



The Mistletoe Express



www.mistletoeheights.com

December 2009-January 2010

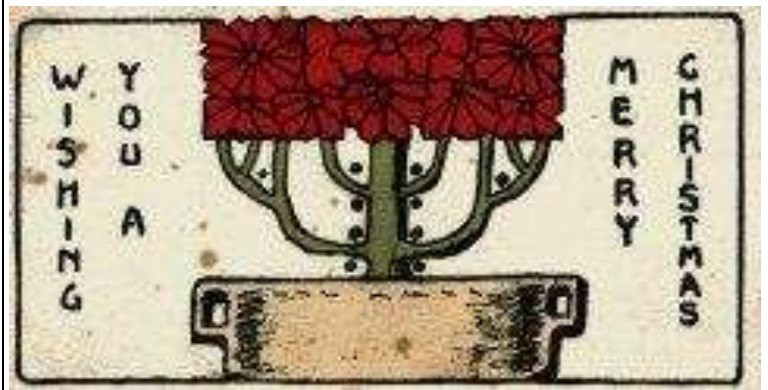
New e-mail list coming soon!

Jeri Jo Blackmon

Our Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Association webmaster, Scott Ewing will soon be setting up a new, moderated email system. The old system suffered technical limitations that made it difficult for emails to reach everybody in a timely fashion. We welcome Richard Yantis as the new email list coordinator and moderator. Please extend a special thanks to Laurie McCoy for the two years of volunteer time she has given as our current moderator.

Each resident on the current list will be invited to join the new list. If you are on the current list, you must sign up for the new list in order to continue to receive MHNA emails. This is a very simple procedure and sign up details will be available. There will be changes to the current way e-mails are sent out and received. Those details will be worked out before the switch over to the new system. Richard Yantis and Scott Ewing will be the **moderators in the beginning until all the “kinks”** are resolved. We hope to have more moderators as

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Mistletoe gas lease information

Norm Stemple, Chair of MH Gas Lease Committee

This information is for the Mistletoe Homeowners who signed a lease with Four Sevens Energy (Chesapeake Energy) in November or December 2006.

This lease had an initial term of 3 years, so it will expire as of November 2009 or December 2009 depending on when it was signed. An estimated 40-50 homeowners in Mistletoe Heights signed this lease.

In October 2006 when this lease was first offered, a MH gas lease committee was formed which was concerned with environmental protections for the neighborhood. In November 2007 after months of negotiations by the gas lease committee, a lease was signed with XTO with the following restrictions; 600 feet from well to any home, NO truck traffic on neighborhood streets, NO gas lines through the neighborhood, noise restrictions, a 25% royalty and a four year initial term which will expire in November 2011. Approximately 300 MH homeowners signed this lease with XTO.

Recently Colt Exploration (acting for XTO Energy) has sent a letter to most of the homeowners whose lease is expiring offering a new lease with a bonus of \$2400. An acre. However the lease now being offered does NOT

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time goes on. There have been several other volunteers who indicated their willingness to assist with moderating duties. If you are one of those, we have your contact information and will be notifying you when we are ready for new monitors.

We hope to have this new system in place within the next few weeks. Thank you to all of you who responded to my previous emails requesting help with this project.

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Editors Note:
No official secretarial notes were taken at the last meeting. These notes are the best of my failing memory and some help from committee chairs and updates outside of the meeting.

Michael Danella of the MH Entrance Sign Committee briefed those at the last meeting on the progress to date. The City of Fort Worth was contacted to determine requirements for the proposed improvements within the city Rosedale Street right-of-way. An Encroachment Agreement (one time charge of \$275) along with proof of a \$300,000 liability insurance policy is required.

Mike is working on getting several quotes form insurance companies. A plan indicating the specifics of proposed improvements will also be required. Other useful information received from the City includes the required set-back distance of the sign at the corner of Forest Park and Rosedale, along with the sign dimension parameters. The proposed plan will consist of landscaping and sign improvements. The design concepts of the sign include brick or stone or wood. Jeff Davis stated he will contact a local architectural firm to see if they are interested in working with the MH Entrance Sign Committee.

Jeff Davis discussed the possible desire to have a professional security patrol and it was met with not much enthusiasm with those in attendance due to financial considerations. Jeff also brought up the resurgence of Code Blue which is a citizen's

patrol. These ideas met a general feeling that crime is best handled here in Mistletoe by nosy neighbors and good practices by homeowners, although, certain folks would beg to differ with this view. Jeff welcomed interest on the topic of crime and continues to do so.

