

MISTLETOE EXPRESS

A FRONT PORCH COMMUNITY IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT

April - May 2017
www.mistletoeheights.org

An 'urban pioneer' who helped make this neighborhood what it is today

By Jim Peipert



Norm and Irene Stemple, Christmas 2008, in their previous house at 2408 Harrison Ave.

When Norm and Irene Stemple bought the house at 2408 Harrison Ave. for \$26,000 in August 1967, it was a big gamble – on a neighborhood and a city.

Norm was an employee of IBM Research in White Plains, N.Y., on leave to get his Ph.D. at TCU. Irene was a young mother with a master's degree in physics from Penn State and five children aged 1 through 8.

They figured they'd be in Fort Worth for about 18 months, the time it would take Norm to do his doctoral work in physical chemistry.

When they bought their two-story brick house in Mistletoe Heights, they got a pretty good deal. The inner-city neighborhood was in decline as many city dwellers were fleeing to the suburbs.

Enrollment was dropping at Lily B. Clayton Elementary School. It hovered around 200 in the 1970s, prompting talk of the school's closure.

Fort Worth itself was still a real cowtown, a far cry from the sophisticated, cosmopolitan city it is today. But its cattle-trading days were nearing an end.

Armour closed its Fort Worth meat-packing plant in 1962. Swift, its major rival, hung on until 1971. By 1986, livestock sales in the Stockyards reached an all-time low of 57,181 animals.

Continued on Page 4

President's Corner

By Josh Lindsay

Realtors, homebuyers need to know about historic district

On the very first week that I lived in Mistletoe Heights – way back in 'aught two – I was invited by a neighbor to a meeting of the City Council, which was voting on whether to designate our neighborhood as a historic district.

After the vote passed, we retired to a downtown bar to celebrate.

I got to hear the story of the difficulties and compromises involved in getting to that point, and somehow I ended up sitting between Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph McCloud and City Councilwoman Wendy Davis.

It was pretty heady stuff for a guy who had just arrived in Fort Worth.

A lot of neighbors have come and gone during the past 15 years. Not everyone got an introduction to our historic district designation as I did.

It's possible for people to overlook these details in real estate documents and notices from the city.

With interest in our area continuing to rise, we also have crowds of new Realtors and contractors interested in the area.

Continued on Page 2



Historic overlay helps preserve character of the neighborhood

Mistletoe Heights is a historic neighborhood, dating from the 1910s.

Wishing to preserve its architectural heritage and identity, most of the neighborhood is included in a historic overlay.

Any alterations or additions to the structures should be submitted to the neighborhood Historic Preservation Committee and must be approved by the city of Fort Worth's Historic & Cultural Landmarks Commission (HCLC).

Neighborhood Historic Preservation Committee: Roger Ross, 817-372-6865, or Susan Willis, 817-924-4000.

Historic & Cultural Landmarks Commission: Murray Miller, 817-392-8574, or Justin Newhart, 817-392-8037. The commission meets the second Monday of the month.

For further information, please refer to the Mistletoe Heights website, www.mistletoeheights.org, and click on Historic Guidelines.

President's Corner (Continued)

They may not know much about the historic district designation and what it means.

As our area has changed dramatically since 2002, the historic district designation has helped Mistletoe Heights remain a vibrant neighborhood with a wide range of original houses.

Also, the historic district designation encourages homeowners to maintain and remodel houses by offering up to 10 years of property tax savings if they take advantage of the historic site tax exemption.

If you are not familiar with the historic district designation, take some time to get to know it.

City guidelines can be found at:

http://fortworthtexas.gov/uploadedFiles/Planning/Historic_Preservation/Mistletoe_Guidelines_Final.pdf.

It is an 11-page document and is not difficult to get through. Residents should be aware of the guidelines that come with living in a protected historic district.

Although many residents in the neighborhood put in a lot of work to get this started, it is a city designation and is enforced by the city's Planning and Development Department.

It is imperative that we help each other stay aware of its requirements and benefits.

All the best.



Josh Lindsay
president@mistletoeheights.org
 2238 Mistletoe Blvd.

Volunteers needed

We need more volunteers! Help us make this neighborhood better.

Are you new to the neighborhood and would like to get involved? Here are a few great ways, and you will get to meet a lot of interesting neighbors!

Historical Preservation Committee: We are looking for any interested people to join the Historical Preservation Committee. Help us ensure the integrity of the architecture in our community.

Advertising manager: We need someone to solicit and manage ads from local businesses. You would work closely with the treasurer. It would require only a few hours a month.

Social chairperson: Are you a "people person"? We are looking for someone to help coordinate neighborhood events. Most of them already have established leaders, so it would just be a matter of coordination. Other duties would involve finding locations for members' meetings and the Christmas party and providing snacks, drinks and tableware for such meetings. All costs would be reimbursed.

