



The Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.com

October 2009

Keep Halloween alive!

By Marjorie Day

When I was a child in New York, Halloween was the only night that lacked parental rule. Not only could I wear anything I wanted, but I could go anywhere I wanted with nothing more than my pillowcase and an assurance from my older brother that he would not leave my side. Let's say once we hit the second doorbell, he was gone. I didn't freak out and call my parents because it was not a cool thing to even have parents on Halloween, and of course, there were no cell phones. I simply went around the neighborhood until I hooked up with the kids I knew which took about 2 minutes. We stopped at the grocery market, got shaving cream and eggs and looked for homes with the lights out. Any house that we came upon with the lights out, received a barber's welcome and an egg on the porch.

We liked apartment buildings because you could move quickly from one door to another and get your bag filled quickly. We liked streets with houses just like Mistletoe Heights because you could easily walk through the neighborhood and move fast. Houses on hills, houses with stairs, houses set back far on the property were deemed a waste of time. What if you went all that way and they offered something you hated like green lollipops?

A favorite among my buds were the houses that would leave out "honor candy". We always took our fair share and nothing more but we knew that one kid would take the whole bowl from the stoop. If we saw that happening, we would egg the kid in an ovo-ambush.

Halloween was the best holiday, well maybe Christmas was better but it was close and then, slowly, you could see the pullback, from the best night of the year. Halloween was dying.

The first false story about the razors in the apples had come out in the news and even though it was found out to be a hoax, the yearly ritual of the apple treat was deemed dangerous and sinister. In fact, anyone who would hand out an apple was suspect. I remember my mother saying, "Don't take any apples or homemade cookies or candy. If it doesn't come from the store don't eat it. But most of all apples. Do not eat any apples...apples are dangerous!"

MH Pumpkin carving contest

By Steve McReynolds

After a long hot summer, the mornings are once again crisp, and fall is threatening. Before you turn around, it's time for the annual Mistletoe Heights Pumpkin Carving Contest. The rules for this event are simple. After dusk, on the night before Halloween (Thursday October 30th) an elite gang of gourd judges hit the street to pick the best pumpkin creations.

Only real carved pumpkins can be entered into the contest. The Grand Prize winner will get 100 shares of Pontiac stock or a \$50. prize (to be decided later). The winner and all honorable mentions will get a fabulous write up in the newsletter.

Plan your gourds grimace now...get the whole family involved! Remember judging occurs the night before Halloween and Styrofoam and plastic pumpkins will not be considered a viable entry.

NEW NEIGHBORS!

Trick or Treaters flock to Mistletoe Heights from all over town, so be prepared to deliver the hospitality and treats. And keep an eye out for The Mistletoe Halloween Street Band on their annual roam...



Inside This Issue

- 1 Keep Halloween alive and Pumpkin carving
- 6 Yard of the month
- 10 Sign Committee report
- 12 Gardening in October
- 13 Dues and expenses

Have you contributed dues to Mistletoe Heights? There still time to be on the list checkout page 13

Work Close to Home



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Continued from page 1

The school sent out warnings of children being drugged with candy and after that hoax my mother made us show all of our loot on the kitchen table for a pre-eating inspection. There she sat with her bifocals on, looking for evidence of razors or poison on my mini-snickers. The amazing thing is that this hysteria had no media discrediting it. Why should the media discredit this false reports when everyone glued to the nightly news to see if it was safe for the kids to visit the old couple down the street who made candy apples? Who were these demon stranger neighbors? Halloween was under attack by word of mouth, urban legend, and a media that liked good ratings no matter how they were had.

Halloween in a few years was dismantled by a collective of fearmongers and media cheeseballs from a night of joy, into a bunch of Kool-aid punch parties, and teacher sponsored costume parades of young kids in front of older kids. When I saw the new safe Halloween with its cheap white powdered donuts, k-mart costumes, and parents nearby for the kids that came after me, I was glad that I lived Halloween as a free child in a world that had not gone 100% helmet law.

Halloween is more a community connective celebration than any other holiday. Neighbors open their doors to children and offer a bowl of treats. I know how I look forward to seeing the costumes of kids and always love to see the inventiveness of a home-made costume. It's a time to make everything scary, funny and fun. It's a night to diminish fears by opening up your home and offering the dentist in your neighborhood some potential cavities to fill. Don't be a frump and leave the porch light off.