Officer Mark Russell informed the neighborhood on several thefts which were related to acquaintances of the victims. There was a garage broken into on Rosedale. On Park Place, an unhappy homeowner came home to find their living room stolen; sofas and TV along with the kit and caboodle. So please keep your eye out if your neighbor seems to be suddenly moving out without so much as a good-bye.

It seems Baylor employees, along with a number of area medical clinic's patients have been victims of purse snatching. The patient goes into one room and leaves their purse unattended in the last, and goodbye pocketbook. Even patient lockers have been recent targets. So please, hold onto your personal items at local physicians and clinics.

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Officer Mark says to check your bank statements and credit reports on a regular basis, and be sure to not leave mail out, tempting items in your car, or outside your porch. Jeff Davis had an expensive saw stolen during his driveway renovation. Be vigilant as always.

Rosaline Eastep Takes discussed a letter from the railroad some Mistletoe Heights residents received. She forwarded the **railroad's letter to the MH email group**. Rosaline had concerns that the chlorobenzene will seep into the Trinity, as did many others. Rosaline made our neighborhood aware of this issue.

Jeff Davis promptly contacted Joel Burns regarding the timing of the letter and railroad meeting at the holidays with barely any notice to the public. If you would like a copy of the letter sent by the railroad, or information about that meeting, contact the email group, or if you have any questions, Jeff will be happy to tell you what he knows.

Gaye Reed informed the neighborhood about the Midtown Village. She handed out a diagramed map of the new complex,

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and told us the developer is moving forward. Midtown Village will have 2 one story buildings and 1 two story building along West Rosedale for retail and office. A four story Hilton Garden Inn will have 157 guestrooms and will front Forest Park Blvd. A four story Homewood Suites with 110 guestrooms will be in the interior part of the village along what will be an extension of Jerome Street. A four level parking garage and a four story office building will make up the interior. Additional parking will line the rear of the property.

Gaye says that this is not all that the neighborhood hoped for but considering all the possibilities, it is not bad. The landscaping, according to Gaye should be fairly attractive.

<p>Bob Bourland Sales Consultant Frank Kent Honda 3451 W. Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76116 Dealer: 817.696.4144 Cell: 817.266.7693 Fax: 817.696.4158 robert.bourland@sbcglobal.net</p>	
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A new website will be coming due to the generosity of our President, Jeff Davis. This is not a small gift and everyone in the neighborhood should thank Jeff directly for moving us into the 21st century.

Marjorie Day wrote a letter to James Huling and Jeff Davis and cc'd councilman Joel Burns regarding the need for sidewalks along Jerome to link Newby Park and Lily B. Clayton school. Jeff also sent the same letter to Joel and Kristi Wiseman on his own, asking for help regarding this matter. Jeff handed out a partial email trail in which William Verkest, Director of Transportation and Public Works for the City of Fort Worth said he will "find some money in FY 2010 to put that sidewalk in place." Jeff said that the City of Fort Worth recognized this concern as a child safety issue and we may have some traction here to move this sidewalk forward. *So see what a letter can do? I say we need all of our sidewalks repaired and fixed.*

The recommendations of the traffic committee were discussed and the need to slow down traffic throughout the neighborhood. An idea for cameras to both help in crime and traffic speeds was discussed.

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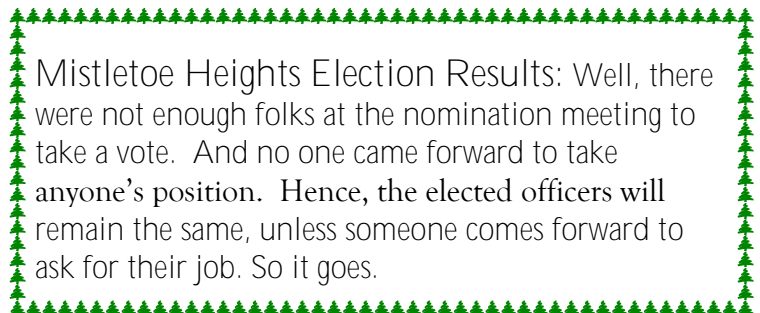
Gas Lease Information *Continued from page 1*

contain the restrictions that the MH Gas lease committee negotiated with XTO in November 2007.

