

MISTLETOE EXPRESS

A FRONT PORCH COMMUNITY IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT

August -September 2017
www.mistletoeheights.org

Back to school

Grocery on Jerome Street once a neighborhood hub

By Jim Peipert

You've probably passed it dozens of times, perhaps not giving it a second thought.

If you walk or drive your kids to Lily B. Clayton along Jerome Street, the tidy gray frame house with red door at 1401 Jerome doesn't cry out for attention.



L.R. Ellis outside his store

But for several decades, the home now owned by Melinda and Jayson Nag, was a happening place in the neighborhood.

Built in 1929, according to the Tarrant Appraisal District, the structure from the early 1930s well into the 1970s was the neighborhood grocery and a hub of community activity.

It was where neighbors gathered for games of dice and dominoes and barbecues and parties in the side yard and where customers could supply most of their household needs.

"It was a wonderful friendly grocery store for all neighbors, owned solely by a dedicated couple, Lilian and LeRoy Ellis," recalled Peggy Scott, 88, a granddaughter of the store's owners.

"It bordered on the side street of the African American neighborhood. The neighborhood families were all good friends and customers of the Ellis grocery."

The Ellises first had a store downtown, east of the Tarrant County Courthouse. The city directory for 1929 listed its address as 715 E. Belknap St., now the site of a residential complex.

In the early 1930s, the couple moved to the suburbs, which Mistletoe Heights was considered then, and established their grocery on Jerome Street.

It became a neighborhood institution. And the Ellises – Leon Roy (shortened to LeRoy) and Lilian – became well-known residents.



LeRoy and Lilian Ellis wedding photo

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Ready for the first day of school? Read tips for preparing for back to school on pages 8 and 9



Historic overlay helps preserve character of the neighborhood

Mistletoe Heights is a historic neighborhood, dating from the 1910s.

Wishing to preserve its architectural heritage and identity, most of the neighborhood is included in a historic overlay.

Any alterations or additions to the structures should be submitted to the neighborhood Historic Preservation Committee and must be approved by the city of Fort Worth's Historic & Cultural Landmarks Commission (HCLC).

Neighborhood Historic Preservation Committee: Roger Ross, 817-372-6865, or Susan Willis, 817-924-4000.

Historic & Cultural Landmarks Commission: Murray Miller, 817-392-8574, or Justin Newhart, 817-392-8037. The commission meets the second Monday of the month.

For further information, please refer to the Mistletoe Heights website, www.mistletoeheights.org, and click on Historic Guidelines.

President's Corner

By Josh Lindsay

The other evening, officers of the Mistletoe Heights Association met at my house with a developer who is looking to build on the vacant land across the railroad tracks east of Newby Park.

The development company, by the way, will make a presentation at our next neighborhood meeting, on Aug. 15. So please attend for more details or stay tuned to the newsletter.

The developer wanted to talk to members of the development committee of our neighborhood association before making a formal presentation to our quarterly neighbors' meeting.

So I tried to gather some neighbors, in addition to the officers, who could ask smart questions.

On short notice, we had a CPA, an architect, a professional in development finance, a real estate agent and member of the city's zoning commission, a world-class athlete super-mom, a retired school librarian and me.

The cardiologist couldn't make it to take notes because of a hospital emergency and the lawyer had family in town. It's summer, after all.

If I weren't self-employed, my lack of marketable skills would probably leave me unemployed. So the array of professionalism that

we are able to muster with a few emails always boggles my mind.

This neighborhood overflows with smart people and talent. I've written about this before, but that meeting at my house drove it home for me again.

I do occasionally get some eye rolls and the sympathetic "I'm so sorry" when I tell people that I volunteered to be a neighborhood association president.

This will be my last year in that office and not all my interactions while doing this have been rainbows and warm fuzzies. But, without a doubt, my experience has been incredibly positive.

I have learned about the background of our historic neighborhood and its amazing houses.

I have gotten to know many of our hard-working city officials, from our neighborhood police officers to our City Council representative.

Most important, though, I have gotten to know some of the talented and creative professionals who call this neighborhood home.

I am humbled to get to hang out with you all.



Josh Lindsay

president@mistletoeheights.org

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 **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



Josh Lindsay
president@mistletoeheights.org

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

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.