So make a costume, fill the bowl with candy, carve your pumpkin for the contest, be silly and be the neighbor that screams with horror when they see a 3 foot spook covered in a sheet. It's a time to bring young and old together, mock our fears and eat and undetermined number of tiny candy bars.



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Please be aware...

We've received reports that people are going door to door in the community attempting to sell magazines and books implying that the proceeds benefit Cook Children's. This is not a legitimate or sanctioned activity. Cook Children's does not conduct or endorse door to door solicitations. If you are contacted or solicited at your home, please do not support this fraudulent activity. Please alert your friends and neighbors as well.

Naturally, it's our hope that these activities will not impact fundraising by Cook Children's Health Foundation because community support is so critical to fulfilling our promise.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Gary Cole, vice president for Development, Cook Children's Health Foundation, at 682-885-4104 or via email at Gary.cole@cookchildrens.org.

Happy Halloween



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MHA Meetings and Events

November 17th

7pm, for consistency purposes all Regular Association meetings will be at Jeff Davis' home at 2325 Mistletoe Drive. The election of officers will be held at the November 17th meeting.

Boo at the Zoo

October 22 - October 27, 2009 5:30 - 8 p.m.
www.fortworthzoo.org

Pumpkin carving

Thursday, October 30
Dusk - Mistletoe Heights

Halloween October 31

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Anyone who may have a used but running A/C window unit for sale, please send me a note at hao@urbangreenbuild.com.

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New Street Captains and Reps:

Let's all take the time to personally thank Melissa Kohouts for taking over the job as the eastside Street Captain. We also have thank you's to go out to Aaron Torkelson for taking over the Street Rep position on the 2200 block of Harrison, and Katrina Pittman for taking over the Street Rep position on the 2200/2100 block of Edwin. We really appreciate it!

Thanks,

Marjorie Day

Bob Bourland

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YARD OF THE MONTH – 2304 Irwin

Yard of the month for October 2009 goes to Nora Oliver and Bob Marvin at 2304 Irwin. Nora and Bob bought this house in the summer of 2006 when Nora moved here from Cape Cod. Nora explains she had always lived on the East Coast in contemporary houses and as soon as she walked in the door she fell in love with this vintage bungalow style home. She had always wanted an older home and this one was built the year her mother was born.

There has been an ongoing trial and error experiment, as Nora tried many of the plants she was familiar with from her East Coast yards which did not survive in Texas summers. The front walk, the curb and the sidewalk are paved with flagstone and accented with crepe myrtles and liriope. A bed planted with dwarf yaupon lines the inside of the sidewalk, and continues around the west side of the property where a large pecan tree and a smaller redbud are interspersed with pittisporum and ferns. The beds in front of the large covered porch contain pampas grass and rosemary on either side of the steps, and ferns and boxwood and a magnolia tree to the left. Nora says neighbors told them grass would never grow well in the front yard because of the shade, but their perseverance has won out and St. Augustine grass is thriving there. Nora gives Bob the credit for this and calls herself the idea person and Bob the laborer as he loves to work in the yard. To the right of the walk daisies and Indian hawthorns, and nandina provide flowering color. Variegated bougainvilleas are planted in pots beside the steps and a hanging basket on the porch features periwinkles now but Nora says she will replace them soon with chrysanthemums and later with pansies for all-year color. The driveway to the right of the house leading under the covered parking area is lush with greenery of ferns, hostas, daisies and nandinas. Nora has roses in her back yard where she has more sun, and has also built a waterfall there so she can hear the sound of water. Mistletoe Heights salutes this yard and thanks Calloway's Nursery for providing a gift certificate to each winner.





