



Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.com

September 2010

Welcoming new neighbors

By Meralyn Tyson

We all try to extend a welcoming hand and a smile to newcomers in our midst, but Joy Teague has done more than that.

For the past 20-odd years, she's done a beautiful job of creating wonderful welcoming baskets on behalf of the Mistletoe Heights Association.

In light of all she's done, it seemed only right for Joy to be acknowledged for being such a giving neighbor and friend.

To show our appreciation, the association assembled our own thank-you basket, which can only begin to express the depth of our gratitude. Please join us all in saying: "A big thank you, Joy! You did a fantastic job!"

Taking over for Joy is Meralen Tyson and Beth Krugler. In August, Meralen and Beth did the honors on behalf of the association, getting welcoming baskets to three sets of new neighbors and future friends.

Our new residents are Ashley Hedrick and Tim Mulvaney, John and Trudi Stafford, and Janet and Katherine Yount.

Although Meralen and Beth are happy in their new job, they need your help in letting them know who's new. So please, when you hear of new people moving into the neighborhood, please call or e-mail Meralen (817-926-5909 or meralen@sbcglobal.net) or Beth (817-377-8081 or beth@bethkrugler.com). If you can get the new neighbors' ba-



sic information (names, address, cellphone/landline number), Beth and Meralen will take it from there.

And again, special thanks to Joy Teague for a job so well done. You're what makes this neighborhood such a great place to live.

Letter from the president: Streetcar outlook bleak

By Jeff Davis

Wow...at 6:30 a.m. on Aug. 31, the City Council vote was 5-4, to affirm the City's interest in moving ahead with a starter modern streetcar project. The City Council had applied for a \$25 million dollar grant from the Federal Transit Authority earlier this year, and the Transit Authority requested that Fort Worth show some good faith in moving in that direction since it awarded Fort Worth the \$25 million dollar grant.

Even though the City could later reject the grant for any reason, by 8:30 a.m., the vote was 5-4 to completely kill the streetcar starter system in Fort Worth! Amazing what one phone call to the Mayor's office can do. And, who made the call and what was said is "top secret."

The Mayor had said in Portland in '08 that he would put the full weight of the office of the Mayor towards creating a modern streetcar system for Fort Worth. And, Councilman

Jordan said in December '08, that a modern streetcar system for Fort Worth was a "no brainer." They both voted to kill the starter system. So, what happened? It's a secret. Really, it's a secret.

So, where are we going to put the additional 300,000 people that are going to come to Fort Worth in this decade? Our population growth was 37% from 2000 to 2010. We cannot even afford to maintain our current road system much less build more roads. And, the city's matching funds would come, not from the general budget (does not affect libraries, pools, or any city salaries at all), but from the incremental increase in property values from the areas where the streetcars would be built.

These Federal Transit Authority grants also went to Charlotte, Cincinnati (yes Cincinnati), Tucson, Austin, New Orleans, and Dallas. All of those cities are moving forward with streetcars and recognize, as suggested in a recent Charlotte editorial, that the "long-

term value of the streetcar is significant," and "Charlotte's vision must be to lure denser, more cost-effective development to areas with already-built infrastructure. Low-density sprawl sucks up large sums of public money to extend sewer lines, roads and public services."

So, where is this vision in Fort Worth? Fort Worth has been moving in the direction of creating urban villages for years, and when this incredible opportunity came up to actually do something significant, our Council puts its head in the sand...again. So, the sprawl purveyors on the Council made up stories about funding conflicts, that the proposed resolution was really about committing to a \$600 million dollar system, and all sorts of red herrings...all intellectually dishonest "reasons." And, the reality is...that the reason 5 members of the City Council voted to kill this starter project, is one phone call. It's all a secret...

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Quarterly MHA meeting minutes

Submitted by Mecca Givens

The Aug. 17 quarterly meeting of the Mistletoe Heights Association was convened at 7 p.m. at the home of MHA President Jeff Davis.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer JeriJo Blackmon reported that the association is in the black and suggested that former association vice president Tom Richey be reimbursed for charges associated with running the neighborhood website in previous years. The motion was approved. Our treasurer also reported that out of the 500 plus households only 108 had paid dues to the MHA so far, although the amount of individual contributions had increased.