An XTO representative explained that although the lease signed in 2007 (with restrictions) will be honored, all new leases will not have these restrictions; such as no truck traffic, no gas lines through the neighborhood, noise restrictions, etc.

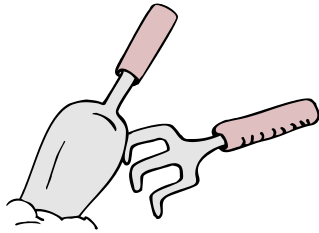
Each homeowner (mineral rights owner) has the right to sign the new lease or not sign.

At this time the recommendation of the gas lease committee is to wait until we can get restrictions similar to that in the November 2007 lease. The gas lease committee will continue working with XTO to obtain an acceptable lease and inform the neighborhood of progress.


Mistletoe Heights Election Results: Well, there were not enough folks at the nomination meeting to take a vote. And no one came forward to take anyone's position. Hence, the elected officers will remain the same, unless someone comes forward to ask for their job. So it goes.

ODD JOBS

Dottie Guffey



December and January's weather and holiday obligations are likely to keep us busy indoors. Odd jobs are about all we can tend to on the limited cool sunny days.

In December:

Don't forget to clean and oil gardening tools before storing for winter.

Run the mower and trimmer engines dry of gasoline. Drain and change oil.

Take broken tools to your repair shop now to avoid the spring rush.

Mulch all bare soil and water.

Cover cold sensitive plants before a freeze with grocery paper bags, old towels or light weight blankets.

Feed the birds!

In January:

Run soil tests.

Plan your spring landscape improvement projects and begin construction activities. If you haven't already, prepare garden soil by adding compost and lava sand. Mulching any bare soil. If you still haven't tended to mower, tiller and trimmer repairs, remember to get it all done before springs rolls around.

And of course, feed the birds!

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The Mistletoe Heights 2009 Volunteer Thank You List

It takes a village...

Betty Alvin-Street Rep
Carol Benson- Yard of the Month and Street Rep
Wendy Blanton-Telephone Directory
Sam and Jack Bradbury- Street Reps
Jim Bradbury=Historic Preservation
Claudia Camp-Traffic Committee
Santa Claus
John Crosby- Yard of Month Gift Certificate
Mike Danella-Entrance Committee Chair, Traffic committee
Jeff Davis-Mistletoe Heights President, All Committees, Benefactor for New Website
Marjorie Day- Newsletter Editor, Historic Preservation, Art and Content Website Redesign
Sue Duvall-Street Rep
Fay Dowdle-Street Rep
Gil DeHoyos-Street Rep
Easter Bunny
Scott Ewing-WebMaster, New E-mail Monitor
Chris Fershtand-Yard of Month
Jeff Gibbons-Pumpkin Judge
Mecca Givens-Mistletoe Heights Secretary, Street Rep
Judy Gude-Street Rep
Dottie Guffey-Newsletter Gardening Column
David Gunn-Traffic Committee
Pat Hale- Street rep, Entrance Committee
Susan Harwell- Street Rep
Kimberly Helixon-Street Rep
Martin Herring- Historic Preservation, Entrance Committee, Ice Cream Social and July 4th Parade, MH rep for Historic Fort Worth Fair, Midtown Project, Art and Content Website Redesign, World Class Bowtying
Kate Herring -Street Rep, World Class Bowtying
Gay Herring-Ice Cream Social and July 4th Parade, World Class Bowtying
James Huling- Vice President, Traffic Committee Chair
Celia and David Jones-Summer Movie Night Block Party
Carrie Johnson-Street Rep
Jefflyn Jones-Weeding of Newby Park
Melissa Kahouts-Street Captain, Historic Preservation, Newsletter Distributor to Blocks with Vacancies
John and Michelle Key- Entrance Committee
Stephanie Mischke-Traffic Committee
Laurie McCoy-Email Monitor
Steve McReynolds-Street Rep, Water Meters for Newby and Rosedale Berm, Historic Preservation, Pumpkin Judge, Newsletter Contributor, World Class Bowtying
Kathy McReynolds Historic Preservation, Pumpkin Judge
Lisa McGowan-Historic Preservation
Fran McCarthy-Historic Preservation
"Rusty" Morgan- Weeding and Edging of Newby Park
Musicians of Mistletoe
Kim Musgrove-Street Rep
Grant Pannell- Street Rep
Sue Parrish- Yard of Month
Jamie Peebles- Yard of Month and MH Rep for Historic Fort Worth Fair