Neighborhood Police Officer

Mark Russell

Office 817-871-8885

Mobile 817-991-8472

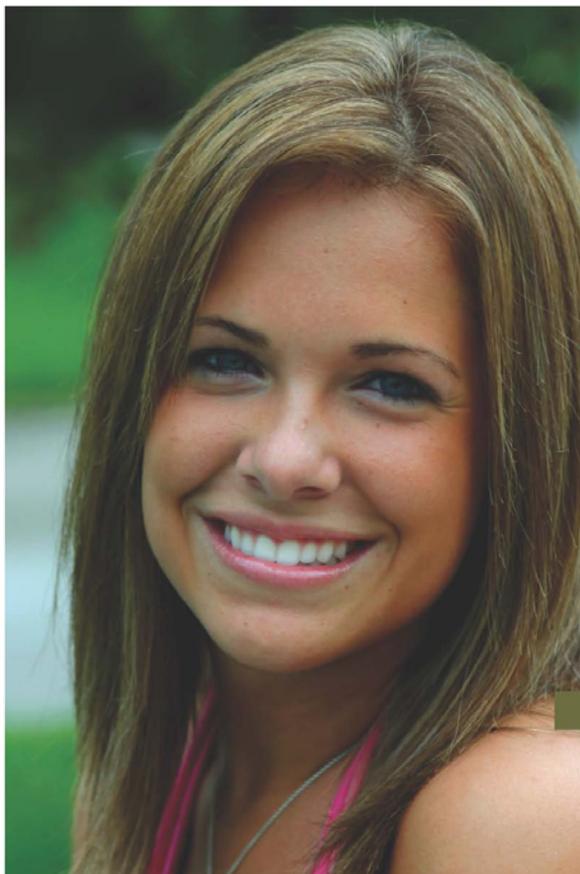
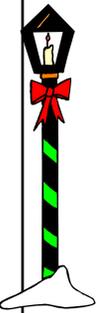
Email: Markus.Russell@fortworthgov.org

Please watch out for your neighborhood, and be mindful as much as possible. Lock your doors, lock your car and remember to lock windows as well. Leave a talk radio program on, as it sounds like someone is home. Arrange for mail holds if going out of town and ask neighbors to pick up door flyers if one should find itself on your front door knob.

Volunteer Found for Christmas Streetlight Bow-tying Party

Save the date! We have new hosts for the annual Mistletoe Heights Bow-tying Party! So a big shout out to Gary and Susan Willis for becoming the new home for this gathering. The Bow-tying event will be at Gary and Susan Willis's home at 2237 Irwin, on Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 22).

Since there is a Cowboys game at noon that day, Gary and Susan will start around 4:00 p.m. There will be another announcement in the newsletter, and a reminder email. Be sure to say thanks to Gary and Susan Willis.



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The Presbyterian Night Shelter is ending homelessness one individual at a time through **Operation Move Out!** PNS is asking volunteers to donate basic furniture items, toiletries and other household necessities so the clients aren't moving into empty homes. Having a comfortable home will ensure their successful and decrease any chances of re-entering the Shelter.

Starting May 28, furniture, toiletries and other household items can be dropped off at PNS from 10 am. to 2 pm on Thurs and Sat., at 5501 Thelin St., Suite 131 Quantity donations can be picked up (on Thurs & Sat 10 am and 2 p.m.) to schedule (call 817-632-7415).

If you are interested in participating in or donating to Operation Move Out, please contact Heather White at 817-632-7415 or hwhite@pns-tc.org

Do you have more t-shirts than you can wear? I have a solution! Turn them into memory quilts. Call Jill at 817-217-4497 or visit www.sew-what-quilts.com

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Volunteer Family needed for the July Forth Ice Cream social. Please contact jeffdavis@republictitle.com

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Thief caught! 9/3/09

Today at 1pm I saw two men breaking in to my truck that was parked on West Magnolia. I called 911 and stayed on the phone while one guy broke the steering column and tried to hotwire the car. He was apparently unable to start it and gave up. He moved on to another car that was parked in a driveway on our street. When the alarm went off on that car, he bolted toward Forest Park where he and his accomplice were caught by the police.

A neighbor saw one of the guys discard a screwdriver as he ran down Forest Park so the police were able to collect that evidence. After being arrested, he admitted to trying to break in to a third car on our street. The owner of that vehicle had seen the men on the street an hour earlier and might have scared them off when she came out her front door.

A big thanks to Fort Worth PD!

Wendy Blanton



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Neighborhood Entrance Sign Committe Report

submitted by Melanie Smith

The newly formed Neighborhood Entrance Sign Committee met on Monday, September 21 at 7:00 PM at the home of Melanie Smith --2400 Harrison Avenue. Mike Danella, as chairman, led the committee. Melanie Smith, Mike Danella, Gaye Reed, Roselynn Scott, and Martin Herring were in attendance. Others who contacted the committee with interest but couldn't attend were Mary Ellen Peipert, Patsy Slocum, Michelle Key, and Kathleen Walker.

The committee decided the first focus is replacement of the wooden sign at the intersection of Forest Park and Rosedale and balancing that with appropriate sign on the southwest corner. Mike presented photos from Internet research of many entrance signs. Melanie presented pricing for background information on cast concrete signs from a local near south side company, Builders Equipment and Supply and the committee found it quite reasonable.

