



Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.com

May 2008



Easter fun at Newby Park, thanks to new organizers Susan & Brent Pressley! From left: Carter, Mia & Gabrielle take a break; River gets a hug from the Easter Bunny; Mia fills her basket.

Message from the President, Jeff Davis

Never miss a meeting—never!

I was having a pretty good glass of wine one evening last month when I received a hand-written note from Rose Lynn Scott congratulating me on being elected as president of the Mistletoe Heights Association ... in absentia.

I've lived at 2325 Mistletoe Drive for 21 years and before that for about three years at what's currently the Elbert house on 1424 Mistletoe Drive.

The only "office" I held during that time was vice president of the garden club, in which everyone was a vice president. So, was it time to give back to this wonderful neighborhood? Of course! No doubt!

Past leadership in Mistletoe Heights has done much to keep our historical integrity intact, keep us safer and keep us together as the premier neighborhood in all of Fort Worth.

We have much to thank them for, and, as Dana Carvey said in the movie *Wayne's World*, "I am not worthy!" But, with your help—and our neighborhood needs your help—I will do my best.

My priorities will be to continue to zealously protect Mistletoe Heights from development that would negatively affect us, to keep us informed through our newsletter and Web site about issues that affect the neighborhood, provide information about ways we could keep us safer and to make Mistletoe Heights stronger through such events as our Fourth of July parade, Easter egg hunt, pumpkin-carving contest, yard of the month awards, the return of the Don't Quit Your Day Job Band, encouragement of block

(please turn to page 5 for the conclusion and a picture of President Jeff Davis)

City Council District 9 Town Hall Meeting

with council representative Joel Burns
and mayor Mike Moncrief

Monday, May 19, 2008 • 6:30- 9 PM

Travis Avenue Baptist Church, 800 West Berry

**Mistletoe Heights Association
Neighborhood meeting
May 20, 2008 • 6:30PM
Chadra Mezza & Grill (1622 Park Place)
On the agenda: 4th of July parade**

Zoo parking queue in Mistletoe Heights

Surprise Signs

Spring break brought increased traffic to the Fort Worth Zoo and surprise signs on the freeways directing zoo traffic off I-30 and south onto Forest Park Boulevard, through Mistletoe Heights to reach the zoo entrance.

At times there was a parking line of idling vehicles that stretched from the zoo's ticket gate back to Park Place, up around the corner onto Forest Park Boulevard and back toward the freeway. Stop-and-go traffic inched through Mistletoe Heights down Forest Park Boulevard.

Those temporary signs are gone now, and might not be back.

Previous Agreements and Compromises

NOT routing zoo traffic through our residential neighborhood was part of the deal when the zoo main parking lot moved from near University Drive to its present location. There are longstanding rationales for not having zoo directional signs anywhere east of the zoo main parking lot entrance (east, toward Forest Park Boulevard).

The most recent is Wendy Davis' 2005 message to the City Manager's office for city employees to stop seeking to put zoo directional signs at Forest Park Boulevard and Park Place. Public safety issues include emergency vehicle access both to the zoo parking lots, and to the approximately sixty residences on Park Place in or near the apartment tower.

City Not Liable for I-30 Zoo Queue Accidents

City of Fort Worth Parks Department employees claim that routing the zoo parking queue onto Forest Park Boulevard is necessary "to prevent backups on I-30 that potentially open the City to liability if wrecks were to occur." Lawyers advising the Mistletoe Express say that is not true. Our City Council member Joel Burns is looking into it for us.

We hope the answer is that it was a one-time event necessitated by congestion caused by the construction on University Drive.



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Minutes of the February 2008 meeting of Mistletoe Heights Association

Feb. 19, 2008

The annual potluck dinner/meeting was held at Urban Realty Resources on College Avenue. President Hao Tran opened the meeting by introducing Joel Burns, newly elected City Council member for District 9, who spoke briefly about city issues affecting our neighborhood.

Joel Burns announcements

Burns announced that Gaye Reed of Mistletoe Heights is a new zoning commissioner and that Jim Bradbury, past president of the MHA, has been appointed to the city's gas-drilling task force.