Mary Ellen Piepert-MH Entrance Committee
Jim Piepert- Editing Newsletter, Newsletter Distributor for Blocks with Vacancies
Katrina Pittman- Street Rep, Traffic Committee
Susan Pressley- Street Rep, Easter Egg Hunt Host
Brent Pressley- Easter Egg Hunt Host, Newsletter Support
Gaye Reed- Street Captain, Pumpkin Judge, Midtown Project Chair
Tom Richey-Pumpkin Judge, Historic Preservation
Eileen Richey- Pumpkin Judge
Joanne Robinson- Street Captain
Marc and Kathy Jo Rogers- Street Reps
Kelley Reece- Advertising Manager
Roselynn Scott- Entrance Committee, Website content and Redesign
Simone Scott- Street Rep
Elizabeth Sims-Street Rep
Patsy Slocum-Historic Preservation, Gardening Berm, Entrance Committee, Newby Park Caretaker, Traffic Committee
Melanie Smith- Entrance Committee
Norm Stemple- Gas Lease Committee Chair
Lisa Stewart- Telephone Directory, Street Rep
Liz Stevens- Entrance Committee
Joy Teague- Welcome Baskets
Moksha Todd-Hospitality
Aaron Torkelson-Street Rep
Meralen and Gerry Tyson-Street Reps, Pumpkin Judges
Gary Willis-Street Rep, Entrance Committee, New Bow-Tying Party Host
Susan Willis-New Bow-Tying Party Host
Richard Yantis-Street Rep, Traffic Committee, New Email Monitor

Special Thanks to Martin Herring.

When it comes to volunteering, you can be sure that Martin Herring will be there to help. If you need someone to dress up as Uncle Sam and serve ice cream to neighborhood kids on July 4th, Martin is there. If you need someone to explain the Craftsman period, or why your front porch light is Tudor and not Arts and Crafts, you turn to Martin. He will take the time to do the research, offer his knowledge to you free of charge and as soon as you need it. Martin ties bows on lamp posts, climbs ladders, fixes casseroles on party tables, represents the neighborhood's best interests whenever and wherever possible. There isn't much he would not do for his Mistletoe Heights. As soon as he steps down from one post, he winds up volunteering for another with a dedicated excitement. Reliable, sincere and honestly deserving of special thanks, not only for his consistent service but for his kindness and consideration to all.



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Melissa Kahout's work is a perfect gift for the pet lover in your life. Great for graduations, anniversaries, birthdays, weddings or just because you love your pet. You can contact Melissa @817-924-7063 or www.mkohouthorseportraits.com 2242 Mistletoe Blvd.

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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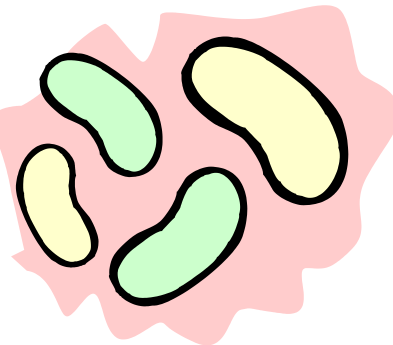


New Year's BBQ Black Eyed Peas

Serves 6

Ingredients

- 1 pound dried black-eyed peas
- 1 pound link sausage, or your favorite
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup prepared barbecue sauce



Preparation:

Rinse, prepare, soak, and cook peas in about 3 cups water, following directions on the package. Drain and reserve half of the cooking liquid. In a skillet over medium heat, brown sausage and onions; drain off excess fat. Place peas in a 3-quart casserole; add sausage and onions. Stir in reserved liquid, brown sugar, mustard, salt, and barbecue sauce. Bake at 300° for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.



Mistletoe Porch Tree
Show off a Christmas tree on
your porch this year!

It's time to create a new tradition
for Mistletoe Heights. Some
neighbors might even drop a
secret Santa gift under your tree.
Your porch tree will help unify
our neighborhood's holiday
decorations. Decorate a tiny
Hanukkah bush or big pagan
spruce, we look forward to seeing
your holiday tree. Decorating
has officially begun...



