a staggeringly high number! When in doubt about anything pursuant to your landscape you can always ask one of the

people listed above. They'll give you good advice.

There are also two very good books that any serious gardener or a homeowner interested in improving or maintaining his/her yard needs in the home library.

Plants of the Metroplex by John Howard Garrett and Alex Burton is my favorite – short and sweet and easy to use. Of course, *Neil Sperry's Complete Guide to Texas Gardening* is the other book, but it can be overwhelming. If you've been in Fort Worth a while, you're probably already familiar with Neil Sperry's columns in the *Star-Telegram*.

Plant care

Next I turn my attention to taking care of the plants: the ones that are just being put in or the ones that have been there for quite a while.

Over my many years of gardening, I've made both kinds of mistakes: over-watering and under-watering. I think I've finally figured it out, though, and we are lucky in Mistletoe Heights because we have good black soil with high clay content. That clay holds water well. But what about how to water?

Almost every plant on Earth depends upon rain for its survival. For millions of years plants have evolved to maximize their collection of and use of rainwater.

When we water our landscapes, what's the appropriate goal? It's to simulate rainfall!

A common mistake I see in people watering with a hose is that they have the water coming out at high pressure. I suppose it gives the impression that somehow this is getting more water on the plant, when what's really happening is that the high pressure spray is beating up the plant ... often damaging it.

A sprinkler system in the ground does a good job of simulating rainfall, but often that's not enough water.

When something new has been planted, simple watering with the irrigation system is usually not enough. For new plants to establish themselves successfully, watering needs to be supplemented by watering by hand with a hose.

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Nandina domestica

Reflections on 50 years as a gardener

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Remember, that plant that just came out of a one-gallon container has roots that are about 8 to 10 inches below the surface of the ground. The water needs to get down to the roots!

The depth of the roots of lawn grass is much shallower, so the sprinkler system is quite adequate for that. But to get new plants settled in and happy, deeper water penetration is



Photinia fraseri

needed. And if those plants came in five-gallon containers, for example, the roots are down well more than a foot beneath the surface. For very large shrubs and for trees, it's always a good idea to water them in well by hand.

My personal favorite for watering with a hose is a watering wand with a head that breaks the stream to simulate natural rain. And I've learned that watering down low, at the base of the plants, is more effective than watering the foliage.

When I see people spraying the upper growth of plants, I imagine that it satisfies some deep-seated association we have of wetness and plant growth.

However, I learned the hard way that it can actually be counterproductive. Those water droplets on the leaves act as lenses and the sunlight is magnified, resulting in burned spots on the leaves.

It often does more damage than good. And it's safe to say that there's a bonus to the city's watering restrictions: Watering in the middle of the day is asking for trouble. It's not only that much of the water evaporates very rapidly (and therefore wasted), but it's also that watering when the sun is high in the sky increases the likelihood that the combination of water droplets and sunlight will damage foliage.

Feeding plants

What about food? Plants are living things and they are just as hungry as we are, although they don't need to be fed as often as we do.

For the lawn, the best thing is to broadcast lawn fertilizer in early spring, in high summer and fall. If you've been fertilizing fairly regularly over the years, you probably need only an 18-0-0 fertilizer, because you've probably built up a high level of phosphate and potassium in your soil, and nitrogen is all you really need for a couple of years.

And you want a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer with extra sulfur and iron. (Archie's own brand is excellent and not as expensive as some of the brands advertised on TV.) After broadcasting lawn fertilizer, be sure to blow or sweep the granules off the sidewalk. Those things can cause chemical burns to kids' feet and to dogs' paws.

If you're going to use a pre-emergent weed killer, the times to broadcast that are the week of Mother's Day and again in the week of Labor Day. However, be patient. It's going to take two to three years of doing it two times per year before you notice one day that the weeds just aren't there anymore.

Think ahead

Having mentioned that, another thing I've learned in my half-century of gardening is that almost everything we do in and for our yards is for the future. Yes, we can make it look good right now, but if we're thinking ahead and are patient, we'll see that time itself is what Mother Nature uses to work out her schema.

Please note: Pre-emergent herbicides are not the same as so-called "weed and feed" products. Perhaps the biggest mistake I've ever made with my yard was when I used some "weed and feed" instead of regular fertilizer. I nearly lost my entire front lawn!

The thing about selective herbicides is that you never know which plants they will select! In my yard, the herbicide selected the St. Augustine grass. What I learned there was to stay as far away from "weed and feed" products as possible.