New neighbors

Heather and Graham Brizendine

2101 W. Morphy St.

Son Gage, age 6; daughter Grace, age 1

Betsey Kinsey

2236 Edwin St.

Son Bear, age 5; daughter Libby, age 3

August MHA meeting minutes

EDITOR'S NOTE: Because the newsletter was already in production, the minutes of the Aug.15 neighborhood association meeting could not be accommodated in the August-September print edition.

They will be published online in the neighborhood email group and in the October-November print edition.

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](https://www.facebook.com/mistletoeheights)

Mark your calendars!



Monday, Aug. 21:

First day of school for students in the Fort Worth School District

Grocery on Jerome Street once a neighborhood hub

Continued from Page 1

City directories from 1933 through 1965 listed the store variously as Mistletoe Grocery, Mistletoe Grocery & Market & Barbecue Stand, Ellis Grocery, L.R. Grocery & Market, LeRoy R. Ellis Grocery and Leon R. Grocery.

The closest competition was Tillery's Grocery at 2002 Forest Park Boulevard, which mainly served the Berkeley Place and Park Hill neighborhoods.

In the days before supermarkets like Kroger, Tom Thumb or Target, neighborhood groceries were tied closely to the



communities they served. A shopper could find in them most household needs and do a bit of socializing as well.

Neighborhood kids would stop by on the way home from school to buy candy, a Moon Pie or maybe an RC Cola, Grapette, Big Red, Nehi Orange or a Delaware Punch. Fudgsicles were 6 cents.

"The store often acted as babysitter for us grandkids on weekends and during the

summer months," John Scott, son of Peggy Scott and a great-grandson of the Ellises, wrote in an email.

"I remember spending my money on things like Beatles cards, candy, soda pops, etc. Wish I still had those Beatles cards."

John Scott, 64, passed on to the Mistletoe Express his mother's written memories of the store and added his own in a succession of emails.



Peggy Scott

"The store had two wooden meat blocks," wrote Peggy Scott. "The larger block served to hold the large leg of beef. It was a work of art to see the butcher as he sliced a perfect piece of round steak and then to saw the little round bone.

"You should have seen him slice that oh-so-thin calves liver," she wrote. "I loved watching as a little African American boy would come in and ask for 5

cents' worth of baloney. Pappy Ellis, as all called him, would pull a large round of baloney, place it on the smaller block and start slicing.

"He would then place it on the scales and, before wrapping it in white butcher's paper, and with a twinkle in those Irish blue eyes, he would see if you noticed his perfection in slicing 5 cents' worth of baloney."

Peggy Scott is a daughter of Earl and Marian Carter. Marian was one of four daughters of LeRoy and Lilian Ellis.

She described some items that you won't find at your local Kroger.

"There were always two large glass jars on top of the refrigeration that held all the

Family photos courtesy of John Scott



Five generations, left to right, Sharon Scott, Claude Thomas Scott Jr., L.R. Ellis, Peggy Scott, Marian Carter, 1969

meats and cheeses," she wrote. "One contained pickled pigs feet and the other the large 5-cent dill pickles. Popular items."

Peggy Scott's account of the store's inside is so descriptive that we'll just let her tell the story:

"The shelves lining the walls were neatly lined with canned goods, staples for baking, cleaning items, etc. The fruit and vegetables were beautifully displayed, but my favorite was the large stalk of bananas hanging upside down by a rope from the ceiling.

"The always-fresh fruits and vegetables were purchased on very early mornings by Lilian Ellis twice a week at the farmers market on Jones Street downtown.

"Of course, there was a Coca-Cola ice box of iced-down cold drinks. The children's favorite drink was Big Red. There was a wonderful supply of penny candy for all the young children in the neighborhood. (Some without a penny would just come in and



Outside the L.R. Ellis grocery

slip a piece, thinking Pappy Ellis didn't notice.)"

She also described the grocery's services and amenities:

"The store had a delivery service by phone for the neighborhood, charged on the books and delivered fee-free. Grandpa Ellis had a homemade brick barbecue pit on the side of the store. Best barbecue in town. In the summer there was a snow cone stand managed by the grandchildren."

Peggy Scott also described another Fort Worth institution of the time: the Wayside Church of God in Christ at 2100 Beckham Place, built in 1944 and pastored by Bishop R.E. Ranger.



John Scott in the side yard of the L.R. Ellis Grocery, Christmas 1966

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Bishop Ranger was a pioneer radio preacher, and the Wayside Church was the site of the first national black gospel radio ministry in America. At its peak, the bishop's radio ministry reached an audience estimated at 6 million.