Joel Burns can be contacted at his office (817-392-8809) or on his mobile phone (817-209-5555).

New NPO

Hao also introduced the new NPO for Mistletoe Heights, Mark Russell. Officer Russell announced that, because of a restructuring, there will be only one NPO for all of Mistletoe Heights and that code enforcement officers and NPOs now have the same boundaries, making for more efficient coordination. Officer Russell also spoke briefly about Citizens On Patrol and the Neighborhood Watch programs. He gave a brief rundown about neighborhood crimes and reiterated the longstanding warning to residents to keep their property locked and out of view, especially in cars.

Neighborhood directory

Wendy Blanton and Liz Stevens will undertake compiling a new neighborhood directory during the next three to four months. A motion was made and approved to allocate \$2,207 toward printing the new directory.

Treasurer's report

In the absence of Treasurer Leslie Houston, Hao reported that approximately \$13,500 is in the MHA account and that Jeri Jo Blackmon has agreed to take over as treasurer.

Gas drilling

Dan Gilbert and Adam Kelly of Fort Worth Energy reported on gas drilling as it applies to

Mistletoe Heights. Approximately 60 percent of MH residents have signed a gas lease. About 67 percent is needed to start drilling. The drill site will be north of Interstate 30, along Forest Park Boulevard south of the city's water-treatment facility.

It is not yet known if the MHA will receive a monetary donation from XTO/Fort Worth Energy, as did the Berkeley Place Association.

Joe's Run

Aaron Segal of Samaritan House reported on a fundraiser called "Joe's Run 5K" at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 29. It will be confined to the near south side, starting and ending at Samaritan House, 929 Hemphill. Ten restaurants will provide food at the end for all paid participants. Register online (Google "Samaritan House") or at Samaritan House.

Historical survey

Renee Hutter of the Lopez Garcia Group, an engineering firm, and a city historian, Susan Kline, reported on a Historic Preservation Survey being conducted by the Lopez Garcia Group under contract with the city of Fort Worth's Planning Department.

The survey is being done in 17 neighborhoods over a five-year period. It will update and replace previous surveys, the last one having been done in the 1980s. The current phase includes Mistletoe Heights.

The city randomly assigned Mistletoe Heights boundaries for the survey, which leave out some areas of "our definition" of the neighborhood and which may be amended on recommendation of the surveyors. Each house in the neighborhood will be examined to determine its historical contribution.

An interactive Web site will be created with a database that will include a resource number for and description of each house, as well as front and rear views of the property. This work should be completed by the end of March.

The survey will also produce a publication that will include many fascinating details about Mistletoe Heights history. Some of these, ably presented by Susan Kline: Mistletoe Heights was

(continued, next page)

Minutes of the February meeting, continued

first platted in 1890 and contains six additions; the developers who platted the original portion of MH were from Denver; the developers who platted the Sangamo Park Addition were from Springfield, Ill.; MH was replatted in 1911, at which time The Triangle was included; Newby Park was created in the late 1940s; a section of old MH was wiped out in the 1960s by construction of I-30.

Midtown project

The Midtown project was discussed at length. The property was originally purchased for development by Trademark and then sold to the Raymond Group. It's uncertain at this time whether the Raymond Group will abide by the terms as set by the original negotiations, which included the input and interests of MH.

A hearing on the project is planned by the Zoning Commission on March 12.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Peipert,
Secretary

Idea for next MHA yard sale

Shelley Hardell shares a suggestion to make next year's MHA yard sale more "city-friendly". Here's what we would need for next time:

- a volunteer to receive and compile a list of participants' addresses (Lauren?)
- a volunteer to fax the list to the city
- a fax number from the city

Read it in the emails below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Shelley J. Hardell
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2008 2:52 PM
To: Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood
Subject: Re: Neighborhood Garage Sale

Hi!!!! When I finally reached someone to get my permit set up for the garage sale this weekend, she had a great suggestion that I wanted to pass on to MHNA.

