



# The Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.com

May 2010

## Exit strategy

By Marjorie Day

Change comes easily to me. But for some reason, I don't like to take the Forest Park Blvd. exit coming from the west on Interstate 30.

In the big picture, this is no biggie. So why am I bugged? After all, I live off of Forest Park Blvd., and when I give directions to people unfamiliar with the area, I'll always tell them to take the Forest Park exit so that I can avoid telling them to take the Rosedale exit and then turn right onto Forest Park. Could it be that I already can hear them on the phone telling me that they're at Eighth Avenue and are lost?

As an unspoken rule, I don't like the Forest Park exit coming from the west because the turn-off to the right comes

so abruptly. "Oh crap, here's the Forest Park exit and I'm not over far enough." Good old Rosedale gave me time, a long period of time, to get ready. It had a

lane and then its own unmistakable exit ramp, and it felt like a dirty secret. Oh, I live off of Forest Park, but that's not my exit, tee-hee. I'm taking Rosedale. It's elevated and I'm making this grand approach to the neighborhood above the fray.

Forest Park Blvd. from the west abruptly ends with an un-dramatic ramp down under, emptying into a weird,

unkempt weedy spot of land that belongs in a Tom Wolfe novel. Not to mention that Forest Park Blvd. from the west was clearly the exit for those who  
*Continued on next page*



## Entrance Committee

By Mike Danella

As a result of a recent meeting of the Entrance Committee with the city of Fort Worth, the city has agreed to include vegetation on the green area south of Rosedale Street between Forest Park Boulevard and Jerome Street as part of the city's Rosedale beautification project.

The committee will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan for the project and to make sure that it accords with neighborhood wishes. The city hopes to have final design plans completed in three to four months.

Michael Bennett of the architectural firm Gideon Toal has agreed to help us develop a landscape plan for the area where the Mistletoe Heights sign now stands and the green area to the west, in front of the Mr. Jake's convenience store. Michael has developed two main designs for the Mistletoe Heights sign consistent with the neighborhood's Craftsman style.

Next steps: Michael will pursue construction costs of the sign designs. The Entrance Committee will review and comment on the draft landscape plan developed by the city.

## Thanks to everyone who participated in the Mistletoe Heights garage sale!

It wasn't easy with the rain on week one. Weather-disabled folks like us toted our junk out and then back in. Same drill on the night before our rain date. The early morning thunderstorms were over in the wee hours and our rain date proved to be a perfect day after all. Ciao, broken-zippered suitcase. Bye-bye, chipped dishes. And later to the ginsu knife. Hello, chiropractic treatments.

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## Exits ...

*Continued from Page 1*  
conform to the notion  
that they should take the  
exit named after the street  
they're actually trying to  
get to.

As an unspoken rule,  
I like Forest Park Blvd.  
coming from the east.  
When we turn off, it feels

good, especially if we're on our way home from Dallas. A wave of relief  
comes over me: "We did it and are home."

But Forest Park Blvd. coming from the east is imperfect. It has its  
issues. At the first light, there's that big open lot with a snarky sign:  
"No Trespassing." What's that sign about? Would you get shot if you  
walked along that gigantic purposeless lawn? It's kind of a nasty sign.  
I'd like to put up a sign that says, "No more 'No More Trespassing'  
signs!" I want to write a letter that says, "Dear Dudes in Charge: This  
is the entrance to my neighborhood and you already have every visitor  
on the defensive. Lighten up, Park Plaza and weird little office park  
gang. You might do better to have a sign that reads, 'Welcome All. We  
Spend A Lot of Money Mowing This Lawn No One Is Allowed On.'"

Then there's the billboard, and as an unspoken rule I hate  
billboards. Although, if we've come from Dallas and are at that light  
and haven't had dinner, I might convince my man to do Pappadeaux's  
because we are in the perfect global position. Score 10 points for  
Forest Park Blvd. coming from the east.

I accept going under the railroad despite the bridge-phobic part of  
me praying for safe passage. And as we rise up the hill, I imagine the  
MidTown future as we approach "Our Entrance Light" and say, "Here  
we are in all our glory. God Bless Mistletoe Heights."

