



Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.org

September 2012

FOREST PARK ROAD DIET | 6 P.M. SEPT. 10 @ HILTON GARDEN INN, Rosedale and Forest Park

Fall Covered Dish Dinner

**September 18th,
6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Lily B. Cafeteria**

Hope everyone plans to come to our Fall Neighborhood Covered Dish Dinner in the Lily B. Clayton Cafeteria. This is always a fun meeting....we get to EAT!!!

This is a good time to bring that new casserole or salad that you've wanted to make....or that cake you saw in a magazine. It is always delicious, bring the whole family and remind your neighbors to come, too. New neighbors on your block? Bring 'em!

The meeting will be brief...not a good idea to talk with your mouth full, huh?

So everyone plan to come.... bring a casserole, appetizer, salad or dessert to share, and bring your neighbors, too.

All the dinnerware will be brought by Margaret and Walter Brady. We will have iced tea and water to drink.

Questions? Please call Rose Lynn Scott, 817-807-6748.



Meeting with city officials concerning Forest Park Road Diet set for Sept. 10

By Susan Pressley

Some Background about the Road Diet

At the MH neighborhood meeting on Feb. 21, our neighborhood voted in favor of supporting the Forest Park road diet proposal in an effort to make Forest Park a safer street. The proposal originated in Berkeley, but Berkeley felt our neighborhoods should work together since Forest Park affects us both. The proposal we presented to the city requests that the section of Forest Park that runs through Mistletoe Heights and Berkeley be re-striped, reducing the number of car lanes from four to three and adding bicycle lanes on both sides of the

street. It would reduce traffic to one lane in each direction and add a middle turn lane. So, how does that make Forest Park safer?

How the Road Diet Can Change Forest Park

The road diet will help enforce the speed limit. One of the best things about the proposed road diet is that it is self-policing. By having only one lane of traffic each direction, cars can only drive as fast as the slowest car on the road. That means if just one person is going the speed limit then every car behind them has to do the same.

The road diet will improve the flow of traffic. Adding a middle turn lane on Forest
Continued on Page 2

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Forest Park Road Diet (cont.)

Park will enable you to make a left turn onto your street without slowing or stopping the cars behind you. This decreases your risk of getting rear-ended. It also keeps traffic flowing.

The road diet will improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. The bike lanes don't just help bicyclists. They also serve as a buffer for pedestrians on the sidewalk. This is especially important for areas where the sidewalk is right next to Forest Park, such as the section between Mistletoe Dr. and Park Place. Many school children and exercise enthusiasts use this section to get to Lily B. or the Trinity Trails. The bike lane can provide a much-needed buffer from moving traffic if someone accidentally falls into Forest Park.

How the Road Diet Will Not Change Forest Park

The road diet will not make traffic backup at the W. Rosedale light any worse than it is right now. The road diet proposal we presented to the city suggested Forest Park open back up to four lanes in the area around W. Rosedale S., Irwin, and even Mistletoe Blvd. if needed.

The road diet will not make it more difficult to pull out onto Forest Park from your street or driveway. The stop lights that provide a break in traffic will still be there. The only difference is that you will have fewer lanes of traffic to contend with.

What's Next

The city is holding a public meeting about the Forest Park road diet on Monday, Sept. 10th. At this meeting they will unveil their progress on the road diet plan, but they are also using it to gauge public support for this project. Until now, every meeting we have held about the road diet has been a neighborhood meeting that was unattended by city leaders. This one is being held by the city and they are watching to see if we are united on this issue. It is extremely important for us to show up and support this project. It is time to start putting people's lives ahead of expediting traffic.