Martin Herring presented information he had researched on large, laser-cut, metal silhouette sign with the possibility of application using our current logo. The committee discussed the possibility of laser-cut metal lettering as well.

The committee bounced around all sorts of ideas and "wish list" items for improvements at strategic entrances to our neighborhood. Mary Ellen Piepert suggested that painting or staining the concrete retaining walls on Forest Park and Rosedale a consistent, appropriate color, would be a great enhancement.

Mike Danella presented a photo of a historic sign from another neighborhood that is reminiscent of a narrow column with vertical lettering with a cast urn on top. The committee felt it was architecturally and historically appropriate in design for our neighborhood and would like to explore the possibility of using something similar, with possible placement in the Jerome and Mistletoe Boulevard neighborhood entrance, along with using the same sign at the Forest Par and Park Place entrance to our neighborhood. The committee also considered placing this sign at appropriate strategic points in the neighborhood.

Melanie Smith presented background information and pricing from Bruce Richardson of the Near Southside business of Signs Etc. on Park Place about the possibility of banners to attach to street poles begining on Forest Park and other strategic spots in the neighborhood. Patsy Slocum has had contact with a contractor named Tom Hale who has experience with banners from TCU. Patsy also mentioned that she has several granite antique light poles donated from TCU that could be used in Newby Park or in conjunction with new signage.

The committee decided that the first step will be to meet with the city to discern what parameters we will be required to work within as most of the areas where we want to place signage will be in city right of way. The committee also feels that continued "planned" landscaping supported by a sprinkler system is a priority to enhance the aesthetics of our main entrance and for sound control now and in the future when the tollway is built within that vicinity.

New signage has been a concern of many for at least four years with no accomplishments. The committee is anxious to move forward and place new signage. It may be most difficult due to city restrictions to accomplish the first priority, so the committee may move forward on accomplishing the banners first. Any additional help from folks in the neighborhood is welcome.

Mike Danella is contacting the city for more information and the committee plans to meet in late October at Melanie's house again. Notice of the meeting date and time will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, contact Mike @ 817-927-8875 or Melanie 817-923-8191 with any questions or information.

A Tribute to a neighbor

Submitted by Patsy Slocum

A special tribute should be given to Jim Pestell, who lives in the house at the corner of W. Rosedale and Forest Park. Jim has given his cooperation, time, and labor to the installation of 8 Crepe Myrtles that have been recently planted at the entrance of the neighborhood. These new Crepe Myrtles have dark red blooms and will help beautify that corner and give us a gorgeous view to welcome traffic down Forest Park.

Hopefully, more Crepe Myrtles can be planted along that wall, as they are very Texas friendly and make a showy debut in the spring, summer and fall. Jim painted that very ugly wall and railing when he moved into his house, and that was a tremendous change for the better.

Maybe soon we will have a Landscape Architect to start the entrance improvement project on that corner that all the neighborhood seems to want. More power to a neighbor who wants to help out in any way that he can.



October 3rd
Saturday 3pm - 10pm
Free Event

Look for banners marking venues on Magnolia, Park Place, Main and throughout the near southside.

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Gardening in October-Wildflowers

by Dottie Guffey

In the wild, the beauty of wildflowers seems effortless. As for human efforts, it takes a little work to duplicate nature's techniques. My plan is to try nature's techniques in the alleyway. In Texas, the time to sow wildflower seeds is July through October.

Soil preparation is the first step. Rake or till bare soil to a depth of about 1 inch. Deep tilling will damage the soil and encourage weeds so don't over extend yourself. If grass exists in the planting site you pick, set the mower on its lowest setting and scalp the area down to bare soil before tilling unless you have rocks embedded in it. Rock removal is tedious, but the only way to keep the mower blades in shape.

Planting the seed begins with a process of soaking the seeds in a biostimulant solution prior to planting. I like alfalfa meal and just follow the directions on the label. Spread the wet seeds on a paper bag to dry overnight. Then distribute the seeds uniformly over the area at the recommended rate and rake lightly into the soil.

Watering the seeded area is probably the most delicate part of the procedure. The welcomed rain we recently had would have washed the seeds down the drain so easy does it. Watch the weather forecast. Water the seeded area thoroughly but avoid overwatering as this causes soil erosion and will displace the seed. Many of my bluebonnets are already up, and that is natural for many wildflower varieties to germinate in late summer to fall. Some small plants will be visible all winter and others will be visible in the spring.