"On Sunday morning and evening, you could sit in the yard with morning glories blooming on the fence and enjoy the worship service of Rev. Ranger's church down off Rosedale," Peggy Scott wrote. "The wonderful music and singing flowed through the entire neighborhood."

Pappy Ellis died around 1965, Peggy Scott recalled, and one of his daughters, Marian (known as Mama Carter), and her husband, Earl (Daddy Carter), carried on with the store.

"Mama Carter was a force of nature," John Scott recalls of his grandmother. "She was known to carry a huge, lime-green feathered tote purse, wearing up-curved, pointed gold lame shoes and singing You Are My Sunshine.

"When she phoned your house, you could be across the room and hear her voice bellowing through the receiver. She really cared for all of the neighborhood folk – the elderly, the families, the kids. It was truly a neighborhood store."

During her time running the store, John Scott recalled,

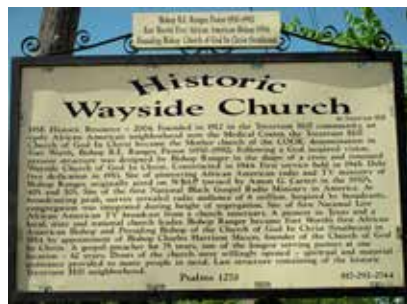
Mama Carter used a boxful of "charge books."

"Neighborhood patrons would write down their list of grocery items purchased, running a tab," he wrote. "There were a lot of unpaid bills and some falsifying of totals, but Mama Carter didn't care too much."

John Scott fondly recalls using the store as one of the "stopping points" when he and his brother Robert and cousins patronized now-gone businesses on the Near Southside: Al Rigby's barbershop, the Parkway Theater on Eighth Avenue at Park Place and the Griddle System hamburger joint next to the Parkway Theater across Eighth Avenue from Massey's Restaurant.

But a couple years after the death of Pappy Ellis, the neighborhood took another big hit when the store was badly damaged and Earl Carter suffered an untimely end.

"Daddy Carter (Earl), Marian's husband, was minding the store in 1967 while Mama Carter, my family and my Aunt Evelyn's family went to Midland to visit my Aunt Earline's family," wrote John Scott.



Historic sign at the Wayside Church describes its significance in the city's African-American community.



The Parkway Theater on Eighth Avenue at Park Place

"One night while we were gone, the gas water heater in the residence exploded and Daddy Carter died in his sleep in the fire.

Faced with stiff competition from supermarkets and big-box stores, "Mama Carter ran the rebuilt and refurbished store throughout the 1970s until she turned it into a 24-hour Alcoholics Anonymous location," John Scott wrote.

"All of the city's other locations closed at 8 p.m. She knew that folks with real problems needed help at the later hours, hence the 24-hour moniker.

"She really helped many people through the grocery store and then through the AA location. In fact, I wouldn't broach such info, but often the famous would stop at the AA place when they traveled through town."

John Scott, who still has a carving knife and cash register from the store, recalls that the AA location at 1401 Jerome operated for about five years, into the 1980s.

"I think the neighborhood grew impatient with the constant car traffic and she gave it up, selling the location to a prospective homebuyer. It became a residence."

Over the years, the building at 1401 Jerome St. had a succession of owners, before Melinda and Jayson Nag.

During an interview with one of those owners, who bought the house as a foreclosure for \$28,000 in 1989, she told of what she knew about the building and noted that she had found bloodstains under the carpet.

"Oh, you know about the murder, don't you?" she asked.

We didn't and she had scant details, other than it supposedly occurred in the latter half of the 1980s. Further research failed to turn up any more information.

So I guess that's a case for another neighborhood sleuth – and perhaps another story in the newsletter.

EDITORS'S NOTE:

This story was pieced together over the past couple of years with the help of



Kay Hubbard and Judy Staser, Fort Worth, 2015



Burroughs cash register that was in the store at 1401 Jerome St., now owned by John Scott

Peggy Scott, Kay Hubbard and Judy Staser, granddaughters of LeRoy and Lilian Ellis; John Scott, Peggy's son; Tracey Amaya, one-time owner of the residence; Jeff Gibbons, longtime Mistletoe Heights resident; the late Jim Shaw and his wife, Carol, former residents of Mistletoe Heights; and the Fort Worth Library.