Newby Park Gardening Committee: We need a group of people to work on a rotating basis to care for the plants and flowers in Newby Park. Rosaline Eastep Takes will provide information about the specific duties involved and will manage the schedule.

Contact MHA Vice President Chad Jung if you are interested in any of these positions. vicepresident@mistletoheights.com.

Thanks to good neighbors!

Thanks to the following good neighbors for stepping up to fill volunteer positions:

Leslie Houston will lead Wine and Walk. Watch email or the newsletter for an announcement of when it will start.

Claudia Camp will write the Yard of the Month fixture.

Anne and Adam Weiskittel will deliver newsletters to all blocks of Weatherbee Street.

Chris and Sawyer Taylor will deliver the newsletter to 2100 block of Harrison Avenue.

Ben Connelly will deliver the newsletter to 2100 block of Morphy Street.

If you know of any "unsung heroes" who have made contributions to the neighborhood, please contact newsletter@mistletoeheights.org so we can include them in the next newsletter.

Thank you to all who help make our neighborhood better.

New neighbors, as of spring 2017

Amanda Kent | 2308 Edwin St. | Daughter, Madeline Simmons, age 7

Join the Mistletoe Heights email list

To subscribe to the Mistletoe Heights Residents mailing list, go to mistletoeheights.org, click on "Email list" and look for "Subscribing to Residents." Enter your name and email address, and then click "Subscribe." Note: You may need to add residents-bounces@mistletoeheights.org to your address book

to receive emails.

If you have questions or concerns, contact moderator@mistletoeheights.org.

Check out our website: mistletoeheights.org

Friend us on Facebook: facebook.com/mistletoeheights

Mark your calendars!



Saturday, May 6: Municipal elections for mayor and City Council members. Get out and vote!

Tuesday, May 16: Mistletoe Heights neighborhood meeting at the home of Anne and Adam Weiskittel, 2345 Mistletoe Ave., 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, June 9: Joint Berkeley/Mistletoe Heights Pool Party at Forest Park Pool, 7-9 p.m. Details to follow

Tuesday, July 4: Neighborhood Fourth of July parade at the Triangle. Watch for time.

In memoriam



Craig Paul Dickson, a resident of Mistletoe Drive, passed away on March 13 at age 57.

He was born May 13, 1959, in Little Rock, Ark., but got to Texas as an infant and considered himself a native Texan.

He graduated from Texas Tech University Law School and practiced law in Fort Worth.

Known as a quiet man with a big heart, Craig was an honest, hard-working family man. He was also an adult leader in Boy Scout Troop 50.

Craig is survived by his wife, Dana Della-Rose Dickson, and sons Carter and Reed. Condolences to the family.

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Mistletoe Heights neighbors, bring this ad for
20% off food any time until the end of March.

An 'urban pioneer' who helped make this neighborhood what it is today (Continued from Page 1)



2408 Harrison Ave., circa 1980

The Stemples hoped that their neighborhood might enjoy an uptick as “urban pioneers” like themselves and Wyatt and Joy Teague, at 2200 Edwin St., moved in to jumpstart a resurgence.

Also, the nearby Medical District was expanding and doctors, nurses and other health workers were looking for homes convenient to their jobs.

“I thought it was half a miracle that things kept going up,” Irene remarked over tea in her kitchen.

At least, the Stemples thought, they probably wouldn't lose money when they sold their house.

But they both ended up liking Fort Worth, Mistletoe Heights – and the weather.

Getting a passel of kids bundled up for school during the winters in New York state was a chore that Irene was glad to be rid of. Norm liked their back yard and the Triangle in front of their house, ideal places for the kids to play.

So, with his doctorate in hand, Norm stayed on at TCU for eight years, working with the university's nascent computer system. Trisha Dianne, the Stemples' oldest child, recalls Norm riding his bike to work at TCU and coming home with bundles of computer punch cards.

Through local connections, Norm got hired at Alcon Labs, where he worked for 17 years until retiring on Feb. 23, 1992, all the while raising their five children and living at 2408 Harrison Ave.

Roundabout journey

It was a roundabout journey that brought the Stemples to Fort Worth in the first place.

Irene, now 83, was born as Irene Mildred Shnurer on Feb. 28, 1934, in New London, Conn., the daughter of a Ukrainian Orthodox priest who had escaped the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and immigrated to America through Ellis Island. She grew up speaking both Ukrainian and English.

When she was a child, Irene and her family moved to Herkimer in upstate New York, where her father was a priest at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

When Irene was 16, the family moved again, this time to Chicago, to another Ukrainian Orthodox parish on the south side.

Irene graduated from high school in Chicago and enrolled in Rockford College, in Rockford, Ill., to study science, specifically physics and chemistry.

Then it was on to Penn State, where she got her master's in physics. She was one of only a very few women in the physics program at Penn State in the late 1950s.

One of the men in the program was Norm, and that's how they met.