Not that popping off on Rosedale from I-30 was all pomp and  
postcards. The view on the left was weeds and railway weirdness,  
eventually dumping out along the hell strip I dubbed "For the Love of  
Blacktop" and our very own bit of utility hell. And if you didn't get over  
quickly into a southbound lane, Rosedale insisted you come home by  
going up Jerome Street. But no matter which exit or entrance you  
decided to take, all ramps and roads lead to Mr. Jakes, the Tiki Torch  
Lounge, and the house with no back wall.

So thanks, Rosedale exit, for always bringing me home with  
minimal hassle. Some of us will really miss you.



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## Yard of the month 2212 Mistletoe Blvd.

Congrats to David Gunn, Claudia Camp and daughter Rebecca for being May Yard of the Month winners.

It's easy to identify their airplane-style bungalow home because of the beautifully designed garden and the profusion of adaptable plants.



Their built-up, well-mulched beds begin at the street with a Chinese pistachio anchoring a bed of juniper, May night salvia, scabiosa, day lilies, purple Jew, Spanish lavender, santolina, sweet potato vine, rudbeckia, chrysanthemums and ice plant.

The ice plant continues to the west bed with a Chinese fringe plant, yarrow, daisies, moss rose, chrysanthemums, thrift, sedum, larkspur and golden cosmos seedlings and smooth black river rocks.

Up the steep bank, Claudia planted striped iris, oenothera, and aethionema ordered from the High Country Gardens. She's also trying a Chinese fringe plant in a decorative pot because of the slope of the bed. These plants are surrounded by green santolina, trailing oregano, verbena, wine cup, blackfoot daisy, alyssum, chrysanthemums, and a cluster of blue catmint with nana nandina.

The curving sidewalk leads to a partially covered front porch. A crape myrtle bordered by Dutch iris is to the west and a sculptured bed that outlines the porch is to the east.

The east bed is accented with mature yaupons, and decorative pots containing azaleas and spirea. Other plants in the bed are Jerusalem sage, horehound, knockout roses, santolina, variegated vinca, lavender and mondo grass.

Claudia has just added hanging baskets of wandering Jew to the front porch and has ceramic pots filled with zinnias thriving on the sunny porch banister. Rosemary, dusty miller, petunias, and roses are in pots on the porch.

All of this is to say that the best-kept secret is the backyard and Claudia even has a bed at the neighborhood garden on Jerome Street. One wonders how she has time to teach full-time at TCU!

Thank you, Claudia and family for developing and maintaining this beautiful yard. What a gift to us all! A special thanks to Calloways for a gift certificate for our designated YOM.

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### Nightly Specials

#### MONDAY

##### **ENTOMATADAS** (typical dish from Oaxaca)

Chicken enchiladas covered with a fresh smooth tomato sauce, queso fresco and sour cream, topped with green avocado slices, served with choice of beans and rice

6.99

#### TUESDAY

##### **BEEF ENCHILADAS**

Picadillo enchiladas wrapped in flour tortilla, covered with our special tomato sauce, queso fresco, sour cream, green onions and cheddar cheese. Served with choice of beans and rice.

6.99

#### WEDNESDAY

##### **BURRITOS**

Half-price burrito dinner. That's right!!!

#### THURSDAY

##### **ENCHILADAS VERDES**

Chicken Enchiladas in our home made tomatillo sauce, topped with sour cream, queso fresco and cilantro, served with choice of beans and rice

6.99

#### FRIDAY

##### **TILAPIA**

Filet of Tilapia sautéed, topped with mango salsa and our special sauce. Served with choice of beans and cilantro lime rice.

7.99

#### SATURDAY & SUNDAY

##### **FAJITAS** (Beef, Chicken, Shrimp, Fish or Veggies)

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## Events and meetings

### MH neighborhood meetings:

May 18 at 7pm at Jeff Davis' house, 2325 Mistletoe Drive.  
Other meeting times: August 17, and November 16.

### Casa Manana Children's Theater Presents Peter Pan

- May 02, 2010 - May 16, 2010
- Address: 3101 West Lancaster, Fort Worth, TX 76107
- Venue: Casa Manana
- Visit Website

### Andy Warhol: The Last Decade

- May 02, 2010 - May 16, 2010
- Address: 3200 Darnell Street, Fort Worth, TX 76107
- Venue: Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

### Visit 2010 U.S. Women's Open, USBC

- May 09, 2010 - May 12, 2010
- Address: Cityview Lane, 6601 Oakmont Blvd., Fort Worth, TX
- Visit Website

This is one of the three majors in professional women's bowling, the U.S. Women's Open features the best women bowlers in the world. This week will also feature the 2010 Hall of Fame Induction dinner and ceremony.