Volunteers needed

We need more volunteers, especially some talented and energetic people to take over several key offices in the Mistletoe Heights Association. 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!

President: We will be looking for a new president for the MHA, beginning after our association meeting on Nov. 21. Josh Lindsay has served with great dedication for three years. This will be a great opportunity for someone who wants to serve the neighborhood to step forward.

Holding this job is a great honor and an opportunity to improve our neighborhood, affect the direction it is going, bring people together and to meet lots of interesting people!

General members' meetings are held quarterly, with officers' meetings held as needed prior to general meetings.

The board of officers of the Mistletoe Heights Association is very active and supportive and would happily help the new president learn the ropes.

A nominating committee will present a slate of candidates at the November meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. Or, you may even volunteer yourself!

Newsletter editor: We will be looking for a new newsletter editor as of the November members' meeting. Duties would start with the edition of December 2017-January 2018.

Your current editor, Mary Ellen Peipert, has done this job for three years. It's time to pass the baton to a new person.

Jim Peipert, the current photographer, will remain on the job, unless someone else would like to do it.

Don't worry! The new editor will receive full instructions and support during the transition and beyond. The newsletter is published every other month. Our layout person and printer are great to work with. It is a great job and a good way to keep plugged into the neighborhood and to meet a lot of nice and interesting people.

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.

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 Eastep Takes will provide information about the specific duties involved and will manage the schedule. Contact MHA Vice President Chad Jung if you are interested in any of these positions. vicepresident@mistletoheights.com.

Yard of the month

Photo by Jim Peipert



EDITOR'S NOTE: Our intrepid team of gardening experts, Claudia Camp and David Gunn, have been traveling and attending to family business as of late. They have selected a Yard of the Month for August but have not have time to write their usually thorough description of the yard's flora and features. That report will appear in the October-November issue of the newsletter, along with Yard of the Month reports on yards selected for later months.



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Back to school tips

By Elisa Rode

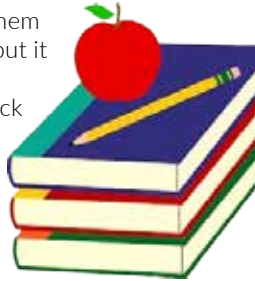
As a kid, back to school was my favorite time of year. Is there anything that tops the sight and the smell of a new box of crayons or a new pair of sneakers?

When my boys were younger, getting them ready to go back to school was exciting, but it was also a relief.

For us, back to school meant getting back into a regular routine – a welcome thing for this mom after countless camps and summer sleepovers.

As many neighborhood families start to transition to a back-to-school routine, here are some tips that might be helpful:

- Set your kids' sleep schedules back to "school time" two weeks before the first day.
- Set – and enforce – regular weekday and weekend bedtimes and wake-up times.
- Visit cultural attractions like museums to shift their brains into "scholar" mode.
- Reacquaint your kids with the calendar schedule they'll use to manage their activities. It might be good idea to let them choose a planner or scheduling tool that they're excited to use.
- Visit the school with your kids so they can get familiar with their new environments.



Back-to-school safety

Whether children walk or ride bicycles to school, it's important that they take proper safety precautions. Here are some tips courtesy of the National Safety Council to help your child travel safely to school.

Walking to school

- Review your family's walking safety rules, and practice walking to school with your child.
- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available. When on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic.
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Cross streets at crosswalks when available.



Riding a bike to school

- Make sure your child always wears his/her helmet when leaving the house.
- Make sure helmet is fitted and secured properly.
- Teach your children the rules of the road.
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in a single file.
- Come to a complete stop before crossing the street. Walk bike across street.

I hope it's a great year for all our neighborhood kids and parents!

Tip Sources: PBS.org, Care.com

BRIT's Special Events Come in All Varieties

Come join us! Here's a listing of our July and August First Saturday, Classes, Activities, Events, and Exhibits:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| JULY 7 | Exhibit (July 7 - Aug. 17) - <i>Desert, Water, Life...Death Valley in Bloom</i> by Grace Bascope, BRIT Research Associate. |
| JULY 11 | Noon Brown Bag Lecture: BRIT's Reggie Robinson and the Agents of Change discuss program and accomplishments. |
| JULY 17 | BRIT Reads Book Club: <i>The Botany of Desire</i> by Michael Pollan. |
| JULY 20 | Sip at BRIT - The Science of Whiskey with Rob Arnold, TX Whiskey Master Distiller. Learn the science behind making an award-winning whiskey, and treat your own palate. Registration and fee required, go to BRIT.org. Members get 50 % off |
| AUGUST 5 | First Saturday -Tours, Plant ID, and Bella the Begonia Story Time |

Please check BRIT.org for times, topics, and registration details



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Summer's over, back to school

By Wendy Blanton

When my husband and I moved to Fort Worth 14 years ago, we knew little about the neighborhoods and even less about the schools.