Entrance to Mistletoe Heights: The committee that has been working to improve the entryway to Mistletoe Heights at Forest Park Boulevard and Rosedale Street has continued to work with individuals and city officials to make the project happen.

Newsletter editor Marjorie Day suggested the sale of reusable grocery bags to Mistletoe Heights neighbors as a way to raise money for improvements to the entryway. The idea was met with optimism and excitement. Austin Jourde, general manager of the Central Market in Fort Worth and a new resident of Mistletoe Heights, offered to donate 500 Central Market

reusable grocery bags for the project. Thanks to Austin Jourde for his contribution to the neighborhood.

Neighborhood website: Thanks to Cynthia Wahl and Marjorie Day for an overhaul of the Mistletoe Heights website, which will be up and running any day. If anyone has any information or links that would benefit the website, please forward the information on to our Webmaster Scott Ewing for review.

Midtown project: The development at the northeast corner of Rosedale Street and Forest Park Boulevard should begin moving forward in the near future.

Natural gas drilling: Norm Stemple reported that XTO Energy, the company with which many Mistletoe Heights residents have signed drilling leases, said that a drill site has been selected north of Interstate 30 and that drilling is expected to begin in November or December. He said that no transmission lines or truck traffic would pass through the neighborhood.

Historic presentation committee: The committee is in desperate need of more neighborhood involvement.

Street cars: MHA President Jeff Davis and City Councilman Joel Burns, who attended the meeting, spoke in favor of a proposal to

establish a street car network in downtown Fort Worth with spur lines to various parts of the city, including the Hospital District on the near south side.

Jerome Ave Sidewalk- The topic of the lack of sidewalks on Jerome from Lily B Clayton to Newby Park was brought up. Marjorie Day informed the neighborhood about a federally funded program called Safe Routes To School that helps schools get proper sidewalks, walking programs and biking initiatives in place. SRTS disseminated the applications and information to the FWISD but for some reason not one school in FWISD applied for the funding. The ability to gain access to these monies is now closed. Lily B Clayton must be ready to apply for the funds for the next potential go around, if the program becomes refunded.

Harrison and Forest Park Blvd. Several neighbors discussed the dangerous turn onto Harrison and Forest Park Blvd. and the obstructed view of Forest Park Blvd on the corner of Harrison due to overgrown shrubbery and the dangerous curve.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Thanks to all who attended and thanks to Jeff Davis for allowing the use of his home for the meetings.

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- 10/29/10 - Canton, First Monday Trade Days
- 11/04/10 - Chi Omega Gift Market (Dallas)
- 11/11/10 - Neath the Wreath
- 12/09/10 - Christmas at the Meyerson

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Yard of the month: 2205 Weatherbee St.

Congratulations to Kathy and Craig Keesee at 2205 Weatherbee St. for winning our September Yard of the Month citation.

Their heavily shaded yard continues to flourish along with many of their neighbors in our summer heat. Two stately, mature live oaks form a cooling canopy over their English Tudor brick home and front yard.

The flowerbeds next to the front porch and sidewalk are layered with yaupons, Burford hollies, nandinas, wood ferns and mondo grass. The beds to the west of the front porch below the Palladian-style windows are planted with yaupons, abelias, and lirioppe. A crape myrtle anchors the west corner.

A Japanese maple is just east of the driveway and a bed of Burford hollies and boxwoods line the wooden fence. A flagstone walk enhances both sides of the driveway. Stones from Kathy's sister's property in Fort Davis are used as accents in the beds.

The front steps are flanked with pots of asparagus ferns, oxalis, English ivy and a cast iron plant. The sidewalk is bordered by begonias, coleous, oxalis, huechera, hostas and two varieties of po-



tato vines. Sculpted beds of Asiatic jasmine surround the trees.

A warm thank you to the Keesees for making their house and garden a cool inviting retreat and another thank you to Cal-loway's Nursery for providing a generous gift certificate to our September winner.

Lily B. Walkathon: Help us walk, watch us run!