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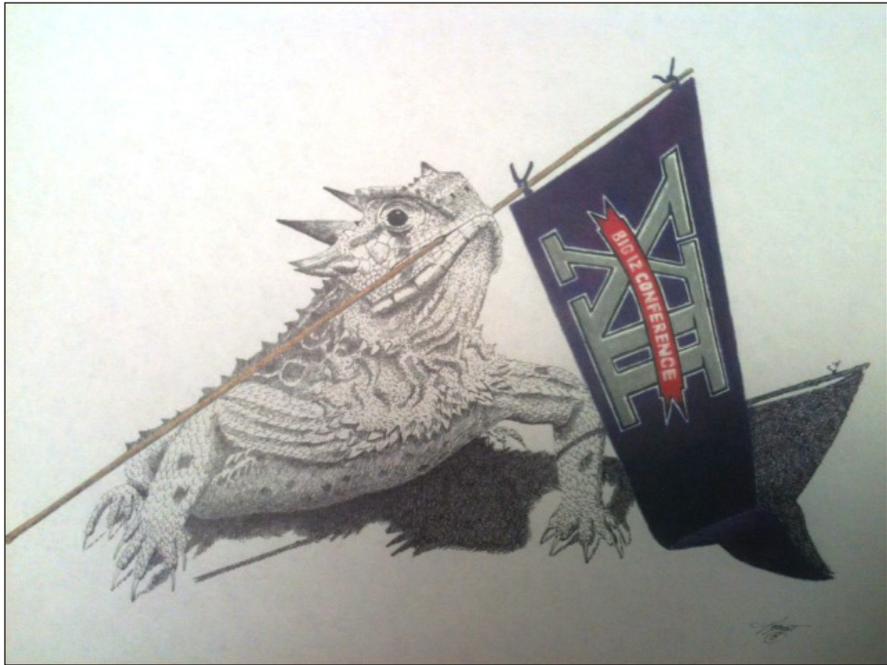
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TCU joins the Big 12

Mistletoe Heights resident and artist Melissa Kahout commemorated the conference switch with a horned frog rendering. "Let the Games Begin," for TCU. First home game is Sept. 8 vs. Grambling State. First Big 12 game is Sept. 15 at University of Kansas in Lawrence.

If you're interested in getting a print, contact Kahout at 817-924-7063.

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Heed these back to school safety tips

The Safe Routes to School Program offers these tips:

For motorists

- Slow down. Observe the speed limit in school zones at all times.
- Be especially careful when driving on neighborhood streets and around school zones. Always expect the unexpected.
- Be alert for youngsters walking to and from school as you back out of your driveway or leave your garage.
- Watch for children on bicycles, especially at intersections and driveways.
- Stop your car when you see lights flashing on a school bus. Red flashing lights indicate that the bus is stopped and students are getting on or off. Don't start driving until the red lights stop flashing. Be aware that a child may dash across the street.

For pedestrians

- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk and you have to walk in the road, always walk facing traffic.
- Wear bright clothing to increase visibility.
- Cross only at corners or marked crosswalks.
- Stop at the curb or the edge of the road.
- Walk in groups; there is safety in numbers. Groups are more likely to be seen by drivers.
- Stop and look left, then right, then left again, before you step into the street.
- If you see a car, wait until it goes by. Then look left, right and left again until no cars are coming.

For bicyclists

- Wear a helmet.
 - Be sure to have reflectors on your pedals, frame and wheels.
- Follow the rules of the road. Ride on the right, with the traffic, in single file. Obey stop signs and traffic lights. Never cross a street without looking for cars. Give the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks. Walk your bicycle on sidewalks whenever pedestrians are around you.

Get involved with Mistletoe Heights!

We are looking for yard of the month volunteers and a newsletter editor. Yard of the Month, contact Anna Fuller at annahulle@hotmail.com. Newsletter editor, contact Cynthia Wahl at cunninghamwahl@yahoo.com.

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What was discussed last month

OLD BUSINESS

- The rezoning of all the properties on the north side of West Rosedale Street South has been completed and now are zoned Single Family/Duplex.
- Approximately 15 residents signed up for the City of Fort Worth's Tree Planting Program and about 20 trees were planted.

NEW BUSINESS

- Norm Stemple spoke on the shut-in royalty payments received by those who signed the XTO leases. The recent royalty payments will hold the leases until 2013. Following that one of two scenarios will occur. Either XTO will issue another shut-in payment to hold the leases until 2014 or XTO's plan to have transmission lines finished and will be producing gas. Otherwise, the leases will expire after 2014 and you will be free to renegotiate with new gas companies.

- Rosaline Eastep spoke about the sound wall to be located on the berm on Vickery/Rosedale St. She along with Melissa Kohout are part of a committee working with NTTA and Joel Burns. NTTA has agreed to some landscaping measures to reduce sound, remove the dead shrubbery but also to eliminate the overgrowth that allowed the homeless to shelter unseen against the wall.