On a more positive note, I've learned (the hard way ... again) that the single most important thing to do when preparing beds is to amend the soil with mulch before installing new plants.

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Watering wand

The same high-clay-content soil that holds water so well is also extremely dense. Digging in some good mulch like Back to Earth will really pay off. The mulch loosens the soil and allows the roots of every plant to grow faster and better.

When initially installing flowers and shrubs, it's good to put a little plant food around the base of the plant as you're putting it in. I like Nelson's Color Star and Osmocote the best. But ... use them very sparingly so the new plants don't get burned!

Our soil here is very alkaline, and many of our favorite plants will thank you more than they can ever say in words if you acidize the soil from time to time.

The best time to do that is when you're first preparing a bed for planting.

Dig some copperas into the soil with the mulch and you'll be glad you did.

I have a lot of ferns and Japanese maples in my back yard, and because my beds are already established I now use Miracid (from the makers of Miracle Gro) on them. But beware, it can be overdone. When used correctly, it makes ferns, roses, azaleas, Japanese maples and other acid-loving plants much happier.

But I had to learn the hard way to follow the directions on the label when using it: More is not better when we're talking about fertilizer or other chemical means of tweaking our soil.

I could go on forever with suggestions on the tricks of the trade that I've learned over the years, but because this is a newsletter (not an encyclopedia) I'm going to wrap it up.

Closing reflections

What follows are my closing reflections on what has been my hobby and therapy for half a hundred years.

As I reflect on my involvement in gardening from the time I was a very young man, I can't help but conclude that, for me, as I suspect is true for many others, gardening is

therapeutic.

I have a tendency to think too much! But when I'm working in the yard or messing around in my flowerbeds that internal conversation stops. I'm paying attention only to what's right in front of my eyes ... and to what my hands are doing. I'm only thinking about this dirt, this hole, this plant. For me, it's just good to give my brain a rest from time to time.

Another aspect of that is that when I'm working in my yard, I often feel like I am co-creating with God. It states in Genesis that, upon finishing creating the world, God said, "It is good." So when I'm making things in my little part of the world more beautiful, I'm making them good. That's a big deal to me.

Now, when I mow the lawn in the August heat, it feels more like hard work than anything else, but, by and large, gardening and yard work can be a spiritual experience. And I find it brings me closer to serenity than anything else. It brings me joy.

Another thing that brings me joy is that, from time to time, I meet a young person who has already found happiness in gardening. Though the word I usually hear from young gardeners is "relaxing," I know that they've discovered what I myself discovered a half-century ago ... and I plan to keep on investing in the future with my gardening and yard work as long as I am able.

I hope you've enjoyed and possibly benefited from this article. I welcome any feedback, questions or comments. Email me at brucehorn@charter.net.



Minutes of the Nov. 15 Mistletoe Heights meeting; slate of association officers remains the same

Attendees:

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

Secretary: Val Ewing

Neighbors: 25, as per the attendance sheet

Special guests: Officer Josh Caprio, Detra Brown, Jackson Key

Venue: Home of Dexter and Deborah Jung, 2340 Mistletoe Blvd.

7:06 p.m.: Meeting called to order by Josh Lindsay, president of the Mistletoe Heights Association. Guest Detra Brown was introduced. She is our contact with the city's graffiti abatement program. She discussed the sound wall and began by expressing gratitude to the people calling in to report graffiti. She said she needs residents to call in graffiti sightings, even if they know that someone else has reported it, as it helps with her role as our advocate. The sound wall is owned and managed by the Texas Department of Transportation, the North Texas Tollway Authority, the city of Fort Worth and the railroad. There is some conflict as to where ownership gets transferred to the city. The railroad is private and difficult to engage in this conversation. District 9 City Councilwoman Ann Zadeh has been supportive with contacts uniting all divisions. A neighbor reported that when you contact TxDOT, the message goes to Austin and then returns to each district. Suggestion: Bombard the district so that people in upper-level management feel pressure to address the issue.



Detra Brown, with the city's graffiti abatement program, speaks on graffiti marring the neighborhood.

Detra explained that the graffiti is not gang-related and has no meaning or threat. However, the longer it stays there, it gives recognition to the graffiti world and encourages even more graffiti. The goal of graffiti abatement is to abate graffiti as quickly as possible. Q: If graffiti is gang-related, do the authorities respond quicker? No. Q: About graffiti-resistant paint: If graffiti is removed, so does the resistant material. Q:

Would an ivy-covered help deter graffiti? A. Unfortunately, no grant money is allocated for this. Detra Hall's guest appearance concluded and she left the meeting.