Norm's route to Penn State, in State College, Pa., was about as circuitous as Irene's.

He was born March 7, 1933, in Lock Haven, Pa., into a family whose German forbearers had been in America since before the Revolutionary War.

His parents, Jay and Mae Stemple (nee Sisler), were both college teachers – Jay of chemistry and Mae of music – in Lock Haven.

The couple married late in life.

“Mae was 17 years younger than Jay,” Trisha said. “My dad was born in 1933 and Mae in 1898. That makes Mae 35 years old when Dad was born. Very odd for the times, I hear.”

When Jay retired from teaching in 1944, the family moved to Salem, Va., where Jay's brother lived.

Trisha said that, according to family lore, Jay did most of the work on construction of the Stemple family home in Salem and that young Norm “learned to lay bricks in building that house, which led to a job laying bricks when he was older.”

Norm graduated from high school in Salem and got his bachelor's degree in physics at Roanoke College, also in Salem, before heading to Penn State for his master's – and his meeting with Irene.

The two young scientists were married by Irene's father in a Ukrainian Orthodox church in Lyndora, Pa., on June 16, 1957.



Norm and Irene Stemple

Raising a family

They settled in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where Norm began working for IBM, and started raising a family. Trisha was born in Poughkeepsie before the family moved to Peekskill, N.Y., when Norm was transferred to IBM Research in White Plains.

Then, in Peekskill, along came the other four Stemple children: Eddie, Joanne, Donny and Linda.

“We lived in Peekskill for seven years before Norm was asked by IBM to get his Ph.D.,” Irene said.

“We all – Norm, me and five kids ages 1 to 8 – piled into the station wagon to come to Fort Worth and TCU.”

In Fort Worth, Irene got the children settled into school – Trisha into third grade at Lily B. Clayton and Eddie, then 6, into first grade. Joanne, then 4, and Donny, 3, attended the Museum School once a week at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

Irene also continued a part-time teaching career that she had begun in New York. Just out of Penn State, she taught physics for two years at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie before starting a family.

Over the years in Fort Worth, she taught for a time at TCU, Tarrant County Junior College – as it was known then – the



Irene Stemple on a fossil dig

Museum School and the Lower School at Fort Worth Country Day.

Irene also continued her lifelong passion for fossil hunting, which she first pursued in New York state.

When she was a child in Herkimer, a railroad line was being cut into an embankment a few blocks from her house. Earth-moving equipment was exposing fossils “all over the place.”

“My best friend and I, along with other kids,” Irene said, “went

after the tractors and we brought fossils home in sacks.”

That didn’t sit well with her mom, who made Irene wash the dirt off the fossils before bringing them into the house.

In Fort Worth, she was a member of the Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club and the Dallas Paleontological Society, and took part in many of the groups’ fossil-hunting field trips.

“Even Norm was kind enough to accept taking me fossiling, even though it wasn’t his thing,” Irene said, noting that Norm preferred golf.

In 2011, the Dallas Paleo Society presented Irene with its “lifetime achievement award.”

“It is unlikely anyone in our group will ever match Irene’s total of field trips led, people talked to, and have more of an impact on children than she has in over 40 years as an educator, volunteer and generally being a great person,” the society said in its announcement.

The Stemples also took many camping vacations with the kids piled into their station wagon with a car-top luggage carrier.

Time to travel

Once the kids were off to college, and especially after Norm retired in 1992, the Stemples were free to do a lot more traveling, now in a Toyota motor home.

“It looked old,” Irene said, “but it was great – very reliable with all our needs, stove, fridge, beds and bathroom.

“We’ve been in every state in the United States,” Irene said. “Going west and north was the best for what I was looking for” – fossils, for example, in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

They once drove to Alaska in their motorhome, and over the years got to visit 30 countries and all seven continents – including Antarctica. They traveled, among lots of other places, to Patagonia at the southern tip of South America, to Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan and twice to China.

A major interest in Norm’s retirement was community service. He volunteered at the Tarrant Area Food Bank for 18 years,

Guardianship Services for 16 years and for several years as a computer instructor at Senior Net and The Bridge School, an online school for kids in grades 6 through 12.



Irene Stemple, left, at the dedication of the Little Free Library honoring her husband, Norm Stemple. Photo by Rodger Mallison

He was also a part-time tax preparer at H&R Block and a member of the choir at Trinity Lutheran Church for several years.

As part of his service to the Mistletoe Heights Association, Norm was very involved on a committee that dealt with the energy companies during the fracking boom in the neighborhood that began around 2007.

The Stemples also found time in their retirement years to build in 2009 a new home, a one-story, 1920s-style bungalow at 1304 Buck Ave., around the corner from the house on the Triangle that they bought in 1967.

Unfortunately, Norm didn’t get to live in the home very long. He was diagnosed with cancer and died Nov. 11, 2012, at age 79.