- Rosaline also spoke about the Streams and Valleys meeting regarding the Chisholm Trail Parkway and related projects, specifically The MH Bike Trail Access. The trailhead will be located at Mistletoe Drive and West Rosedale South and will have a pedestrian bridge crossing the Trinity (located near the current miniature train bridge), information kiosks, benches, bike racks and signage. There are also plans for a pedestrian and bike lane on the Vickery bridge. Everyone is invited to the FW Trinity Trails/Friends of the River/Streams & Valleys ribbon cutting for the new bicycle path on August 25th @ 10 a.m.

- Also, Streams and Valleys is recruiting more volunteers, canoes and small boats to clean up the Trinity River Oxbow located near the zoo between the Trinity River and Mistletoe Heights.

- Susan Pressley spoke about the Forest Park Blvd. Road Diet and how Mistletoe Heights and Berkeley have been working for over a year to get some measure of traffic relief on Forest Park Blvd. Joel Burns was instrumental in getting the speed radar sign on the curve prior to any other measures being planned and residents are already noticing a significant impact on speeding.

- TPW & other city departments will hold a meeting to reveal plans for a road diet but more significantly to gauge the public's interest and feelings about the traffic issues. Susan encouraged everyone to attend the meeting on

September 10, 2010 at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Midtown. She suggested everyone walk, ride bikes, bring your children. Just please make it to the meeting.

- Mike Danella spoke on the landscaping and maintenance of Jerome and Forest Park Blvd. He proposed hiring a company to perform these services. Discussion commenced and resulted in a notice going out to accept bids for a yearly contract to maintain Forest Park Blvd and Jerome.

- Mike Brennan spoke on the TexRail Project, Passenger Rail Working Group formed with the city, the T and other entities to push forward the TexRail Project. The PRWG is tasked with trying to streamline the project and to try and cut through bureaucratic red tape. He explained the Medical Center Station's Next Step from 3rd quarter 2012 through 4th quarter of 2016.

- Final Environmental Assessment and completion of initial engineering is slated for next spring.

- Final Design, which gets into the details like the sound wall, lighting, etc., will kickoff late next year.

- He anticipates the FTA will award funding and construction will begin in the 4th quarter of 2014.

- TexRail will begin operations in the 4th quarter of 2016. However, the working group's goal is to try to speed up the project.

- Another goal is to try to "reach" a new type of vehicle, a universal vehicle such as the Sadler trains.

- Mike Brennan also kindly fielded questions and offered guidance with whom to speak with regarding our questions about design issues, wall/sound, etc.

Claudia Camp raised the issue of the neighborhood wanting a longer sound wall and asked which part of the Next Step process would negotiating that issue take place.

- Cynthia Wahl spoke about the newsletter. Proposed increasing advertising rates to align with other neighborhoods and to help generate income. She gave the advertising rates for Fairmount, Berkeley and Arlington Heights. She proposed raising rates as follows: business card - \$25, 1/4 page - \$50, 1/2 page - \$100 and full page - \$200. Rosaline Eastep made a motion to accept and Claudia Camp seconded the motion. Would begin in Feb. 2013.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next neighborhood meeting will be in October.
- Bow-tying Party for Street Light Decorations, November 18, 2012, 3 p.m. 2237 Irwin - Hosted by Susan and Gary Willis
- Mistletoe Heights Neighborhood Holiday Party sponsor needed.

Mistletoe Heights Association Annual Dues Drive

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 conclude our dues 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 Oct. 15.

Levels of giving for this year are:

Mistletoe - up to \$25

Holly - \$26 to \$50

Gardenia - \$51 to \$75

Magnolia - \$76 and up



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



\$25 \$50 \$75 \$ Other

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Christmas Cards - 2011	45.00
Dues Donations	2,146.00
Interest Income	<u>0.77</u>
Total Income	5,863.77
Expense	
Bank Charges	0.51
Easter Egg Hunt	222.77
Flag Program - Triangle	120.00
Maintenance - Newby, Berm, etc.	1,577.50
MHA Entrance	193.45
MHA Meeting Facility Rental	200.00
MHA Xmas Party - 2011	167.78
Newsletter Expenses	2,960.92
Traffic Committee Expenses	961.79
Water Expense - Newby	1,111.96
Welcome Baskets	<u>279.50</u>
Total Expense	7,796.18
Net Income	<u><u>-1,932.41</u></u>

Bank Balance \$17,890.57

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To subscribe to the Mistletoe Heights Residents mailing list, go to www.mistletoeheights.org, 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.org to your address book so the incoming emails are not treated as spam. We're still missing lots of neighbors on the email list. If you have any questions or concerns about the email list, contact moderator@mistletoeheights.org.