7:35 p.m.: Josh introduced our next guest: Josh Caprio, who began by explaining that he is our neighborhood police officer. Q: A resident took a photo of a panhandler, and has not seen this panhandler since. Officer Caprio confirmed that he has taken several to jail. He emphasized that he gives panhandlers second chances by taking them to homeless shelters first and providing them with helpful resources. Comment: Thank you, Officer Caprio, for your support of us taking pictures of panhandlers as it allows us to participate in the solution. Caprio: If panhandlers don't get harassed, they will not go away. He also stated that he has never had problems, such as violence, with these people. For the most part, they are harmless. If you want to reach him, his number is: 817-856-8609. Comment regarding a recent email from NPO Matt McClellan addressing risky driving on Forest Park Boulevard. Caprio said that the "skinny roads" cause more traffic issues on busy days. Comment: Speed has gone down compared to before the road diet. The concern now is drivers illegally passing in the middle turn lane. Comment: Speed seemed more controlled on Forest Park Boulevard when the speed signs were up. Can the city put them back? Officer Caprio reiterated that as neighborhood police officer, he plays no role in the city planning division.

Josh: Thanked Officer Caprio for writing a letter supporting measures that would decrease traffic speed on Jerome Street. As a result, the city approved a four-way stop at Mistletoe Avenue and Jerome. This concluded Officer Caprio's visit and he left the meeting.

7:46 p.m.: Minutes from the last neighborhood meeting, on Aug. 16, were distributed. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

7:48 p.m.: Chad Jung, MHA vice president, thanked everyone for attending and asked if all would introduce themselves.

8 p.m.: Treasurer Jeri Jo Blackmon passed around the treasury report. Salient points: Dues donations are up this year compared to last. This is the last month your name will be listed as a dues donor in the newsletter. Expenses: Most is spent on the newsletter and at this time we are ahead on advertising, so we are no longer losing money on the newsletter. Q: Any thoughts on updating the neighborhood directory? Response: This type of project takes volunteers. Continued on Page 15

Continued from Page 14

8:08 p.m.: Welcome baskets/new neighbors: If you know of someone new to the neighborhood, please let Josh or Mary Ellen know their names. Development: Randy Primrose is developer of the new apartment complex under construction at Jerome and Rosedale streets. At this time, there is no new information to report. Josh reported asking the city about parking along Jerome beside Newby Park. The city's response: They will wait and see what happens first.

8:09 p.m.: New business: Jackson Key, a Mistletoe Heights resident, was introduced and discussed his Eagle Scout project, which involved repairing the base of the neighborhood sign at the southeast corner of Forest Park Boulevard and Rosedale Street. Jackson stated that to become an Eagle Scout, you have to plan and execute a service project that helps the community. He chose to repair the base of the Mistletoe Heights sign by replacing the deteriorating railroad ties with new ones. It took 18 volunteers and 100 hours. Cost in materials was \$709.52, which MHA reimbursed. Labor was free. Jackson was thanked for the time and effort that went into this project. A motion was made to donate to Jackson's troop in the amount of \$100. The motion was seconded and approved.

8:14 p.m.: Old business: Two sidewalk projects are in progress, one at the 2200 block of Mistletoe Boulevard (between Forest Park Boulevard and Jerome Street), the other in the 2300 block of Mistletoe Drive between Edwin Street and Forest Park Boulevard. Latest update: Approval process will begin in the new year. Ann Zadeh reported that someone from our neighborhood asked about the silt collection on the Trinity River. Update: It is nearing completion but it will be several months before the silt is dry and can be removed.

8:19 p.m.: Honoring Drew Medford: Discussion included dedicating the new baseball backstop at Newby Park in his memory. A suggestion was made to obtain a plaque from Trophy Arts on White Settlement Road. Deborah Jung volunteered to help coordinate this project.

8:20 p.m.: Christmas tree at the Triangle: Do we want to do this again? A resident spoke up opposing the idea, suggesting that decorating the light poles with red ribbons and green garlands is enough. Discussion about how we can make the Triangle more festive. The current trees could be strung with lights sometime in the future when the Triangle has power. Suggestion: Solar lights? Not bright enough and can't compete with streetlights. A motion was made to place a Christmas tree at the Triangle. The motion was denied due to lack of interest.