### TCU Baseball 2010

- May 16, 2010 - May 22, 2010
- Visit Website

### Star Gazing Parties at the Museum of Science and History

- May 22, 2010
- Address: 1600 Gendy St, Fort Worth, TX 76107
- Venue: Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

### Concerts in the Garden

Time to break out the picnic basket and relax under the stars while listening to great music provided by the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and friends! Described as "Fort Worth's best seasonal outing" (Star-Telegram), the 20th annual Concerts In The Garden Summer Music Festival offers 19 nights of outdoor concerts every weekend from May 28 through July 4. Fabulous fireworks every night and three nights of Old-Fashioned Family Fireworks Picnic on July 2, 3 and 4!

Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Concerts begin at 8 p.m.

Lawn seating: \$16 in advance and \$20 at the gate. Children age 10 and younger admitted free on the lawn when accompanied by an adult.

Table seating for adults is \$23-\$43 in advance and \$26-\$46 at the gate. Children's table tickets are \$11-\$43 in advance and \$11-\$46 at the gate.

Tickets go on sale April 26 at [www.fwsymphony.org](http://www.fwsymphony.org) or by calling 817-665-6000.

**Friday, May 28 MINGO FISHTRAP** An eclectic eight-piece horn band with an irresistible vibe, Mingo Fishtrap crafts funk, soul and R&B tunes reminiscent of Stevie Wonder, Dr. John and Tower of Power – with a healthy pinch of Nawlins-style!

**Saturday, May 29 ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL** Texas' Grammy Award-winning "Kings of Western Swing" perform their greatest hits from "Corrine, Corrina" to "Big Balls in Cowtown" and more!

**Sunday, May 30 BEST OF THE BIG BANDS** Music of Glenn Miller and Friends Concerts In The Garden Festival Swing Orchestra Curtis Wilson, Conductor Bring your dancing shoes to this nostalgic tribute to the icons of the Big Band Era. Enjoy an additional performance on June 20

**Monday, May 31 MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC** With the Vocal Majority Chorus Sing out America and get ready for an extraordinary musical experience with this 100-plus all male chorus!

**African Violet Show and Sale**, May 1-2, 1 pm – 5 pm

**Herb Society Festival**, 9 am - 3 pm May 15

**North Texas Daylily Society Show**, 1 pm – 5 pm May 29





# Easter Egg Hunt

April 3, 2010

Newby Park

Some bunny has a special thanks to Brent and Susan Pressley for hosting another great hunt!

Mistletoe kids in their Easter best.



Charlie, Easter Bunny and Jack



Henry, Ella and Kate



Walter tries to get to the egg first!

# Remaking what we once had

By Jim Peipert, From Jim's Bike Blog,  
April 7, 2010

"Clang, clang, clang went the trolley,  
Ding, ding, ding went the bell..."  
— "The Trolley Song" from Meet Me in  
St. Louis, 1944

There's a bit of irony in Fort Worth's tentative steps to create a network of streetcars to reduce commuters' dependence on cars and trucks: Like many American cities, Fort Worth once had a fine streetcar system and a light-rail line to Dallas.

That earlier network got nary a mention one night in April as the Fort Worth City Council unanimously decided to spend about \$800,000 for an engineering study to determine whether a modern streetcar network would well serve America's 17th-largest city.

By a vote of 9-0, with some members expressing reservations, the City Council awarded a contract to HDR Engineering of Omaha, Neb., to do a feasibility study for the "Modern Streetcar Planning and Design Project." At a previous meeting, the council had debated spending nearly \$1.9 million for a broader study, but voted Tuesday for a scaled-back effort.

Like many cities facing increasing traffic congestion and air pollution, Fort Worth is examining various means of alternative transportation.

On Feb. 9, the City Council approved a "comprehensive bicycle transportation plan," which aims to "attain official designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community through the League of American Cyclists" by 2015. Called "Bike Fort Worth," the plan also calls for expansion of the bike transportation network to nearly 1,000 miles, including off-street trails, dedicated on-street bike lanes and shared-roadway bike routes.