She suggested that for our neighborhood-wide garage sale, a list of all participating addresses be faxed in so that permits can be issued all at once. This would cut down on the hundreds of calls they receive and the website going down due to traffic overload. Just a thought...

Shelley

-----Original Message-----

From: Lauren Doeren
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 3:48 PM
To: Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood
Subject: Neighborhood Garage Sale

Please contact the city Garage Sale Permit Department at 817-392-7851 to obtain your free permit. ...

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"Our only job is to make you look good."

Message from the President, Jeff Davis
continued



President Jeff Davis

parties and perhaps other special projects.

There's much to do. I'll be outlining the committee structure, current volunteers and reports from some committee chairs on current matters affecting us in the next newsletter. This is your neighborhood. Please help when you're able and let us know what we can do better.

On a personal note, I'm an attorney and work for Republic Title downtown. I have two girls—Dru, who is at Colorado College, and Amber, who sells those new Smart Cars in Dallas—and two and one-half dogs, the half being a chihuahua.

My hobbies are golf, wine, movies and politics, and I enjoy traveling, live theater, chamber music and rock 'n' roll—not in that order. My cellphone number is 817-999-6154 and my e-mail address is jeffdavis@republictitle.com.

Many thanks to Hao Tran for keeping us together this past year and to all those who do so much for our neighborhood.

And let's have some fun!

(Note: No, Jeff did not select the picture. The idiot editor did.)



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New MHA neighborhood directory! Are you updated?

You should have received mail with the form to update or start your free listing in the Mistletoe Heights directory. Our *volunteer* editors have sent this reminder about your listing.

Dear Neighbors,

Thanks to all who have returned their forms to be included in the Mistletoe Heights directory. It has been fun reading some of the facts and folklore about houses in our neighborhood!

If you did not receive a form, you can contact us to send you one, or simply send us an e-mail with your street address, phone number and names of people in your house, plus any interesting facts you know about your house or the people who once lived in it.

If you would prefer *not* being included in the directory, ***please let us know*** so that we won't bug you for your information.

In the spirit of reciprocity, ***here is our info:***

Wendy Blanton, 817-926-1792

wendy_blanton@hotmail.com

Liz Stevens, 817-922-8208

lizru@sbcglobal.net

Thanks!
Wendy

I love my "gray Taco Bell"...

The gray mission-style bungalow on Harrison Avenue has been my home for almost 30 years. And Mistletoe Heights has always meant much more to me than just a convenient place to live.

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■

The Yard of the Month for May goes to the Airplane Style House at 2312 Edwin Ave. When the selection committee contacted the homeowners, they explained that they moved to the house last summer and that the previous owners (the McBees who relocated in the neighborhood to Mistletoe Drive) had remodeled the house, reclaimed the previously enclosed porch, designed and planted the yard.

Yet the new owners Todd Kerstetter and Holly McFarland are working to keep everything in top shape—even with a new baby in the house. There is a pleasant distinction of color and depth in the raised sculptured flower beds.

Variegated pittosporums give a nice backdrop to purple fringe plants. A Japanese maple connects the low-growing boxwood and the older pecan tree near the house.

The porch side of the house has azaleas and hawthornes, and both sides are connected by blooming



2312 Irwin Yard of the Month

photographed 4/27/08

pansies. The beds are lined with river rocks that also connect the two sides.

There is a large cedar tree in mid yard and a live oak at the street that give balance and contrast to the setting. Congratulations to the new homeowners and welcome to the neighborhood!

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Session 2 • May 12-22

Session 3 • May 27-June 5

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Session 4 • June 9-19

Session 5 • June 23-July 3

Session 6 • July 7-17

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Good advice from Police Officer Mark Russell

...folks, our BMV (burglary of motor vehicles) are getting out of hand. Y'all please hide all electronic cords, electronic devices, loose change and bags of any type and lock your [car] doors. If you have a garage and have room in it, please put your cars inside. I know this is a hassle, but let's not make it easy for this thief or thieves to steal our stuff.

We are working hard at trying to ID and capture this guy, but until we do, let's limit the eye candy we show him in our cars. The particular thief has not broken any windows to obtain entry, yet. He walks the street and lifts up on door handles; if they are open he will rummage through to see if there is anything of value to take.