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When: December or
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Where: Your house
maybe?

Time: What time do
you think?

Place: You tell me
because no one has.

Watch for an E-mail!



Neighborhood Police Officer

Mark Russell

Office 817-871-8885

Mobile 817-991-8472



Email: Markus.Russell@fortworthgov.org

Please be careful this holiday as crime is on an upswing at malls, parking lots, businesses and here at home. Be careful **shopping, don't ride around with obvious packages in the back seat.** Shop and then drop off your purchases. Thieves watch folks dumping items in the trunk as well.

At home, don't leave items in your car to encourage break-ins. Park your car behind the façade of your home, behind a gate and best of all in your garage. Lock up your car and your home. Keep a watch out for your **neighbors' homes as well as your own. Let's** make Mistletoe Heights a non-welcoming place for criminal activity.

Random Acts of Mowing

Mistletoe Heights still needs a little help in the lawn mowing and trimming department. Lately, it seems there have been some Random Acts of Mowing by kind neighbors on the lots and yards not quite kept up. To those that mow the lawns of others, God bless you this holiday season!

Free Classified Neighborhood Ads



Apartment for Rent

One bedroom apartment available October 1st. Twenty foot ceilings, hard wood floors, washer/dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, covered parking. Contact Jeri Jo Blackmon for more details. JeriJo@Charter.net or 817-923-4393.

Glass table and 4 chairs. Call Marjorie 817-914-8057

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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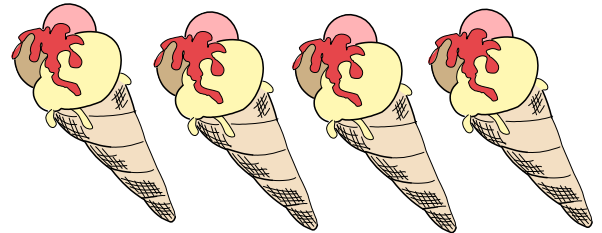
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VOLUNTEER

Letter from the Editor
New Year's letters to self



Some years back, I wrote a "Letter to Self" on December 31, about where my life was and what I wanted for my future. This first letter contained the pains and turmoil of the year, and how I handled them, the good times with friends, along with my goals and dreams for the coming year.

On Jan 1 the next year, I opened my letter and laughed out loud when I read it. Most every pain I endured was gone. Many of my heartfelt goals were realized or had changed. However, one goal never changed and was not realized, I still was not at my "goal weight".

Year after year, I have written these "Letters to Self" and it would be a lie to say that I did not include a significant windy paragraph about "my goal weight". "The goal weight" has a constantly changing number but whether it has been as low as a hungry 120lbs and as high as happier 170lbs., the dismay, embarrassment and pain of an elusive "goal weight" remained. When I weighed 170, I thought I should weigh 140. When I weighed 140 I thought I should weigh 120...when I weigh 120, ok, I never weighed 120 but I am sure I would have wanted to be 115. Now I would be happy to weigh 190 but that is just because I am not even close to 190. Sigh, and so it goes.

One gentleman in the Mistletoe Heights neighborhood has walked off 100lbs. I watch him round the corner of my block, day after day, in the horrible heat, and I always think, "God bless this guy". He has inspired me to recognize that there is no goal in weight loss but it is a constant daily decision to take on the elements.

Sometimes the elements are as simple as a rainy day walk, sometimes it is the coldness of people who decide you are less of a person because you are overweight. Regardless of the elements, a journey of self-improvement has no goal to achieve. It's not "The Battle of The Bulge" as I was taught and believed for many years. The goal has no goal. It is simply being kind to oneself. So whatever, you decide to decide on improving for this coming year be fearless and kind to yourself at the same time because the journey is the goal.

Source: Questions and Answers: Christmas Decorations. House Beautiful, Vol 17 No. 1 (December 1904) 50-51.

Question: Perhaps the questions I am about to ask do not come under the head of house furnishings, but I feel that you can help me. I wish to give my living room a Christmas aspect, and I do not know how to do it. The room is large, with arched windows and doors and a fireplace. The walls are a warm neutral color, with an ivory colored ceiling. We have plenty of evergreen in the neighborhood, and I could carry out any scheme you suggest. The room has a good deal of yellow in the way of cushions and small things. If you will tell me what to do I shall be grateful. A.C.