I am deeply grateful for whatever karma landed us on West Magnolia Avenue, the street where our future best friends lived in the best Fort Worth neighborhood that attends the best public elementary school (in my humble opinion).

In June, my younger daughter graduated from Lily B. Clayton. Having started there with our first daughter more than a decade ago, it will be strange to not return there this fall.

I clearly remember our first day of kindergarten. Walking up the front steps with my then 5-year-old (now a sophomore in high school), it seemed at once exciting and overwhelming. There was so much to take in, but it wasn't long before it felt like home.

If you are starting this journey, I think you're going to love it. The PTA is highly organized and there are many sources of information (including a Lily B. parents Facebook group).

You should have no trouble finding the information you need about school activities and ways to engage as a parent. If you're looking for a few pieces of unofficial and unsolicited advice, read on.

First, I strongly recommend walking to school, whenever possible. It added only 10 minutes to our travel time but it left the kids in a better state of mind when they arrived.

The brisk walk seemed to hit the mental reset button and clear away all the "Hurry! Have you brushed your teeth? Where are your shoes? Lets GO!!!" It also frees you from finding parking or navigating the drop-off traffic.

When you arrive on the first day, you will no doubt want to take a photo. The front steps leading up to the main doors make a good spot, as does the Lily B. marquis out front.

After delivering your precious/excited/terrified one to his or her classroom, you can head down to the library for the "Yahoo! Boo-Hoo!" coffee hosted by the PTA.

It's a great way to meet other parents and celebrate your drop-off victory. Some parents also hang around after the coffee to attend the first-day flag ceremony in front of the school.

Don't make this mistake. If you were able to leave your kindergartener without either of you breaking into tears as you walked out, consider yourself lucky and don't tempt fate. There will be five more years of flag ceremonies.

Once your child has settled in to the school routine and it's safe to show your face again, there are many ways to get involved at Lily B.

My favorite was volunteering to help in the cafeteria during lunch. Parents are needed to help the kindergarteners open containers and escort them outside for recess after lunch.

It's an easy way to learn the names and faces of your child's classmates. It also enables you to confirm or dispute your kiddie's claim that everyone else gets Oreos and Cheetos in their lunches.

For a list of volunteer opportunities, check the large envelope of paperwork that comes home at the start of school for the volunteer sign-up sheet.

There is something truly special about our sweet Lily B. that stays with us after we leave. It is a neighborhood asset that draws young families here and a thread that weaves connections once they arrive.

It is a place that values school history, tradition and character, a place where people choose to return to and to stay.

When my daughter started kindergarten, her beloved teacher had been teaching there since the early 1970s.

A classmate's mother had once been a student of hers and was returning as a Lily B. parent. Three of my daughters' other teachers were Lily B. graduates.

It comforts me to know that it will continue to be a part of our neighborhood experience and welcome others into the same family that we were lucky enough to be a part of.



In the city

Police non-emergency number: 817-392-4222

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 Tabitha Butler, 817-392-2045. tabitha.butler@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



Mistletoe Heights Association Supporters

As of August 3, 2017

Names in bold print have contributed since the last newsletter

Magnolia

Barrow, Wade & Brook	Hale, Tom & Pat	Robertson, Joshua & Kristina
Blackmon, Jeri Jo	McReynolds, Steve & Kathy	Smith, Flavious & Melanie
Dierker, Charlie & Kathy	Mitchell, Mark & Susie	Stuart, Andre & Estela
Easton, Chuck & Alicia	Parrish, Bill & Sue	Sybesma, Richard & Wendy
Ellis, Luke & Terri	Pressley, Brent & Susan	Tyson, Gerry & Meralen
Ewing, Scott & Val	Reck, Chris & Heather	Walker, Gene & Kathleen
Gross, Robert		Weiskittel, Adam & Anne

Holly

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Gunn, David	Lindsay Family	Pereth, Hank & Linda
Hagar, James & Tammy	Martin, Bill	

Mistletoe

Dowdle, Roy	McCracken, Thomas & Lea	Sledge, Sally
Matlock, Gray & Mary	McQuerns, Sam & Martha	Teague, Joy
	Simdon, SherryL	

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



2017 Levels of Giving

Magnolia - \$100 and up

Holly - \$50 to \$99

Mistletoe - Up to \$49

Advertising submission process

All ads must be paid for by the 10th of the month prior 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.