By Susan Pressley

The PTA at Lily B. Clayton Elementary School is dreaming of big changes to the grounds of your neighborhood school.

We're currently working on an Outdoor Master Plan that will bring major improvements to the play area and fields of Lily B.

The plan calls for a nice four-lane running track with numerous fitness stations along it. A level soccer field with new goals will be located within the track. A one-third-mile walking trail will make use of the track and a path around the grounds of the school.

The improvements also include the addition of four kid-sized basketball goals to accompany the adult goals already in place and a new baseball field.

This is the PTA's main project this year a Walkathon on Oct. 8 is our big fall fundraiser. The Walkathon is a donation drive in which students walk the streets of Berkeley Place with parents, teachers, grandparents and neighbors in support of their school.

Prior to the Walkathon, students will be asking for donations. If a child asks for your support, please consider making a donation.

These improvements not only help the kids at Lily B. stay healthy and strong, they also provide a great place for everyone

Hands off cell phones in school zones

As our schools open for a new year, remember to put down the cell phone when driving through school zones.

Using a cell phone while driving in a school zone is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$200. Cell phones can be used only with a hands-free device, in a stopped vehicle or to place a call to emergency authorities.

The National Safety Council has called for a total ban on cell phone use by drivers nationwide, based on estimates that the practice contributes to 6 percent of the 636,000 annual crashes. About half the crashes result in injuries, including 2,600 deaths, the NSC reported.

in the neighborhood to exercise, play, and practice on the evenings and weekends.

You can also become a Walkathon sponsor at www.lilybclayton.org and be recognized on a banner at the event. Thank you for your support!

SUNDAY BRUNCH

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Lake Worth Monster Bash Oct. 2

Forty-one years ago, Fort Worth was abuzz with reported sightings of the Lake Worth Monster — described as a hairy, scaly 7-foot-tall man-goat-beast. Though sightings of the creature haven't occurred regularly since the summer of 1969, the annual Lake Worth Monster Bash keeps alive the local legend and its habitat. The 2010 celebration is scheduled 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 2 at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, 9601 Fossil Ridge Road. Some activities will require a \$5 fee in addition to admission fee.

Activities will include hayrides; bison viewing; canoeing; monster-tracking hikes; and storytelling. Info: Michelle Villafranca, 817-392-7423.

September meetings, events

■ Zoo Ball, Sept. 25

The evening's activities will include live music, a silent auction, raffle, and dinner and dancing, which will all be located on the Fort Worth Zoo's special event site. 850 guests are anticipated, and the location of the event site should be helpful in reducing any impact the party may have on Mistletoe Heights.

■ Cabs for Labs wine tasting,

5:30-7:30 p.m. Sept. 16, WineStyles, Montgomery Plaza. Benefitting Lone Star Puppy Raisers and Guide Dogs for the Blind

■ Trinity Habitat for Humanity build, Sept. 20-27

Sundance Square, downtown FW Habitat for Humanity returns to build another home in Sundance Square.

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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)

Classic Tex Mex, served on a bed of sautéed onions and bell peppers, served with tortillas, guacamole, sour cream, and salsa.

7.99

Happy Hour Nightly - Draft Beer

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Gardening in the shade

By Dotty Guffey

Do you have a shade desert under a tree? If so, that tree is thirsty. If you have freshly planted shade-loving plants under a tree and have noticed they look worn by the end of the day, they need water.

By next summer, infrequent watering will do unless in time of drought. It's OK to apply fertilizer monthly to plants beneath water-robbing trees. Then water the area well.

The shades of shade:

Light shade is a lightly shaded area that receives full shade about two or three hours during the hottest time of day. Most full-sun plants will perform well in light shade. Light shade-loving plants are evergreens, most perennials, annuals and even roses and sweet william.

Filtered shade or dappled shade is a sun/shade pattern cast by trees not too dense to admit rays of sun between the leaves. Some filtered-shade loving plants are caladeums, *shortia soldanelloides*, *primula reidii*, ferns, flowering Himalayan rhododendrons, shade-loving cacti, azaleas and callas.