We are delighted to give you suggestions for a Christmas room, and hope that you will have success. Red, green and white are the Christmas colors, and while too festive for everyday use, are charming for the holidays. Remove the yellow from the room and substitute red—the real Christmas red. It is a color to avoid for the rest of the year, but it has great significance at Yuletide. Your gray walls are part of the scheme, and the fire place is a piece of luck. Let this be the central feature of the room. Remove everything from the mantel and let the Christmas scheme culminate here. Outline your arched windows and doors with ropes of evergreen or laurel. If you live in a laurel country, use this beautiful green freely, for it is very effective. It will not dry so quickly as the evergreen, and makes a heavier rope. Carry this around the windows and doors, following their outlines and not adding festoons. Your arched doors will have an ecclesiastical effect quite in keeping with Christmas.

Against your warm neutral walls hang at mathematical intervals large wreaths of laurel—like small cart wheels. As these are seen on one side only they are simple to make. They should be broad and flat, but perfectly round. In your windows, instead of wreaths, hang great branches of holly. Let them spread out against the glass, confining them only in one place so they will be perfectly secure. Unless you have tried this plan of Christmas decorating you do not know its effectiveness. Use mistletoe on the chandelier—as much as your pocket-book will permit.

Back of the mantel and extending the width of the shelf, place a broad band of scarlet crêpe paper. Outline this with a narrow band of evergreen—one band resting against the shelf, the other making a finish for the paper at the top. Above the paper, hang a large photograph or print of the Madonna and child. If you have a framed picture place it there, and let branches of holly connect it with the red below. A large half-tone cut from a magazine and mounted on gray charcoal paper will serve excellently. Old Christmas numbers will furnish you with a subject. The charcoal paper may be outlined with a narrow band of green. Place two large candlesticks on the mantel, and during the daytime keep fresh candles in them, the tall white candles coming against the red. A green fern or a small palm may be added to the mantel. A bas-relief in white of some fitting subject may be fastened against the red.

If you wish to carry out the Christmas idea more perfectly, all pictures except those of special significance should be excluded. Half-tones from the magazines will furnish endless subjects, but few pictures should be used, or they will mar the wreath effect. When the room is arranged up to this point you may find that the interest is a little scattered. If so, connect doors, wreaths, and windows with a broad rope of green.

Use bright red and pure white about the room, and plenty of candles, for nothing suggests Christmas spirit as much as candlelight. The receiving of gifts and all Christmas festivities, except the dinner, should take place here. Keep the "Christmas room" intact until twelfth-night and then demolish it.



Instant Curb Appeal Holiday Décor For less \$

If you are putting up holiday lights on your house this year, put your lights on timers. Not only will it save you money but it will be a lot less of a hassle.

New softer LED lights can reduce your energy bill, and the colored LEDs have a much warmer effect than the bright white LEDs.

Also, solar holiday lights are available. So take a look at some of the new greener options.

Arts and Crafts homes really pop with natural green garlands and wreaths dotted with natural elements such as nuts, pinecones and berries. Windows decorated with wreaths hanging on ribbon are in keeping with early 20th century holiday décor. Don't forget your beautiful porch Tree.

Paschal Orchestra to Perform at Barnes and Noble

Get some holiday shopping done and do a good deed at the same time by shopping at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in University Park Village on Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and 13. The Paschal Orchestra is having a book fair that weekend, with performances at 11:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Saturday.

Barnes and Noble will donate a percentage of your purchase amount to the orchestra (at no extra cost to you) if you present a voucher to the cashier, or simply tell him or her that you'd like your purchase to benefit the Paschal orchestra. Vouchers will be available at the gift wrap table during the performances, or contact Helen Hulme; hhulme@swbell.net or 817-926-3362). Thanks for your support!



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Events for Dec09/Jan2010

Mistletoe Christmas Party?