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

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KatiStory3@gmail.com

Neighbors in Action

Our neighbors in Mistletoe Heights are a pretty active group. Here are some who have been in the news recently:

Taylor Willis

Taylor Willis and her lifelong friend, Vanessa Barker, were the subjects of a July 22 story in the Fort Worth Business Press for founding the Welman Project in 2015.



Vanessa Barker and Taylor Willis. Photo from the Fort Worth Business Press

as a preschool teacher in New York and participating in New York

The Welman Project, of which Taylor and Vanessa are co-executive directors, is a nonprofit organization that helps schools and teachers repurpose surplus goods donated by businesses, offices and events.

Donated materials have ranged from excess glitter from a fashion show to melamine panels to misprinted T-shirts.

"The seed for the organization was planted when Barker was working

Fashion week," said the Business Press.

"Seeing the tons of gently used or even new materials going to waste gave her an idea. After the Victoria Secret Fashion Show, she took 300 pounds of unused glitter and donated it to schools around Manhattan."

Repurposing benefits the giver by reducing waste and the receiver by lowering expenses. Most of the Welman Project's work is currently with the Fort Worth school district.

"We are really the middleman, taking things from companies who want to give back to the community and delivering them to teachers, along with guidance in how to use them," Taylor says.

According to the Business Press, "since 2016, the organization has reused an average of 76 dumpsters worth of material or about 8 dumpsters per month. That's about \$7,000 worth of materials each month."

If you want to know more or help out, contact the Welman Project at www.thewelmanproject.org.



Richard Sybesma

Richard Sybesma has announced his retirement after nearly four decades as the head swimming and diving coach at Texas Christian University, the longest tenure as a head coach in TCU history.

"I've had an incredible 38 years at TCU and couldn't imagine a better place to spend my career and raise my family," Sybesma told the swimming news website SwimSwam.com in a June 16 post.

"It's been an incredible journey. TCU, this program and all the student-athletes I've come in contact with hold a special place in my heart. It will always bleed purple and support this program."

But he said he "reached a point in my life where I need to put myself, family and health first."

Richard came to TCU in 1979 and guided the Horned Frogs in

five different conferences: Southwest, the Western Athletic Conference, Conference USA, Mountain West and Big 12.

The Horned Frogs won seven team conference championships and 16 individual league titles under Sybesma. He coached seven national champions, 18 All-Americans and four Olympians. He is a five-time conference coach of the year.

A cheer in the Star-Telegram's Cheers & Jeers fixture on July 22 congratulated Richard on his career:

Cheers: To the longest tenured head coach in TCU history, Richard Sybesma. Thank you for all the roles you've played within the TCU and Fort Worth community: swimming coach, cheerleader, mentor, officiant, leader, fan and all-around great guy!

Congrats on retirement!
CHRIS AND BECKY HALL, COLLEYVILLE



Richard Sybesma with Mayor Betsy Price at the reopening of the newly refurbished Forest Park Pool in 2013

Do you know of a Mistletoe Heights neighbor who has accomplished something great?
Tell us about it at newsletter@mistletoeheights.org.

Grace Mitchell

Interior designer and blogger Grace Mitchell and her 1919 foursquare house on Mistletoe Boulevard are featured in an article called "The Storyteller" in the August issue of Better Homes & Gardens magazine.

"If these walls could talk ... actually, they do," said the magazine story. "Every paint color, every stick of furniture, every accessory speaks to the soul of the family living here and the passion of the creative mom who pulled it all together."

Grace, her husband, Kent, and four children have been renovating their house on a budget for the past six years and she has chronicled the process on her blog, "A Storied Style."

"Every Friday morning" said the Better Homes & Gardens story, "Grace Mitchell makes her rounds. Estate sales, thrift sales, salvage yards, they all get a stop."

"Like some kind of décor magpie, Grace snatches up castoffs – a rattan settee, a patterned plate, planks of weathered wood – that catch her eye and match her budget. She brings them home, spiffs them up, and incorporates them into her nest: a 1919 foursquare in Fort Worth."