Half shade is shaded about four to five hours during the hottest time of day. The area receives masses of full sun alternating with masses of full shade. Some half shade-loving plants are bleeding hearts, lily of the valley, wood anemone, *dodcatheon*, bloodroot, Texas columbine, iron plant and trailing arbutus.

Gardening in the shade is rewarding during the hot days of summer as of late.

Some tips to shade gardening: Put up a small border of rocks, bricks or whatever you choose in your favorite nursery, line the inside with plastic edging to keep the water from running off.

Be careful not to damage the roots of the tree as you build the border. Use a mixture of humusy soil and topsoil for planting. Place the plants in the mixture and top with mulch. If you have a tree you cannot disturb, just set the plants around in pots and then mulch.

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The White Knight (It's not M.H.A.)

The M. H. A. is not the "White Knight" of our neighborhood. The M.H.A. acts as a gathering entity of neighbors. It has no authority over the neighborhood, except for the pooling of dollars to create improvement projects and links like the website, phone book and newsletter, along with committees and events to bring neighbors together and keep them informed for the well being of the community.

The M.H.A. has influence as a body with the city, or individuals or other neighborhoods in varying degrees. It is a very loose idea at its best.

If you want to improve something you see, do not wait for a "white knight" to come on his white problem fixing horse.

The best neighborhood impact that we can create in Mistletoe Heights is maintaining and improving our own property. When you invest in your home, you invest in your neighbor. You can literally hand money to your neighbors when it comes your turn to move or you can reduce their net worth. Every broken faucet, leaking toilet, unpainted exterior, broken walk, crumbling foundation, unkempt yard and shoddy electrical system at your home affects your neighbor next door and four streets over.

We live in a world of actual sale price comps sometimes chosen by square footage alone when

it comes to appraisal. What's worse we are often appraised by appraisers who do not understand historic homes and have no idea about the neighborhood at all. Subsequently, the appraiser may comp your house badly, especially in a refinance loan. Appraisers appraise homes just like buyers do. Is it kept up? Are there repairs and deferred maintenance? Does it need new services, or appliances? Does it have curb appeal? Do the neighboring homes look cared for? Where are the sale prices going and what have the sales prices been recently? And if the appraiser has driven in from out of town, what is his first impression of the neighborhood and your street?

To be sure, chronic problems with neighboring homes are best handled by The City of Fort Worth. Code violations were created not to hassle neighbors but to reduce health, safety and fire hazards. Your action may not be appreciated but it is a caring act not just to the community but to the violator's quality of life as well. The City of Fort Worth will decide if there is indeed a code violation and your call will remain anonymous. If you feel the MHA should have a committee to call in violations, then you should bring this up at a meeting. You are the White Knight of your own property and in turn all of Mistletoe Heights.



Get on the Mistletoe Heights e-mail list

To subscribe to the Mistletoe Heights Residents mailing list, go to 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 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.

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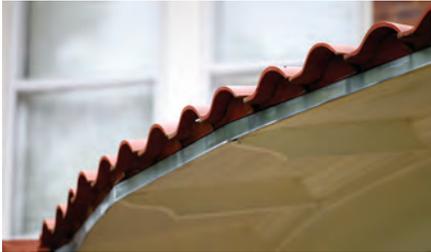
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Mistletoe by Mallison

Any day now the updated website for Mistletoe Heights will be go live. Check it out at www.mistletoeheights.com. One of our neighbors, Rodger Mallison, a *Star-Telegram* photographer, took time to document what our neighborhood looks like. We weren't able to use all of his images, so we're printing some of them here. Makes you happy to live in such a wonderful place! Thanks, Rodger!



Send the fattest check you can!

It is time again to collect dues donations for our neighborhood association. All residents of Mistletoe Heights are members of the association and dues donations are completely voluntary. Any amount is welcomed and appreciated.

In addition to the seasonal social gatherings, landscape maintenance, newsletter and directory publications, dues donations fund a number of special projects.

We will once again begin our dues donation drive in the Spring and will conclude our drive in the Fall. Various levels of giving will be recognized in upcoming newsletters with the final recognition for the year being published in our November newsletter if received before October 15th.