A group of neighbors built and erected in the Triangle a Little Free Library in memory of Norm.

It stands at the northeast corner of the Triangle at the intersection of Harrison and Buck avenues, the two streets where the Stemples lived in Mistletoe Heights.

The inscription on the window of the Little Free Library reads: “In memory of Norman Stemple: A Mistletoe Heights resident for 45 years from 1967 to 2012. Norm will be remembered as a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, friend and neighbor.”

It might also have said that Norm and Irene were Mistletoe Heights “pioneers,” who helped turn around a declining inner-city neighborhood to make it what it is today.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Jim Peipert is retired from the Star-Telegram, where he worked for 22 years as national and foreign editor and then as a member of the editorial board. Before that, he worked for more than two decades for The Associated Press as a reporter, editor and foreign correspondent in Chicago, New York, Moscow, London, Johannesburg and Nairobi.

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Neighborhood Memories

with Irene Stemple and Trisha Diane

Irene Stemple recalls that during their early years in the neighborhood she and many Mistletoe Heights residents shopped at Tillery's Grocery at 2002 Forest Park Blvd.

The store was opened in 1938 by Robert L. Tillery and served local residents for four decades until it closed in 1978. "The roof was deteriorating, and the out-of-state owners didn't want to repair it," said a Star-Telegram story.

"The closing of the store marked the end of an era, when Tillery's was known for its personalized services, including charge accounts and delivery," said the story, the obituary of Robert Tillery who died in 1990.

"During those four decades, customers were able to call the store and have their order delivered to their home. Sometimes, Mr. Tillery would take them stamps or money and even return to the store with letters to be mailed."

Tillery's meat market "carried ducks, geese and capons, and customers from all over town would drive to his store for custom-cut lamb chops."

The story was also a postal substation for a time and was the precinct's voting place.

The Alma Turner Building, which housed Tillery's Grocery, is now occupied by law offices. It was built in 1929 by Ida Loving Turner, one of the founders of Fort Worth Children's Hospital. She named the building after her daughter.



Alma Turner Building

Irene Stemple's daughter Trisha Dianne recalls that when she was in the third grade at Lily B. Clayton Elementary School in 1967 she had a best friend named Cindy.

Cindy lived at 1351 Mistletoe Drive, the house now owned by Gerry and Meralen Tyson.

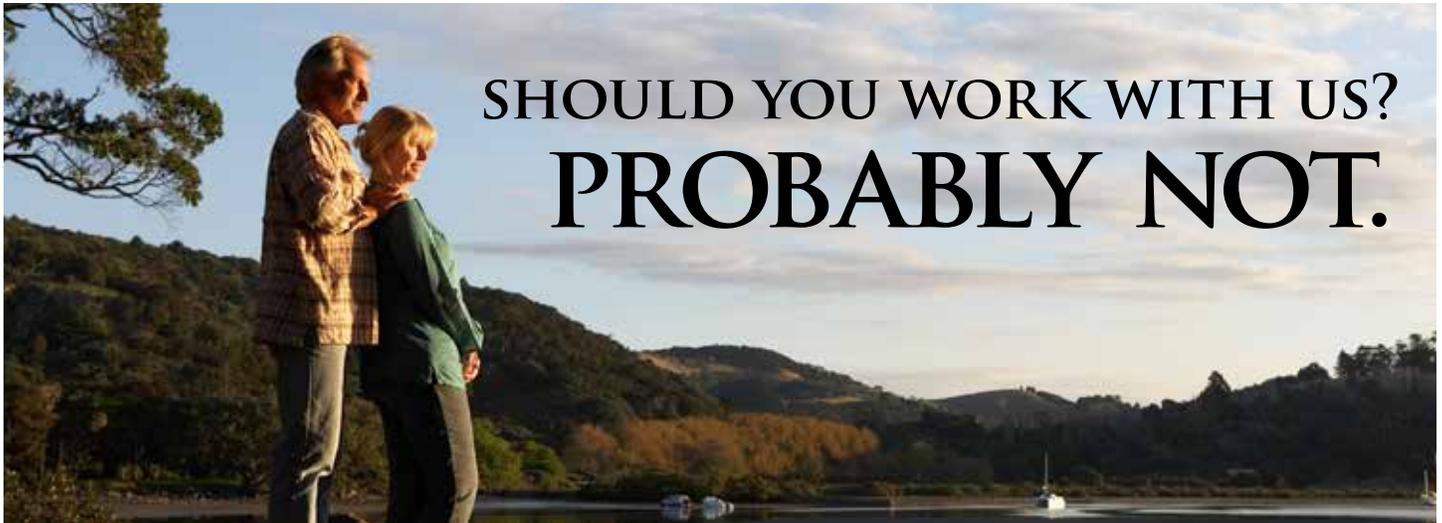
Cindy's family, Trisha believes, was the first in the neighborhood to own a countertop microwave oven, introduced for home use in 1967 by the Amana Corp.