Light rail lines from outlying areas, which would link to the streetcar net-



Streetcar in downtown Fort Worth

work in the urban core, are also part of a broader plan for alternative transportation in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Interurban heading from Dallas to Fort Worth near what is now the Handley neighborhood, circa 1930

Sadly, in retrospect, Fort Worth once



Interurban heading from Dallas to Fort Worth near what is now the Handley neighborhood, circa 1930

had one of the nation's best streetcar systems, which linked downtown with neighborhoods on the near south side, the west side and the Stockyards area.

The Stop Six neighborhood on the southeast side is so named because it was the sixth stop on the North Texas Traction Co.'s Interurban to Dallas.

"The Fort Worth Street Railway dates back to 1874 as a horse-powered streetcar operation," says the Web site American-Rails.com. "It was renamed the Northern Texas Electric Company in 1902 and again changed hands in 1938 as the Fort Worth Transit Company. Streetcar service survived until 1939 when buses took over transit operations."

That transition from streetcars to buses — during a time when rails were dug up and streetcars destroyed — seems to be one of the saddest episodes in U.S. transportation history.

Some argue that it was a result of a cabal involving General Motors and the big oil companies so that GM and the oil companies could sell more buses, cars and gasoline.

Others contend that the demise of U.S. cities' streetcar networks was an inevitable result of the invention of the internal combustion engine, the increasing popularity of the private automobile and the construction of streets and roads that catered to motorized transport.

Also, goes this argument, buses were seen as the new technology at the time and were more flexible than streetcars because they could travel any designated route, rather than on a fixed track.

Whatever the reason, between the early 1920s and early 1950s, cities all over the United States ripped up their streetcar tracks or buried them under asphalt and started using buses.

Now we're trying to remake something that we once had.

## INSTANT CURB APPEAL

If you have an older stockade fence and do not have the finances to replace it, you can make a substantial improvement by staining and sealing it a coordinating natural earthen color that relates to your home and garden's color scheme. Sealing your fence is good maintenance especially with our temperature extremes and drying winds. An unmaintained fence says, "keep out" but a fence that coordinates with your home, that is finished in either its architectural qualities and/or its finishes says, "A private garden awaits the visitor."



# Compost is natural

By Dotty Guffey

Did you know that yard trimmings and food residues constitute 23 percent of the municipal solid waste in the U.S. ? That's a lot of waste to send to landfills when it could become beneficial compost instead.

Compost is the natural way to prevent soil compaction, increase the water-holding capacity of the soil and create a nice habitat for earthworms and beneficial microorganisms. Compost also slows erosion and releases nitrogen and other nutrients to crops. It provides slowly releasing nutrients for flavorful vegetables, bountiful fruits and flowers.

How to make compost? A fancy composter isn't necessary; you can buy or build one. You can start a compost pile in any unoccupied area of the yard. Almost any organic material is suitable for a compost pile. The compost pile needs a proper ratio of browns and greens. The brown ingredients are dried leaves, straw, hay and pine needles. The nitrogen materials are fresh or green, such as grass clippings, kitchen scraps and plant trimmings from the garden.

Never put diseased plants, or plants with pesticides or herbicides, in the pile. Never add meats or manure from carnivores. Use a hayfork (since I don't have one, I use a rake) to turn the compost so circulation can provide air to the organic matter that is aerobic. It the pile dries, add water. But too much water is as detrimental to a compost pile as the lack of water.

The site for compost should be directly on the ground or in a well-drained area. In the winter cover, with hay so the microorganisms won't freeze. And just dig into the ground when you need fertilizer for the plants.

## Do you have a tornado plan?

**1.** Pick a place where your family can gather if a tornado is looming. A center hall, bathroom or center closet on the lowest floor. If you're among the people in Mistletoe with a basement, be sure to make that your safe space. If you are in a high-rise building, you may not have enough time to get to the lowest floor, so choose a hall in the center of the building, or closet space in that hallway. If you're in a mall, go to the lowest floor and choose a restroom .

**2.** Assemble a disaster supplies kit. If you don't have a kit for your home and car, make this the week that you make one. It should include all essential medications for family members, such prescriptions as insulin, asthma medications, thyroid and heart medications -- all medications that are essential for the daily well-being of your loved ones.