Levels of giving for this year are:

Mistletoe - up to \$24

Holly - \$25 to \$49

Gardenia - \$50 to \$74

Magnolia - \$75 and up



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

\$25

\$50

\$75

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Name: _____

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Please check here if you wish your donation to remain anonymous

Please return your dues donation to:

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Forest Park Pool closed due to structural failure

The City of Fort Worth announced that, due to a failure of the swimming pool liner, the Parks and Community Services Department has been forced to close Forest Park Pool two weeks before the scheduled end of the 2010 summer season. The swimming pool's nearly two-decade-old liner had become so severely detached that use of the pool would pose a risk to swimmers.

In announcing the closure, Parks and Community Services Director Richard Zavala stated, "Our No. 1 priority is the safety of our citizens. Unfortunately, the pool is unusable in its current condition. Fortunately, we have an adopted master plan that will guide the development of aquatic facilities in Fort Worth in the future."

The 88-year-old swimming pool was the City's only aquatic facility open for the 2010 summer season. The City's six other swimming pools - Como, Hillside, Kellis, Marine, Sycamore and Sylvania - did not open this year due to budget reductions.



Plant your Autumn Vegetable Garden

Frost doesn't usually arrive until November 10th.

First week of September: Sow snap beans, broccoli, brussel sprouts, carrots.

Swiss chard and Kale can be planted until mid September.

October 1 is the deadline for: Beets, Chinese cabbage, leaf lettuce and shallots.

Garlic cloves can be put in and the transplanting of lettuce seedlings until mid month.

Radish, peas and mustard greens until November 1.

Tips for removing nails

By John Key

When removing wood trim that you plan to reinstall, be sure to remove the nails in a way that doesn't damage the finished side of the wood.

Tapping the nail head out of the finished side and then pulling it out can cause splintering and leave a large hole that will be almost impossible to repair.

To prevent this from happening: Instead of "backing" the nail out through the finish and splintering the wood, simply pull the nail in the direction it was originally driven.

This will require nippers or quality pliers to grab the pointed end of the nail as close to the wood as you can grip it and pull it on through with a simple prying move. You may have to repeat this process by re-gripping the nail shaft and prying several times until the nail (and head) clears the wood. Basically, you have the nail continue in the direction in which it was originally driven. This method will leave the finish untouched.

If the nail breaks off, leave it in place, clip the nail as close to the wood as you can and file flat or use a grinder to remove the remainder from the back side. This will keep the finish intact and allow the wood to lie flat against the surface when you reinstall it.

Always wear safety glasses when doing any demolition work, especially when nail removal is involved.

Forest Park Pool fact sheet

■ Forest Park Pool was built in 1922 and was the City's first swimming pool.

■ The pool covers approximately 119,110 square feet and holds about 750,000 gallons of water. It has a zero-depth entry, three chute slides, six lap lanes and a diving well with two boards.

■ Forest Park Pool averages an annual attendance of 43,000 with daily attendance of about 650. The maximum bather load is 750.

■ Operating expenses for FY2010 are \$257,254, with projected revenues from admission fees of \$110,000.

■ Admission to Forest Park Pool for the 2010 summer season was \$2 for children and \$2.50 for adults. It cost the City about \$6 per person to operate the pool.

■ A pool liner was installed in 1992 due to water loss issues and concerns regarding the integrity of the concrete pool shell. The cost was approximately \$665,631. The 18-year-old liner had exceeded its useful life and failed due to age and exposure to natural elements and swimming pool chemicals. The cost to replace the liner and make associated plumbing, electrical, mechanical and structural repairs is estimated at approximately \$1.5 million.

■ To completely refurbish Forest Park Pool - including the replacement of the nearly 50-year-old bath house - will cost an estimated \$2.98 million, according to a swimming pool audit conducted by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. in 2007.



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Be prepared for emergencies

■ August 28 marked the five-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. September is National Preparedness Month. Make it your goal during September to create or update your emergency supplies and plans for your home and your vehicles.

■ CERT is Disaster Preparedness and Response Training for citizens that want to help their families, neighborhoods, and the community in the event of a Disaster within our City. This training is free of charge and open to anyone living or working in the City of Fort Worth.