The family would order groceries, including bacon, from Tillery's and Cindy and Trisha would cook the bacon in the microwave.

"It was a big thrill for me and Cindy," Trisha said.

Another big thrill, and novelty, for Trisha – who had recently come to Texas from New York – was attending the Fort Worth Stock Show in 1968.

"Cindy's parents gave us \$20 to spend," Trisha recalled. "In 1968, \$20 was a wow amount."



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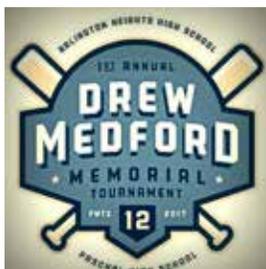
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Neighbors in action

Do you know of a Mistletoe Heights neighbor who has accomplished something great? Tell us about it at newsletter@mistletoeheights.org.

Drew Medford



The first annual Drew Medford Memorial (Round Robin) Tournament was held March 9-11 at Paschal High School.

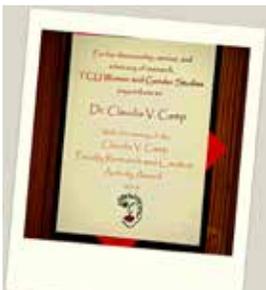
Drew was the beloved son of Nancy and David Medford, who passed away in August 2016. He was a star baseball player at Paschal.

High schools participating in the tournament were Paschal, L.D. Bell,

Weatherford, Fossil Ridge, Arlington Heights and Burselon Centennial.

The tournament awarded \$12,000 in scholarships. One senior from each participating team was selected by the team's coach and awarded a scholarship to be used for college education.

Claudia Camp



Claudia Camp, who retired in 2016 after 36 years as a professor of religion at TCU, was honored by the naming of a faculty research award after her.

In addition to her work as a religion professor, she helped found and served three years as director of the Department of Women and Gender Studies.

She was honored when the department named its annual faculty

research award for her. It is now called the Claudia V. Camp Faculty Research and Creative Activity Award.

Gaye Reed



Gaye Reed

Gaye Reed, who works for Coldwell Banker, has been named 2016 Realtor of the Year by the Greater Fort Worth Association of Realtors.

Gaye joined Coldwell Banker at its Tanglewood location in September 2002. In her second year, she earned entry into the company's International Sterling Society, the top 5 percent of Coldwell Banker agents.

Since then she has achieved membership numerous times in the

Coldwell Banker International Diamond Society and the President's Circle, the top 3 percent and 2 percent of agents.

Gaye's Realtor colleagues call her the "Queen of Mistletoe" because of her knowledge of Mistletoe Heights and its historic homes.

Edie Huling



Edie Huling, daughter of James Huling and Tommie Jo Jefferson and a student at Country Day School, signed a letter of intent on Feb. 1, National Signing Day, to attend Tufts University in Medford, Mass., and play softball.

She will play middle infield and outfield for the Tufts Jumbos.

Christi Yantis



Christi Yantis has been named Teacher of the Year at Lily B. Clayton Elementary School for the 2016-2017 academic year.

She works in special education as a resource/inclusion teacher and has worked at Lily B. for more than 20 years.

She also taught first grade, and all three of her children attended Lily B. Talk about continuity!

Celia Miller Pitt



Kimberly Miller and Matthew Pitt marked the 11th birthday of their daughter, Celia Miller Pitt, in a special way by bringing a little bit of NOLA into Mistletoe Heights.

Celia grew up celebrating Mardi Gras in costal Mississippi, so Celia's neighborhood friends had the chance to decorate a float on

a truck bed driven by Eric Rustad, with music speakers rigged up by Cal Rustad.

They rode around the neighborhood and even had a Second Line, a motorcycle escort and other followers.

King Cake was served afterward. What a fun time. This may become a new neighborhood tradition!

Diana Brandenburg



Diana Brandenburg recently self-published her first children's book.

Finding Hope is a beautifully illustrated, heartwarming story of a little girl and her mother who take time to help an abandoned dog. So as not to spoil the story, let's just say it has a very happy ending!

To learn more about Diana's book and/or future book signings, you can reach her at dianakaypugh@aol.com.



A perfect day for an Easter egg hunt

By Susan Pressley

This year's egg hunt was another great success!

We were fortunate to have such wonderful weather. Newby Park looked beautiful with lots of treat-filled eggs scattered in the grass.

Many smiling neighbors and excited children came. In fact, we collected eggs from 128 children from 76 families. That's more than 3,000 plastic eggs!

Parents, grandparents and friends had fun watching the children gather up the eggs in record time. Within minutes, every egg had been found.

After the egg hunt, the Easter Bunny came by in her convertible to meet the children and pose for pictures. Everyone enjoyed talking to their neighbors and watching the kids play.