Maintenance is probably the most critical step in wildflower planting. If the winter season is dry, provide irrigation the first fall. The same applies to the spring season, just water if dry. The small plants will need moisture to get established. **Good luck!**

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SEND THE NEWSLETTER PHOTOS OF YOUR HALLOWEENED CHILDREN, COSTUMED PETS, PICTURES OF YOUR DECORATED HOME, AND THE EVER WONDERFUL GROUP PORTRAIT OF TRICK AND TREATERS.



Get on the list!

There is still time to contribute to the neighborhood!

The Mistletoe Heights Association wishes to thank the contributors listed below for their dues donations to our neighborhood. These donations fund neighborhood activities such as July 4th Party, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Party, Christmas Street Light Décor, Fall Party, Welcome Baskets and other activities. In addition, your donation helps defray the cost of publishing the monthly newsletter and pays the city water expenses for the berm and Newby Park.

Dues donations are entirely voluntary and can be given at any time in any amount. We began our dues drive in the Spring and will end it in the Fall. There is still time to make your donation if you have been meaning to do so. The final list of 2009 contributors will be published in the November 2009 newsletter. If your name is not spelled or listed correctly, please email the MHA Treasurer: JeriJo@charter.net.

2009 Dues Contributors as of 8/15/09

\$1 to \$24	\$25 to \$49	\$50 to \$74	\$75 to \$100
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Gude, Richard & Judith	Davis, Jack & Linda	Parrish, William & Sue	McReynolds, Steve & Kathy
Horn, Bruce & Betsy	Day, Thomas & Marjorie	Patton, Eddie	Oliver, Nora
Hubbard, JH & Marjorie	Donohoo, Gay	Purcell, Craig & Kerri	Pressley, Brent & Susan
Jaecks, Randy	Dowdle, Roy	Scott, Rose Lynn	Tyson, Gerald & Meralen
Kohout, Melissa	Duvall, Duncan & Sue	Slocum, Robert & Patsy	
Lindsay, Joshua	Ewing, Scott & Valerie	Smith, Flavious & Melanie	
Martin, William & Helen	Graham, Gerald & Kelli	Stuart, Andre & Estela	
Matlock, Gray & Mary	Grant, David & Julie	Wild, Beth	
Mays, Glenda Sue	Graves, Leo & Dorothy		
McKeever, Kent & Rebecca	Guffey, Grady & Dorothy		
Nesenholtz, Lynda	Hager, James & Tammy		
Norris, Susan & Jennifer Tibor	Hale, Tom & Pat		
O'Connell, Michael & Carole	Hobson, Jack & Nancy		
Roff, George	Jones, Allan & Jefflyn		
Shutt, Aaron & Colleen	Keesee, Craig & Kathy		
Spelce, Larry & Jane Anne	Kerstetter, Todd & Holly		
Sutter, J.F. and Barbara	Luperi, Ana & Franco, Andres		
Teague, Joy	McKenzie, Randell		
Turner, C.L.	Morris, Jana		
Whitney, J. Garrett & Sharon	Peebles, Jamie		
Wilson, Gene & Gail	Ramsay, Nancy		
	Reece, Kelley & Megan		
	Reed, Gaye		
	Richey, Tom & Eileen		
	Rustad, Eric & Nikki		
	Sippel, Jimmie Dick		
	Stemple, Norm & Irene		
	Sybesma, Richard		
	Tansey, Chris & Randyll		
	Thomas, Andrea		
	Tiller, Leah		
	Weinburgh, Pete & Molly		
	Wilson, Julia		
	Yantis, Richard & Christi		

Please send your donation to Jeri Jo Blackmon at JeriJo@charter.net

Mistletoe Heights Association Income & Expenses January 1 through September 16, 2009

	Jan 1 - Sep 16, 09
Income	
Advertising Income - Newsletter	1,997.00
Dues	4,581.00
Interest Income	4.63
Total Income	6,582.63
Expense	
Bank Charges	4.41
Christmas Party - 2008	200.71
Easter Egg Hunt	215.92
July 4th	579.14
Newsletter Expenses	3,180.74
Water Expense - Newby & Berm	2,207.46
Total Expense	6,388.38
Net Income	194.25