Class #21 begins October 25th- Mondays and Thursdays for 3 weeks, with last class on a Saturday.

Each Class consists of 24 hours of training, spread out in 4 hour blocks over 6 days in a three to six week time frame, depending on which class you choose to attend. Class #20 is three eight hour Saturdays. This is to allow people with different personal schedules an opportunity to attend this training. You must download the application, fill it out, and send it back in by e-mail or mail it to the address provided at the bottom of the application.

All class participants must attend all training dates to complete the CERT course and graduate. The class size is limited to 35 persons due to classroom and safety restrictions. Available seating is on a first come first serve basis, according to the date your application is received.

Please contact Officer Monty Lambert at 817-994-1460 or e-mail him at Monty.lambert@fortworthgov.org for information.

■ www.ready.gov

1. Get a kit.
2. Make a plan.
3. Be informed.

UPDATE: GAS WELLS

Salt water disposal response

At the August 17 meeting of MH residents Gene Walker made the suggestion that XTO transfer salt water from the well along pipes parallel to the gas transmission lines. This is to reduce truck traffic at the drill site.

This is the reply from Robert Manthei of XTO:

"It is possible to use water lines to transfer the water produced from the well to another location for disposal. The main problem here in Fort Worth is these pipelines were prohibited until the 2009 revised ordinance, and the majority of the gas lines have already been installed. Another issue is disposal wells are prohibited in the city limits so the closest disposal site is in Parker county, while the pipeline does not go that direction. The biggest issue is the water line ROW. Unlike a gas pipeline we do not have the right to lay a water line. Any property owner along the gas pipeline ROW can say no to the water line and we can not lay it. The Railroads have not been willing to allow these lines laid in their ROW so our only option is to truck the water."

It is a great idea when possible.

Thanks,
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Free Classified neighborhood ads

BABYSITTING, pet sitting, plant watering, lawn mowing, watch little ones in the pool? Hire the neighborhood kid: Jake Mallison (14), first-class Boy Scout, experienced with special needs kids, references available. House 817-924-7783 or cell 817-773-1471

APT. NEEDED: A friend of mine with a first-grade son and no pets is looking for a small garage apartment in Fort Worth. If you have one available or if you know of someone who does (MH or any other neighborhood), please e-mail me back directly or give me a call. Carol E. Spencer, carolingfw@sbcglobal.net, 817.927.3240

HELP THE NIGHT SHELTER; 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

MEMORY QUILTS: 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

VINTAGE SALES

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC: Mistletoe Musikgarten For babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their parents Taught by Carol Spencer, certified by the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association and the Gordon Institute for Music Learning MistletoeMusik.com. 817.927.3240 ~ carolingfw@sbcglobal.net

GOING OUT OF TOWN? Call Riley Gensheimer. Neighborhood teenager available for pet sitting and plant watering. Riley Gensheimer (age 15) of 2337 West Magnolia is available to take care of your home while you are away. I will bring in the mail, water plants and feed your pets for \$10-\$15 a day. Call 817-991-8214

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

LEARN TO SWIM LESSONS - With emphasis on Olympic strokes. Contact: Richard Sybesma, Head Swim Coach TCU Box 297600, Fort Worth TX 76129 817-257-5646 or 817-257-7963

ESTATE SALE SERVICES - Estate Sales & Appraisals Experienced, reliable estate sales in and out of Mistletoe Heights since 1992. Certified Appraiser, International Society of Appraisers. Appraisals for insurance, estate evaluations, donations; whatever your needs. Contact: Terri Ellis, Mistletoe Estate Sales, 817-926-9424 or email tquilts@mac.com

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Neighborhood maintenance

What is the city's role in keeping my neighborhood attractive?

The city's Code Compliance Department is charged with helping to keep Mistletoe Heights attractive, clean and safe. The department has authority to enforce city ordinances related to housing and unsightly areas in your neighborhood such as trash or graffiti and other problems. Here are just some of the more common problems listed below:

- Poorly maintained homes
- Garbage not contained properly
- Items stored on a porch
- Grass and weeds over 12 inches high
- Damaged fences
- Insufficient barrier for swimming pool
- Stagnant pools of water
- Illegal dumping
- Garbage and Recycling Carts visible from front of street

What can I do if a city ordinance, relating to neighborhood beautification and maintenance, is being violated?