It was a fantastic day to be at the park – a little cool, but perfect

weather to prevent the chocolates from melting.

A big thank-you goes to the office of City Councilwoman Ann Zadeh. Newby Park had many dangerous trees and dead branches lying around from the recent storm. She made sure they were cleaned up so the children would have a safe place to hunt for eggs.

Also, a special thank-you to Charlie Estes and Taylor Willis for making sure the Easter Bunny got to the park on time and in style. Another big thank-you goes to Kelley and Megan Reece, who help us set up the park every year.

And thank-you as well to Samuel Rogers, who provided the Easter Bunny decorations. Also, a very special thanks to all the kids who helped us hide the eggs. We simply couldn't do it without all of you!



Host: Jeff Davis, 2325 Mistletoe Drive
Officers: Josh Lindsay, Jeri Jo Blackmon, Mary Ellen Peipert
Secretary: Valerie Ewing
Neighbors: 52 (including five guests)
Special guest speakers: Neighborhood Police Officer Matt McClellen, Tabitha Butler, Catherine Huckaby, Katherine Smith, Kevin Howell

7:10 p.m.: Meeting started with MHA President Josh Lindsay introducing Officer McClellen. He talked about crime in our area, including theft around TCU, and said that 90 percent of car theft is from vehicles with doors left unlocked. Burglars like unlocked homes and cars because they prefer to act quietly. If you have a recurring issue, please notify Officer McClellen. If you have an emergency, call 911. Non-emergency number: 817-392-4222. Please report all break-ins, even if something is not stolen, because police keep track of every incident.

NPO contact information:

Email: Robert.McClellen@fortworthtexas.gov; phone: 817-372-2418
 Email: Joshua Caprio, joshua.caprio@fortworthtexas.gov; phone: 817-858-8609

7:15 p.m.: Tabitha Butler, community engagement liaison for the city, was the next guest introduced. Her role provides a link between neighborhoods and city leadership. Contact info: tabitha.butler@fortworthtexas.gov; phone: 817-392-2045. Packets containing information and resources for the city of Fort Worth were distributed.

7:18 p.m.: Other guests were briefly introduced: Catherine Huckaby, manager of community engagement; Katherine Smith, district director for City Councilwoman Ann Zadeh; and Kevin Howell, contractor with the city.

7:19 p.m.: Minutes from the last meeting, held Nov. 15, 2016, were passed out. The minutes had also been submitted via email in November. Motion to approve minutes seconded and approved.

Volunteer positions available in the MHA: Newby Park gardening committee, social director, street reps for 2200 Weatherbee and 2300 West Rosedale South.

Vacancies recently filled by neighbors generously willing to volunteer their time:

Yard of the Month: Claudia Camp

Wine and Walk: Leslie Houston

Historic Preservation Committee: Robert DeVargas

7:30 p.m.: Treasury report: MHA Treasurer Jeri Jo Blackmon distributed the treasury report. Key points: Expense category reflects a \$200 donation to Boy Scout troop in memory of Joseph Vories. Announcement: Realtor of the Year Award was given to Gaye Reed by the Greater Fort Worth Association of Realtors.

7:35 p.m.: Newsletter: Editor Mary Ellen Peipert reported that if anyone has anything to contribute, or if you know an interesting story about a house in our neighborhood, please contact her.

Committee reports:

Development: A developer met with MHA officers recently to discuss a multiplex project on two properties east of the railroad tracks and north of Mistletoe Boulevard. The developers would like to meet with our neighborhood, but it will not be until August.

Welcome Basket: Representative was not present; matter not discussed.

Berm: Robert Camacho talked about graffiti. If you see it, report it to the city. Use the app: myFortWorth. You can take a photo, use a pin to map the location and the city is notified immediately.

Traffic: The intersection of Mistletoe Avenue and Jerome Street is now a four-way stop.

Historic Preservation: People on this committee are our advocates. They are knowledgeable, so call them if you have questions or concerns. General question: What is our neighborhood doing to make sure that everyone knows they live in a historic neighborhood? It should be in every newsletter issue. Written guidelines are on the website.

Helpful Tips:



You can use the app myFortWorth to report graffiti. You take a photo on your smartphone, use a pin to map the location and the city is notified immediately. This graffiti on the sound wall was reported and promptly removed.



7:50 p.m.: Old business:

A project currently in the works is to add sidewalks to two areas in Mistletoe Heights: the 2300 block of Mistletoe Drive (between Forest Park Boulevard and Edwin Street) and the 2200 block of Mistletoe Boulevard (between Forest Park Boulevard and Jerome Street).