As some of you may or may not have heard, the one suspect that we know of is described as a w/m 20-30 average height and build. Short blonde or light brown hair and wearing blue denim backpack and wears tennis shoes with reflectors on the back. He has been seen by 3 different

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persons in and around TCU all the way up to the Berkeley, Mistletoe Heights and into Fairmount area.

One homeowner [in Mistletoe Heights] heard a noise outside one night, looked out and saw a w/m walking away from her car. She yelled at her husband who ran outside after the individual. While exiting his house he noticed a dark-colored SUV parked nearby but was concerned with following the suspect. He followed him a block, lost sight of him as he turned the corner on Forest Park, then lost sight altogether.

When he got back home, he saw the SUV take off. He got into his car to follow and chased it for several blocks, but the bad guy evaded him. The police were later called.

Please always call 911 if you look outside and see someone looking into your cars or checking door handles or might appear to be lingering around your neighborhood too long. It's better that we check them out and find that they are a new neighbor, rather than having your cars or homes [damaged] or something worse happening. I don't recommend chasing after anyone either, because what would you do if you actually catch them and they point a gun at you or pull the trigger?

Just call 911—a patrol officer might be on the next street over.



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Diggers of the Earth

Gardening by Dotty Zamora-Guffey

"Everywhere in our lives, flowers bloom. As universal tokens of love, gratitude, and sympathy, flowers embrace the senses. A flower delights us with its beauty and fragrance, and beckons our fingertips with its delicate petals." (by Michelle Lovric)

Walking in the neighborhood of Mistletoe Heights brings joy this spring. The beautiful yards are the hard labor of diggers of the earth. Some folks even take the time to take me for a backyard view with a delightful story. I hope to continue walking and meeting those who wish to share and show. I am Dotty Zamora-Guffey, your new gardening columnist.

My daughter accuses me of being the original organic gardener—I have been doing that since 1973.

Gardening tip of the month:

If you are having problems with black spot and powdery mildew on roses, rock rose and other plants, discard all diseased leaves and mist plants with hydrogen peroxide.

During dry weather a misting every other day for three applications, and every day during rainy weather should do. Be sure to protect your eyes!



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Neighborhood Classifieds

Home services

Babysitter on Call

New to Mistletoe Heights. Stay-at-home mom offers babysitting to neighborhood moms. References available. Diana Brandenburg - 214-734-9140 Email: dianakaypugh@aol.com

No Time for Your Yard?

Give me a call! I'm your Mistletoe Heights neighbor, and I can offer you competitive pricing and plenty of references. Call Daniel Tice at 817-797-0307.

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Mary Kay Cosmetics

Paula Cady Russell at 2201 Mistletoe Blvd. is a Mary Kay consultant. Call her at 921-6377 for a free makeover, gift service or if you've "lost" your consultant.

Rental wanted

Want to Rent

Single white female (airline flight attendant) would like to rent a small apartment or guest house here in the MH area. Call 817-715-2312.

Just a reminder, neighbors...please be sure to periodically check out our **Mistletoe Heights bulletin board** at: <http://www.mistletoeheights.com/forum/>. If you haven't registered to post messages, it's easy to do. Just follow the prompts.

Many categories are set up in the forum section, but new categories can be added. Scroll down to "New Topics" and post your request for a new topic.

The bulletin board welcomes "for your information" announcements, as well as discussion topics. You can also post your time-sensitive and crime-related messages there, too. (These latter two types of messages can also be sent via the MH email system: info@mistletoeheights.com.)

Thanks! Laurie A. McCoy, Email Monitor

Are you a new volunteer for the Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Association?

Thank you so much! Look for your name in the staff box on the back cover. No phone number listed? We need it. Please send it to the editor: mistletoenews@yahoo.com

And if I've forgotten an office altogether, send me that. Thanks again.

Urgent request, from e-chatter!

Can you be a street rep?