8:25 p.m.: Volunteers needed: 1. Yard-of-the-month volunteer: It's only six times a year, starting in April. Even a group of people could work together. 2. Gardening at Newby Park: We need someone to help water and weed the plants.

8:30 p.m.: Plants at the trailhead near Rosedale Street and Mistletoe Drive: A resident has been attending to weeds that threaten to take over. Do we let it go or form a committee to monitor and take care of this area? Q: What is planted there now? A: Ornamental grass, Mexican heather, and cedar trees. Suggestion: Mulch. Can we designate funds toward this project with someone overseeing it? It was estimated that about six hours of work and a \$300 budget would be needed. Rosaline Eastepp Takes has agreed to oversee this project. A motion was made to approve \$300 for the project. The motion was seconded and approved.

8:37 p.m.: Officer elections: Steve McReynolds announced that there are no new candidates and that the current officers have volunteered to keep their positions. Josh asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion was made to retain the current officers for another year. The motion was seconded and passed.

2017 officers for the Mistletoe Heights Association: President Josh Lindsay, Vice President Chad Jung, Treasurer Jeri Jo Blackmon, Newsletter editor Mary Ellen Peipert, Secretary Valerie Ewing

8:39 p.m.: Meeting adjourned.



Jeri Jo Blackmon delivers the treasurer's report as MHA President Josh Lindsay looks on.

Two grand prizes awarded in stellar year of gourd carving

By Steve McReynolds

On the evening before Halloween, the dedicated Mistletoe Heights Pumpkin Perusers hit the streets.

We were soon delighted by some fabulous examples of the fine American art of carving a Halloween pumpkin. The tradition is alive and thriving in our neighborhood.

Stiff completion made it a tough call, and the gourd graders chose to award two grand prizes.

The winners were the "Septuplet Jamboree," a montage of seven pumpkins, and children, at 2218 Harrison Ave., and another that we named "The Frightful Feast" (French fries, a Big Mac and beer and wine), which we found at 2132 Edwin St.

Honorable mentions are due to many carvers:

"Boo-wie & Ozzie," 2232 Irwin St.
 "Google eyes," 2212 Irwin St.
 "Boo and the Hooter," 2205 Irwin St.
 "Ghoulish Grin Group," 2300 Irwin St.
 "Fearsome Foursome," 2304 Irwin St.
 "We're not in Kansas anymore," 2305 Irwin St.
 "Batkin," 2312 Irwin St.
 "Lettuce head," 2313 Irwin St.
 "Drooley & Fang," 2321 W. Rosedale St. S.
 "Oh, my Gourd," 2233 W. Rosedale St. S.
 "Eye-gore," 2201 W. Rosedale St. S.
 "Alien & Snoopy," 2205 W. Magnolia Ave.
 "Crow Busters," 2222 W. Magnolia Ave.
 "Pair o' pups," 2316 W. Magnolia Ave.
 "Lit-kin," 2341 W. Magnolia Ave.
 "Jailbait," 2345 W. Magnolia Ave.
 "Scarface," 2320 Harrison Ave.
 "Flash and Frown," 2316 Harrison Ave.
 "Beary Scary," 2305 Harrison Ave.
 "I.C. Spots," 2116 W. Morphy St.
 "Skullkin & Spider Web," 2200 Weatherbee St.
 "Dental Dementia," 2112 Weatherbee St.
 "Cannible/Ghost Jacks," 1221 Clara St.
 "Blues Magoos," 1144 Clara St.
 "Dart & Fierce Face," 1125 Clara St.
 "Frankie & Friends," 1110 Mistletoe Drive
 "Did U Floss?," 1305 Mistletoe Drive

Congratulations to all!



Big Mac pumpkin



Day of the Dead pumpkin



Five pumpkins

Mistletoe Heights Association Income & Expenses January 1 through November 17, 2016

Jan 1 - Nov 17, 16

Income

Advertising Income - Newsletter 3,225.00

Dues Donations 6,080.00

Total Income 9,305.00

Expense

Bank/Check Fees 67.17

Donations 100.00

Flag Program - Triangle 135.00

July 4th Celebration 792.00

Lily B. Clayton 500.00

Maintenance - Newby, Berm, etc. 343.26

MHA Entrance 709.52

MHA Meetings 147.85

Movie Night 194.42

Newsletter Expenses 2,846.26

Water Expense - Berm 651.39

Water Expense - Newby 789.83

Welcome Baskets 832.02

Total Expense 8,108.72

Net Income 1,196.28

Bank Balance - \$29,168.90

Neighbors in action

Eric and Cal Rustad completed their annual father-son Halloween project, which this year consisted of building an eight-foot-high flying saucer, which Cal programmed with flashing lights and a voice from within. Friends and neighbors look forward to seeing their creations every year!