Brief history: Last May, at a neighborhood meeting at a home in the 2300 block of Mistletoe Drive, sidewalks were discussed. That evening, a neighbor's car was damaged by a hit-and-run driver while parked on that street. The next day, Josh called the city to inquire about placing sidewalks along that stretch of street to make the road safer. The city indicated it had extra bond money for new sidewalks but not for repairing damaged ones. At the neighborhood meeting in August 2016, the issue was discussed again. A vote was taken, with the majority in attendance in favor of having sidewalks installed. Surveys were then sent to property owners living along both blocks. The city received surveys mostly in favor. Last November, the MHA received a letter from a property owner along the 2300 block of Mistletoe Drive, stating that the opinion of the block had changed and that the majority was no longer in favor of sidewalks. Side note: Property owners along the 2200 block of Mistletoe Boulevard are still in favor.

The matter was then opened for discussion. Some were opposed and some in favor. What follows are salient points, as the discussion was lengthy.

Arguments opposing sidewalks for the 2300 block of Mistletoe Drive:

They change the character of the property. If there is more concrete and less grass, the property will not be as desirable, thus potentially decreasing property value. They're less safe, i.e., backing out of a driveway increases the chance of hitting someone, for instance a person using the sidewalk to ride a bike. Sidewalks potentially increase theft, as they bring people closer to the front doors. They're more of a financial burden, as maintaining them is a responsibility of the owners, not the city. It was pointed out that the 2300 block of Mistletoe Drive was added in the 1950s (Ben E. Keith addition) and the lack of sidewalks was attractive, creating the appearance of an expansive yard. One resident is concerned that a sidewalk prevents parking all of their cars in their driveway unless one is parked blocking the sidewalk. The decision should be left up to the property owners affected, and if they are opposed this should be respected.

Question for NPO: Do sidewalks increase the chance of property being stolen?

No. Package theft from porches is a billion-dollar industry regardless of sidewalks and the thieves usually use vehicles.

Arguments in favor:

The walking school bus for Lily B. Clayton only has two places to safely cross Forest Park Boulevard: the light at Mistletoe Boulevard and the light at Park Place. Sidewalks would mean fewer streets for them to cross. Many children are not walking or riding their bikes to school because of the lack of sidewalks. Jerome Street is much safer now that we have a sidewalk. Sidewalks bring a community together. A national study by AARP was cited that concluded sidewalks reduce crime and increase property values. The city has right of way up to nine feet, but this does not mean it will use the entire nine feet for sidewalk installation.

Example: New sidewalks on Jerome Street are up against the street and no trees were removed during installation. This neighborhood is desirable because of its walkability, proximity to a great school, heavily weighted with families. Prior to the 1950s, neighborhoods had sidewalks. During the 1950s, sidewalks were not added to developments because the premise was that people were spending time in their backyards. Now in new communities, sidewalks are being put in as they bring people together, make areas more safe and more unified. This is a neighborhood-wide issue and not just about the property owners affected. A resident in the 2200 block of Mistletoe Boulevard would like to go forward with the sidewalks and asked if the project could be split. The contractor with the city answered that the projects could be split up.

8:30 p.m.: There was a motion to split the two projects, followed by a substitute motion to support both projects as originally planned. Although we can vote, ultimately the city will decide. Josh took a vote.

Those in favor of the substitute motion: 37;
those opposed: 15.

8:35 p.m.: New business: Newby Park has a new backstop for the baseball diamond. It will be dedicated to two boys from Mistletoe Heights: Drew Medford and Charlie Bourland. Motion to approve this dedication, seconded and all in favor for approval.

8:41 p.m.: Lily B Clayton spring auction: Motion to donate to \$550 to the school was approved.

The neighborhood garage sale is April 1.

8:45 p.m.: Meeting adjourned.



Mayor Betsy Price (far right) leads children to Lily B. Clayton Elementary School as part of the Walking School Bus project, Oct. 10, 2014.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, May 16

At the home of:

Anne and Adam Weiskittel,
2345 Mistletoe Ave.

7 to 8:30 p.m

A new look for Harrison



The three blocks of Harrison Avenue – 2100, 2200 and 2300 – are being updated with new sidewalks, curbs, driveway entries, paving, landscaping, water main and wiring for the streetlights.

The work began on the 2300 block at the Triangle and has progressed to the 2100 block east of Jerome Street throughout the spring.

It has caused some discombobulation in the neighborhood, with machines and supplies parked at the Triangle and on Jerome and residents having to park on other streets on some days.

But, all in all, the crews have been quick, efficient, polite and amenable to neighbors' requests.

Here are a few photos of the work along the 2200 block of Harrison between Forest Park Boulevard and Jerome.

Photos by Jim Peipert

Dates to remember at Lily B.

Saturday, April 22 Lily B. Clayton Spring Auction

Whether or not you have a Lily B. student in your household, you still play a very important role in the life of the school.

This is your neighborhood. Every year, families try to relocate to this area with hopes that their children can attend this amazing school.

You are all invited to attend the Lily B. Spring Auction, where you can see our tax dollars at work, the spirit and dedication at the school, as well as meet new friends!