Include canned food, a can opener, packaged meals that don't need refrigeration. Other important items: protective clothing, bedding, sleeping bags, a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio, flashlight with extra batteries, written instructions on how to turn off the electricity, gas and water, if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn natural gas service back on.) You should store at least one gallon of water per person per day. Most people need at least a half-gallon of water per day just for drinking. Very hot temperatures may require more. Buy water and keep in its original container. Check expiration dates twice a year.

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9/05

## 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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## Magnolia Market



Do you want fresh produce, meats, cheese free of growth hormones, antibiotics, pesticides, etc?

Do you want to support our local farmers?

A group of fresh produce eating enthusiasts are proposing the creation of a food co-op.

What is a food co-op you ask? A food co-op is a membership based organization that allows consumers to purchase fresh, seasonal produce, hormone free meats and cheeses and other natural products sourced from local producers. The farmers would list what they have on the web site, members would place their orders and there would be a central pickup spot (Near South Side) for you to pick up your groceries.

Membership would be an annual \$40 for consumers and producers. You have a member logon and will be able to purchase from local farmers.

We need to hear from you. Do you think this is a fabulous idea and if so, would you be interested in participating and possibly even serving on the steering committee to get the co-op up and operational?

Please e-mail us at [TheMagnoliaMarket@gmail.com](mailto:TheMagnoliaMarket@gmail.com)

Other co-ops that are operational are:  
[www.bountifulsprout.com](http://www.bountifulsprout.com)  
[www.oklahomafood.coop/](http://www.oklahomafood.coop/)  
[www.crosstimberscoop.org/](http://www.crosstimberscoop.org/) (a slightly different model, based in Denton)

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To subscribe to the Mistletoe Heights Residents mailing list, go to [www.mistletoeheights.com](http://www.mistletoeheights.com), click on "Email List" and look for the section "Subscribing to Residents". Enter your email address and name and click "Subscribe". Be aware that you may need to add [residents-bounces@mistletoeheights.com](mailto:residents-bounces@mistletoeheights.com) to your address book so the incoming emails are not treated as spam. We're still missing lots of neighbors on the e-mail list.





## Memorial Day: A day of remembrance

Memorial Day has often been lost on too many of us who do not recognize those who have sacrificed their lives. Often we do not remember our ancestors, family members, neighbors, and friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live in freedom.


This Memorial Day try visiting cemeteries and placing flags or flowers on those who have died in service to this country.

Fly the U.S. Flag at half-staff until noon. Fly the 'POW/MIA Flag'. Participate in the "National Moment of Remembrance": at 3 p.m. to honor the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Give service to widows, widowers, and orphans of our fallen veterans and offer any needed assistance to disabled veterans. Be proud of our American heroes.

This year we observe Memorial Day on May 31.





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## Mistletoe Heights Association

### Income & Expenses

January 1 through April 16, 2010

#### Income

Advertising Income - Newsletter	\$ 1,709.00
Dues	375.00
Interest Income	0.94
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,084.94</b>

#### Expense

Newsletter Expenses	\$ 1,652.98
Water Expense - Berm	68.00
Water Expense - Newby	132.28
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 1,853.26</b>

**Net Income** \$ 231.68

Bank Balance \$9780.38

## Free Classified Neighborhood Ads

### SUMMER ART CAMP!

Melissa Kohout is offering summer art classes. Classes are one week duration. For the last class, we will have a field trip to the zoo to do studies from life. Dates are not yet set. Please call Melissa for questions and details. 817-924-7063

If you are interested in participating in or donating to The Presbyterian Night Shelter's 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](http://www.sew-what-quilts.com)

### VINTAGE SALES

Estate sales and appraisals in Fort Worth since 1992. Call Anne Bourland for information. 817-924-5959

**EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC:** Mistletoe Musikgarten  
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### PET PORTRAITS:

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](http://www.mkohouthorseportraits.com)  
2242 Mistletoe Blvd.

**LEARN TO SWIM LESSONS** - With emphasis on Olympic strokes. Contact: Richard Sybesma, Head Swim Coach  
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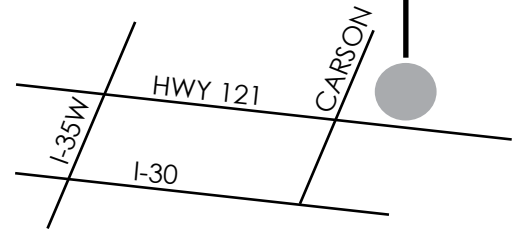
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