Ellen Rubinson is conducting a kids' sweater and coat drive. Put your unneeded, outgrown apparel in a plastic bag and place it on her porch at 1134 Buck Ave. or call her at 817-564-8604 and she will get the items to the proper charity for kids in need. Thank you, Ellen, for taking action to help others.



A flying saucer has landed in the Rustads' front yard.



Breaktime while working on Jackson Key's Eagle Scout project



Jackson measures the space needed for a railroad tie at the base of the Mistletoe Heights sign.

Chad Jung set up the visual and sound equipment so that families and kids could enjoy Movie Night in Newby Park on Oct. 7. The weather was beautiful and "The Jungle Book" was a great film.

Josh Lindsay played drums as a member of Fort Worth Scottish Pipes & Drums while participating in Arts Goggle on West Magnolia Avenue on Oct. 8.



Neighbors watch the film "The Jungle Book" in Newby Park on Movie Night, Oct. 7.



Tricia Dianne with one of her glass art pieces



The Fort Worth Scottish Pipes & Drums performed Oct. 8 at Arts Goggle. MHA President Josh Lindsay (at left) is a drummer in the group.

Jackson Key, assistant senior patrol leader of Boy Scout Troop 17, completed his Eagle Scout project Nov. 12-13. He rebuilt the base of the Mistletoe Heights entry sign and refreshed the landscaping. Jackson planned the project and implemented it with the help of 10 Scouts, four adult leaders (including dad John Key), and four neighbors (Eric, Nikki and Callan Rustad and Michelle Key). The neighborhood thanks Jackson for doing this sorely needed improvement to the entry to our neighborhood.

Trisha Stemple Dianne showed her beautiful glass art as a member of the Texas Glass Artists' Association, which participated in the Texas Pottery and Sculpture Guild show at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center on Nov. 4-5. Her talent is something to behold.

May this
Holiday Season
bring
Peace & Joy
to you and
your families!

Ruth Story
Broker Associate
817.992.9232
askruthstory@gmail.com
ruthstoryonline.com



kw

Thanks to good neighbors!

- Thank you to Bruce Horn, gardener extraordinaire, for doing a fabulous job writing the Yard of the Month column for the newsletter for three years. His column inspired, educated and entertained us, and we will miss him. Thank you so much, Bruce.

- Thank you to Steve McReynolds for chairing the work side of the annual Bow-tying Party for the past 22 years, getting materials, wrangling the work force and delivering the finished product to the decorators for installation. Thanks also to Steven Alford for taking over the duties of this important job. And to Susan and Gary Willis for hosting the social side of the party for seven years, providing a lovely venue/work space and super-delicious snacks.

- Thank you to Susie and Mark Mitchell for going above and beyond in hosting the annual neighborhood Christmas party for the past three years. And thanks to Valerie and Scott Ewing for hosting it this year. The entire neighborhood looks forward to this event every year.

If you know of any other “unsung heroes,” please contact newsletter@mistletoeheights.org so we can include them in the next newsletter.

Thank you to all who help make our neighborhood better.



Welcome to new neighbors, as of autumn 2016



Penelope “Penny” Louise Northern
1145 Mistletoe Drive

Penny was born at 7:09 a.m. on Nov. 17 at Texas Health Harris Methodist Fort Worth. At birth, she weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19¾ inches long.

Hanna and Jeff Parks
2316 W. Magnolia Ave.

Alexandra and Andrew Harris
2320 Harrison Ave.

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.



Josh Lindsay
president@mistletoeheights.org

Mistletoe Heights, as a “front porch community,” would like to welcome all new residents.

If you know of any new neighbors, or if you’re a new neighbor, please contact our association president, Josh Lindsay, or our newsletter editor, Mary Ellen Peipert.

They will need your name, address, names of family members, age and gender of children and your contact information.

They will then pass your information on to our incredible duo of ladies, Kathy Jo Rogers and Denise Semple, of the Welcome Basket Committee, who would like to present you with a basket of goodies to welcome you to the neighborhood.

Mary Ellen Peipert
newsletter@mistletoeheights.org
817-926-4117

In the city

Police non-emergency number: 817-335-4222

Crime updates are available to citizens at any time:

fortworthpd.com. Go to crime information, then crime mapping.