We are in need of street reps for the 2100 block of Edwin, the 2100 block of Harrison and the 2100 block of Morphy. Pat Hale, East Street-Rep Captain
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Police, Non-Emergency	335-4222		
Lily B. Clayton Elementary	922-6660		it.ftworth.isd.tenet.edu/116/
Paschal High School	922-6600		http://www.paschalhs.org/
Historic Preservation (Liz Casso) ...	392-8037	liz.casso@fortworthgov.org	
The T/Longhorn Trolley	215-8600		www.the-t.com
TRE, Trinity Railway Express	215-8600		www.trinityrailwayexpress.org
City Code Violations	392-1234		
Graffiti Abatement	212-2700		
Southside Preservation Hall	926-2800	Hallyes@earthlink.net	www.southsidepreservation.com
Garage Sale Permits	392-7851	http://www.fortworthgov.org/forms/default.aspx?ekfrm=34386	
Sidewalks	392-7872		
Street Light malfunction	392-8100		
Joel Burns, City Council	392-8809	district9@fortworthgov.org	http://www.fortworthgov.org/citycouncil/

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Patsy Slocum 923-5510

City Liaison

Mike Windsor 377-0060

E-Mail Monitor

Laurie McCoy

Webmaster

Scott Ewing

Street Reps by block**West of Forest Park****2300 W. Rosedale South**

Kimberly Helixon 927-4641

2300 Irwin

Sue Duvall 926-8714

2300/2400 Mistletoe Blvd.

Lisa Stewart 924-9666

2300 West Magnolia

Susan Pressley 923-6061

2300/2400 Harrison

Faye Dowdle 926-7571

2300 Mistletoe Ave.

Sam & Jack Bradbury 924-9869

2300 Edwin

Grant Pannell 924-0051

1100 Clara

Jack & Lorri Kendrick 924-2800

1200 Clara

Betty Arvin 924-7088

1100 Buck

Kate Herring 921-9027

1200/1300 Buck

Simone Scott 924-3838

1100 Mistletoe Dr.

Kim Musgrove 923-6785

1200–1500 Mistletoe Dr.

Rochelle Graham 927-2967

2300 Mistletoe Dr.

Sandy Tarpley 924-9215

Street Reps by block**East of Forest Park****2200 W. Rosedale South**

Carrie Johnson 926-9776

2200 Irwin

Gary Willis 924-4000

2100/2200 Mistletoe Blvd.

Gil DeHoyos 926-6409

2100/2200 West Magnolia

Mecca Givens 927-2244

2100 Harrison

VACANCY

2200 Harrison & Jerome

Michael Applewhite 729-8870

2100 Mistletoe Ave.

Neataw Engels 927-2468

2200 Mistletoe Ave.

Richard & Christi Yantis 924-2857

2100 Edwin

VACANCY

2200 Edwin

Wyatt Teague 923-2330

2100 Weatherbee

Judy Gude 926-8843

2200 Weatherbee

Susan Harwell 923-8806

2100 Morphy

VACANCY

Forest Park Blvd.

Steve McReynolds 926-7955

Publishing info*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 info helps, if we have questions for you.

Letters should be about half a page (around 350 words). Please email to: mistletoenews@yahoo.com or send via postal mail to 2225 W. Magnolia by the 15th of the month.

Help us out. Join MHA!

Yearly dues are \$5, \$10, \$25 or more. Your dues help pay for this newsletter, the Mistletoe Heights phone directory and many other neighborhood functions. Send checks to treasurer Jeri Jo Blackmon, 1408 Mistletoe Dr.

Neighborhood Police Officer Mark Russell**Office** 817-871-8885**Mobile** 817-991-8472**Email:** Markus.Russell@fortworthgov.org

Deadline for articles, letters, columns & ads:
15th of each month.

Classified ads: Free. Mistletoe Heights residents only.
Must renew ads each month. Call 817-924-8674 or email mistletoenews@yahoo.com.

Advertising rates

Business card (1/8-pg) \$18

Quarter page \$36

Third page \$54

Half page \$61

Full page \$120

Insert, preprinted 8½x11" \$60

Call for specs, mechanical sizes and to place your ad.
Temporary # 817-924-8674; leave a message.