She told Better Homes & Gardens: "If this house tells a story, we wrote it one chapter at a time, covered in dust and walking on plastic sheeting all the way ... But we made it our own."



The August issue of Better Homes & Gardens magazine



The title page for the story about Grace Mitchell and her Mistletoe Heights home in August issue of Better Homes & Gardens magazine



Grace Mitchell and her four children. Photo from Better Homes & Gardens magazine



Thanks to the following good neighbors for stepping up to fill volunteer positions:

- Beth Krugler for placing flowers on the porch of Will and Liz Northern after their car was broken into overnight.
- Chuck Easton for pouring the concrete base for the plaque at the baseball backstop in Newby Park honoring Drew Medford and Charlie Bourland.
- Nancy Medford, Kathy Jo Rogers, Denise Semple and Deborah Jung for working on getting the "Charlie's Field" sign made for installation at the baseball backstop. The neighborhood will be informed as to the date of the installation ceremony.



The plaque behind the baseball backstop in Newby Park dedicated to Charlie Bourland and Drew Medford

If you know of any "unsung heroes" who have made contributions to the neighborhood, please contact newsletter@mistletoeheights.org so we can include them in the next newsletter.

Thank you to all who help make our neighborhood better.

Mistletoe Heights Association Annual Dues Drive

All residents of Mistletoe Heights are members of the association and dues donations are completely voluntary. Any amount is welcomed and appreciated. In addition to the seasonal social gatherings, landscape maintenance, newsletter and directory publications, dues donations fund a number of special projects.

Our annual dues drive begins in April and continues through October. You will see this flyer in our newsletter each of those months as we collect dues donations for our neighborhood association. We will recognize donors in EVERY newsletter through October with the final recognition published in our December issue.



Levels of giving for this year are:

Mistletoe – up to \$49
Holly - \$50 to \$99
Magnolia - \$100 and up



Thank you for supporting your neighborhood association.
Together we can make Mistletoe Heights an even better place to live.

\$25

\$50

\$75

\$ Other

Please return your dues
donation to:

Name(s) _____
(As you prefer to be listed in the newsletter)

Address: _____

Mistletoe Heights Association
c/o Jeri Jo Blackmon
1408 Mistletoe Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76110

☐

Please check here if you wish your donation to remain anonymous

Check here if you can volunteer some time to our association and include a
telephone number where we can reach you _____

Free classified ads

COMPLETE PROPERTY RENOVATION

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

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

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.

SECURITY SERVICES

In light of recent thefts in our neighborhood, I'm offering installation services of web-based security cameras at a discount for Mistletoe Heights residents. My normal fee is \$120, but, for a limited time, I'm discounting my fee to \$89. I am a certified "Nest" installer and also install "Ring" devices, such as doorbell cameras and floodlight/camera combinations. If you have an existing motion-detection light, floodlight, outside fixture, or doorbell, we can install a camera. Please call me for a free estimate and consultation. 817-201-7100 David Luttrell, fortworthhomerepair.com

HOME WANTED

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

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.

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.

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.

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	817.392.4222
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	
Justin Newhart	817.392.8037
justin.newhart@fortworthtexas.gov	
Southside Preservation Hall	
Hallyes@earthlink.net	817.926.2800
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
Susan Willis	817.924.4000
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	
Claudia Camp	817.924.5193

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	
Mark Philpot	817-681-6681
2100 Harrison Ave.	
Chris & Sawyer Taylor	817.201.5320
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	
Adam & Anne Weiskittel	817.653.2912
2200 Weatherbee	
Adam & Anne Weiskittel	817.653.2912
2100 Morphy	
Ben Connelly	
Forest Park Blvd.	
Steve McReynolds	817.926.7955

West of Forest Park

2300 W. Rosedale South	
Jamie Qualls	Phone # TBA
2300 Irwin	
Steve McReynolds	817-926-7955
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.	
The Fullers	817-291-1298
2300 Edwin	
Janis Arwin	
1100 Clara	
Marc & Kathy Jo Rogers	817.923.3304
1200 Clara	
Bryce & Laura Docker	bryedocker@hotmail.com
1100 Buck	
Martin Herring	817.923.3843
1200/1300 Buck	
Irene Stemple	817.926.6546
1100 Mistletoe Drive	
Mark and Kellye Neuweiler	
1200-1414 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 15th of the month.