Community engagement liaison: For our neighborhood, contact Jacob Browning, 817-392-2045. jacob.browning@fortworthtexas.gov

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

Link to code compliance issues and to report graffiti:
fortworthtexas.gov/codecompliance/myFtWorth

Link to garbage related issues:
www.fortworthtexas.gov.
Click on “Garbage and Recycling.”

Bulk trash pickup for our neighborhood is the week of the fourth Monday of the month.

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.

For travel health information and inoculations, call Tarrant County Public Health Department, Travel Health Services, 1101 S. Main St., Fort Worth, TX 76104.
817-321-4707

Fort Worth leash law:
<http://fortworthtexas.gov/animals/laws>

Fort Woof Dog Park:
<http://fortwoof.org>

Smart phone app: myFtWorth

Free classified ads

PET PORTRAITS

Holidays are coming! Birthdays, too!! 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.

26 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING

Tutoring Pre-K-2nd Grade. Is your child falling behind? Need some one-on-one attention? Don't want your child to lose what they've learned over the summer? I can help! Call Joy Ridler at 817.637.5541.

COMPLETE PROPERTY RENOVATION

Demolition, cleanup, specializing in historic home renovations, painting, wallpaper. Contact Jeff Cuningham at 817-988-7113.

LEARN TO SWIM LESSONS

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

ESTATE SALE SERVICES

Estate Sales & Appraisals
Experienced, reliable estate sales in and out of Mistletoe Heights since 1992. Certified Appraiser, International Society of Appraisers. Appraisals for insurance, estate evaluations, donations; whatever your needs. Contact: Terri Ellis, Mistletoe Estate Sales, 817-926-9424 or email tquilts@mac.com

VINTAGE SALES

Estate Sales Vintage Sales has been helping people liquidate estates since 1992. Don't throw anything away before you talk to us! We can help you. Anne Bourland (817-919-0270) apbourland@aol.com John Bourland (817-307-6173)

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.

PET SITTING

At-home mom who LOVES animals would love to help take care of yours! Please call Diana Brandenburg, 214-734-9140.

HOME WANTED

We'd like to buy a home - from an owner - no agents, please! 817-732-3836

HANDYMAN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

No job is too small. I live on Edwin and have local references. Have over 30 Years experience in remodel. Call Terry 817.454.1795 free estimates!!

TAX PREPARATION

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.

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

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIANA BRANDENBERG

At-home mom would love to take your family photos! I will come to you, portrait session or special events. Just call and we'll get those perfect photos for the Christmas card! Call 214-734-9140.

Early Childhood Music and Movement

Mistletoe Musikgarten (www.MistletoeMusik.com) has returned to its roots, right here in our neighborhood. We offer music and movement classes for infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and kinders. We sing, dance, and play simple instruments in our parent-child classes. Music and movement classes prepare your child for future learning successes. Contact Carol Spencer joyous579@gmail.com ~ 817.927.3240

PIANO LESSONS


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

THE NEST


Fully furnished one-bedroom/bath garage apartment available for one night to one month short-term stays. Text 318-243-0157 or email convilles@gmail.com

PLEASE DON'T FENCE ME IN


In case you didn't know, I'm more than just a Mistletoe Heights' area Realtor— I represent buyers and sellers all over Fort Worth, Tarrant County and beyond.



Call me with all your real estate needs & questions.
Gaya Reed




817-688-1952
gaya.reed@cbfw.com






The three-story, 35-unit residential complex, Magnolia at Rosedale, at the southeast corner of Rosedale and Jerome streets, has been taking shape throughout the summer and fall. The sign in front of the complex says it will be "pre-leasing" in the summer of 2017.




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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	

MHA officers

officers@mistletoeheights.org	
President	
Josh Lindsay	817.927.0323
president@mistletoeheights.org	
Vice President	
Chad Jung	817.291.5849
vicepresident@mistletoeheights.org	
Secretary	
Valerie Ewing	817.791.9535
secretary@mistletoeheights.org	
Treasurer	
Jeri Jo Blackmon	817.923.4393
treasurer@mistletoeheights.org	
Newsletter Editor	
Mary Ellen Peipert	817.926.4117
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	
Vacancy	
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	
Lysta Haynes	817.675.4163
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

Vacancy	
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

Robert "Matt" McClellen (West)	817-372-2418
Josh Caprio (East)	817-858-8609

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.