Events At Bass Hall:

817-665-6000

"Riverdance"

12/01/2009 thru 12/06/2009

F. W. Symphony Orchestra

"Handel's Messiah"

12/07/2009

Texas Ballet Theater presents

"The Nutcracker"

12/11/2009 thru 12/24/2009

"Michael Martin Murphey's Cowboy Christmas"

12/14/2009

"Wynonna – A Classic Christmas"

12/15/2009

Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra presents

"A Country Christmas with Larry Gatlin and
the Gatlin Brothers"

12/16/2009

Children's Nutcracker Party

12/20/2009

"Robert Earl Keen" with Sons of Bill

12/30/2009

"Red Carpet New Year's Eve A Night at the Oscars"

12/31/2009

"Disco Days and Boogie Nights"

01/15/2010 thru 01/17/2010

Casa Manana Presents "The Color Purple"

01/26/2010 thru 01/31/2010

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Bird's Christmas Tree

12/05/2009 817 871-7686

Children of all ages

December 5th, 2009

Winnetka Heights Holiday Home Tour, Dallas

Contact Russ Aikman at 214-946-3813 or raikman@uta.edu

26th Annual Holiday Ryan Place Home Tour

December 4th – Friday, 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

December 5th – Saturday, 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm

December 6th – Sunday, 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Carriage and wagon rides for an additional charge.

Occasional Carriages 682-667-2694

Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show & Rodeo

01/15/2010 thru 02/07/2010

Will Rogers Memorial Center 817-877-2400

Performing Arts Fort Worth presents "beatlegras"

01/30/2010

McDavid Studio 817-212-4280

Arts and Crafts Holiday Interior Décor

Take a look at how lovely simple understated holiday décor works with these classic Arts and Crafts living rooms. Simple and elegant never goes out of style.



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Happy Hannukah




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A Newsletter Spotlight on Mistletoe Neighbor Jim Piepert

Retired journalist, editor, foreign correspondent, and a touring cyclist since 1994, Jim took a cross-country bicycle trip beginning Sept. 18, 2009, and ending on November 22, 2009 across 3,000 miles of America, from San Diego to St. Augustine. A special thanks to Jim for all of his help editing articles for our newsletter. Keep on rollin!

Jim dipping his transport and toes in the Atlantic after months traveling across America on a bike!



Yard of the Month Newby Park Dec 09 - Jan 10



Special Holiday recognition goes to Newby Park for December and January's Yard of the Month. Fort Worth Parks and Recreation, neighborhood volunteers, and special caretaker, Patsy Slocum, have done a spectacular job with the Rosedale-Jerome location. Elizabeth Anna's Garden

designed the drought-tolerant raised beds of guava cactus and Texas Verbena to showcase Newby Park's entrance and sign. Elizabeth Anna planted the north bed with large guava cactus, scabioso, and lambs' ear, which compliments the south bed covered in Knock-out roses and weeping love grass. Fort Worth Sprinkler Company installed our sprinkler system. Newby Park remains well-lit in the evening thanks to some well placed street lights.

Based on an old train station shelter, Newby Park's pavilion fits the neighborhood. The pavilion sign reads, *MISTLETOE HEIGHTS*, Elev. 612 Ft

Neighbor and former MH president, John Key installed electric fans over the picnic tables to create a comfortable place for food and fellowship. Commemorative bricks to the west of the pavilion recognize contributors to the renovation of this park. A special recognition stone to Patsy Slocum for all of her hard work and to Tom Hale, the contractor who built the pavilion can be found nearby.

Patsy, says the park is nearly always in use. Children love the new playground and young and old frequent the basketball court. Newby's baseball field is a simple multi-use open field, but Patsy said her "baseball relatives" say it needs a new backstop.

The newly refurbished park is a great spot to relax and enjoy the outdoors. We offer special thanks to Patsy for her enduring interest in maintaining and improving this distinctive setting. Calloway's Nursery will provide a two month gift certificate to Patsy to add plants to the location. Thanks again, Calloway's!



Special Thanks to Patsy Slocum

You can't talk about Newby Park without talking about Patsy Slocum. Patsy is 80 years young, and as anyone who has had the good fortune of knowing her, knows Patsy just gets it done. There would be no children's playground in Newby without Patsy's efforts. Prior to last years fall party, I found Patsy, alone, teetering on a ladder, with a heavy chain-saw in her hand, hacking at a tree branch in the park. I just stared at her in horror, and she looked back at me in dismay and said, "Well, the city keeps saying they are going to take care of this tree but I might be dead before they do!" That explains Patsy to a tee. Thanks Patsy for all you do for your neighbors, Mistletoe Heights and Newby park.



Mistletoe Santa Letter

Dear Santa,

I've been very good! Here's my list for Christmas:

Thanks,