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Volunteers

Historic Preservation Committee	
Kathy McReynolds	817-926-7955
Street Rep Captains	
Melissa Kohout (East side)	817-313-1419
Gaye Reed (West side)	817-921-0009
Welcome Baskets	
Beth Krugler	817-713-0993
Alex Rodman	773-726-1488
Newby Park	
Marjorie Day	817-914-8057
E-Mail Moderator	
Richard Yantis	817-924-2857
Webmaster	
Scott Ewing	214-403-7762 cell

Street reps (listed by blocks)

East of Forest Park	Phone (817)
2200 W. Rosedale South	
Dottie Guffey	921-6288
2200 Irwin	
Gary Willis	924-4000
2100/2200 Mistletoe Blvd.	
Melissa Kahout	313-1419
2100/2200 West Magnolia	
Mecca Givens	927-2244
2100 Harrison	
Aaron Torkelson	907-5553
2100 Mistletoe Ave.	
Pat Hale	924-5263
2200 Mistletoe Ave.	
Richard & Christi Yantis	924-2857
2100/2200 Edwin	
Katrina Pittman	921-2221
2100 Weatherbee	
Judy Gude	926-8843
2200 Weatherbee	
Susan Harwell	923-8806
2100 Morphy	
Vacancy	
Forest Park Blvd.	
Steve McReynolds	926-7955
West of Forest Park	
2300 W. Rosedale South	
Kimberly Helixon	927-4641
2300 Irwin	
Sue Duvall	926-8714
2300/2400 Mistletoe Blvd.	
Lisa Stewart	924-9666
2300 West Magnolia	
Susan Pressley	923-6061
2300/2400 Harrison	
Robert DeVargas	923-9393
2300 Mistletoe Ave.	
Jason Fuller family	xxx-xxxx
2300 Edwin	
Grant Pannell	924-0051
1100 Clara	
Marc & KathyJo Rogers	923-3304
1200 Clara	
Betty Arvin	924-7088
1100 Buck	
Kate Herring	923-3843
1200/1300 Buck	
Trisha Dianne Stemple	926-6546
Mistletoe Drive	
Meralen & Gerry Tyson	926-5909
2300 Mistletoe Drive	
Chris Fershtand	923-8422
Carol Benson	921-4000

Neighborhood police officers
 Sidney Keith (West) 944-1038 cell
 David Cloninger (East) 992-0181 cell

Editorial policy

Articles and letters to the editor are welcomed. To be published as written, letters must be addressed to the editor, signed and include a phone number.

Anonymous letters will not be published. Articles may be submitted for publication, signed or unsigned, subject to approval and editing.

Contact info helps, if we have questions for you.

Letters to the editor are limited to a half-page (approximately 350 words). Please send e-mail to cunninghamwahl@aol.com

Advertising information

To place an advertisement or for actual mechanical sizes, please e-mail Kelley Reece at kelley@metro-mailer.com

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Full Page	\$120
Pre-printed inserts	\$60

8 1/2 x 11

Deadline for ads, stories and letters is the 15th of each month

MHA yearly memberships

Voluntary dues are \$15, \$25, \$50 or what you can afford. Your dues help pay for this newsletter, the Mistletoe Heights phone directory and many neighborhood functions. Please make your check payable to Mistletoe Heights Association. Mail to: Jeri Jo Blackmon, 1408 Mistletoe Drive.

Free classified ads

As a MH resident, you get a free classified ad. Please submit by the 15th of the month to cunninghamwahl@yahoo.com or 817-228-5220.

Newsletter Gang
 Editor Volunteer needed
 Editorial Assistance Jim Peipert
 Design Cynthia Wahl
 Advertising Volunteer needed