File a complaint.

www.fortworthgov.org/codecompliance.

Or call (817) 329-1234

When filing a complaint by phone, please provide as much information as possible:

- Specific location of the problem.
 - Detailed description of the problem
 - Date the problem was observed
 - You may remain anonymous
- City staff investigates the complaint and, if appropriate, issues a citation.

The property owner is given a fixed time limit to correct the problem. If the problem is not corrected, the city resolves the problem and sends a bill to the owner. If the bill is not paid, the city puts a lien on the property.

Animal care and control

Report Abuse and Problem animals to: www.fortworthgov.org/forms/default.aspx?ekfrm-21020 or call 817-392-PAWS

New Fort Worth rooster rules

Seems you can now only have one Rooster.

Maintaining rights of way falls to residents

Maintaining a safe and attractive place for residents is vital to the quality of life in the City of Fort Worth. Ensuring that neighborhoods are kept clean and safe has always been a partnership between the City and its residents and part of that effort includes maintaining public rights of way.

The right of way is the area between the edge of the street and the property line.

When budget times were better, the Parks and Community Services Department maintained public rights of way — mowing, trimming and disposing of grass and brush clippings — even though it is the responsibility of property owners.

However, in order to help reduce this year's budget shortfall, the City eliminated funding for right of way maintenance. This means

that property owners who are legally responsible for their rights of way must make sure that these areas are in compliance with City Code which requires that grass be no taller than 12 inches in height and that the area is free of debris. The right of way is the area between the edge of the street and the property line.

The Parks and Community Services Department will continue to maintain parkland, medians and boulevards.

For more information about right of way maintenance, call 817-392-CALL (2255)

EDITOR'S NOTE *Let's keep a beautiful neighborhood by keeping our right of ways and properties mowed and edged along all of our streets. Maintained landscaping improves property values and is a pleasure at which to look.*

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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Neighbor spotlight: Cynthia Wahl, Texas Toast Culinary Tours

Reinvention is the mother of necessity. When life handed Mistletoe neighbor Cynthia Wahl lemons last year, she decided to drink lemonade! After working for the *Star-Telegram* for 20 years, it was time to try something new. Something that would be fun and involved eating and drinking. So along with well-known dining critic, cookbook author and food/travel journalist June Naylor, the two have started Texas Toast Culinary Tours.

Texas Toast takes cuisine-savvy people who want to discover more about the food and wine originating here and in our other favorite places. They like to provide an insiders' view on food and wine. Because the best eating and drinking destinations aren't always obvious, and because it can

be a trick to sort through all the new offerings, they offer a bit of guidance.

Their "Feeding Frenzy" evenings has the group visit three restaurants - at each receiving a tasting portion with an adult beverage.

Texas Toast offers team-building programs where you can get your Iron Chef on.

Naylor and Wahl offer short-stay foodie vacations. On their BBQ and Brew Tours (based out of Austin) and their Magical Marfa Culinary Tour, guests sample insiders' food and wine.

Coming up is a Feeding Frenzy called "Where Crockett Meets Currie." Sept. 28 they'll taste their way through Bailey's Prime Plus, Patrizio and Brownstone.



Naylor, left, and Wahl

A most amazing trip is the Magical Marfa Culinary Tour: 4 days, 5 nights of restaurants, cooking class, ranch dinner, historic site visiting, and culinary pleasure.

Oct. 19 is the date set for their October Feeding Frenzy. The new sushi restaurant Blue will be on the tour.

Join them for a midday tea with *Bon Appetit* editor Barbara Fairchild Nov. 7. Fairchild will discuss her new cookbook "Bon Appetit Desserts" at the Four Seasons Resort in Las Colinas.

Go to www.texastostculinarytours.com to sign up. For more information, call Cynthia at 817-228-5220 or June at 817-239-1634.

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