Thank you in advance for supporting your neighbors, and your neighborhood as a whole.

Tickets will be on sale March 6. However, you may go online to sponsor the event, donate money or an item for auction at any time. <https://501auctions.com/lilybauction2017/>

For more information, contact:
Beth Thurman and Katherine Ridenour
Lily B. Clayton PTA,
auction co-chairs
817.875.4080 / 817.371.5669
auction@lilybclayton.org

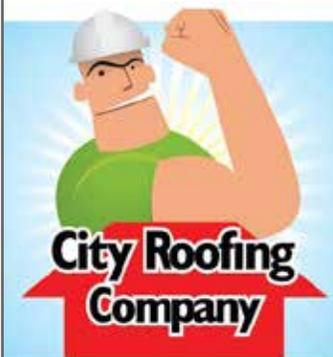


Thursday, May 11 Tedye Collins Retirement

Tedye Collins is retiring after 42 years of teaching kindergarteners at Lily B. Clayton Elementary.

Join the faculty in wishing her well from 3:30 until 5 p.m. on May 11 in the school library. All current and former students and parents are invited. Bring any pictures or stories that you would like to share.





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In the city

Municipal elections are scheduled for Saturday, May 6. We will be voting for mayor and City Council members. Among the City Council members seeking re-election is District 9 Councilwoman Ann Zadeh.

Police non-emergency number: 817-392-4222

Crime updates are available to citizens at any time:

fortworthpd.com. Go to crime information, then crime mapping.

Community engagement liaison: For our neighborhood, contact Tabitha Butler, 817-392-2045.

tabitha.butler@fortworthtexas.gov

Link to city online pothole reporting form:

<https://cityoffortworth.wufoo.com/forms/pothole.report>

Link to code compliance issues and to report graffiti:

fortworthtexas.gov/codecompliance/myFtWorth

Link to garbage related issues: www.fortworthtexas.gov. Click on "Garbage and Recycling."

Bulk trash pickup for our neighborhood is the week of the fourth Monday of the month.



Link to report animal issues, control, adoption:
fortworthtexas.gov; or
call 817-392-1234.

Link to request permit

for garage sale:

Fortworthtexas.gov; or call 817-392-2222.

For travel health information and inoculations, call Tarrant County Public Health Department, Travel Health Services, 1101 S. Main St., Fort Worth, TX 76104.

817-321-4707

Fort Worth leash law:

<http://fortworthtexas.gov/animals/laws>

Fort Woof Dog Park:

<http://fortwoof.org>

Smart phone app: myFtWorth



Yard of the month: 2341 W. Magnolia Ave.

By Claudia Camp

Wow, was this tough!

David and I admired so many lovely gardens as we walked the Heights, and we appreciate the work and care that our neighbors have been putting into creating such lovely spaces.

However, we had to make a choice, and are pleased to say that the yard of the month for April-May is the beautiful, multi-bed, multi-season garden of Susan and Brent Pressley at 2341 W. Magnolia Ave.

Susan, we learned, is both the mastermind and the master laborer, having gradually developed the garden over the 18 years she and Brent have lived in their home.

Directly in front of the house, a curved bed, lined with river rocks, extends all along the front porch, sweeping around the corner at the west end.



Photos by Jim Peipert

A crape myrtle marks the far west corner, with a small decorative wrought-iron wheelbarrow planter underneath.

Substantial cast-iron plants anchor the bed to the house on both sides of the walk, along with fragrant, evergreen rosemary and leatherleaf mahonia, whose gray-green, holly-like leaves and purple berries provide both textural interest and subtle color.

Toward the front of the beds, lamb's ear offers contrasting texture, while purple phlox (an early spring stalwart), pink salvia, pink pincushion and yellow columbines (now on a roll) punch up the palette.

Iris and daffodils were last month's treats, and, as the spring and summer go on, passers-by will be treated to the arching stems of a butterfly bush; the lovely blue of Henry Duelberg salvia (one of Susan's favorites, and an "easy grow" in our climate); golden black-eyed Susans; pink echinacea (coneflower); and red Turk's cap.

extends all along the front porch, sweeping around the corner at the west end.

The front walk intersects the curve, and two large, deep-pink knockout roses, one on each side of the walk, set off the entrance.

A crape myrtle

And then there's the thatch and moss birdhouse set in the midst of it all. What bird wouldn't want to live here?

Along the yard's eastern boundary, another gracefully curved bed begins at the sidewalk and runs toward the back of the house.

Two large, pale pink rose bushes command the front of the bed, along with a majestic stand of tall white iris.

Nearer ground level, daffodils have come and gone, but blooming now are phlox; perky yellow calypholus (aka, primrose or sundrops); small, gold, daisy-like four-nerve daisy; and a beautiful spread of blue-flowering bulbs that Susan didn't know the name of.

(I did a little research on this, and my best guess is that they're *Scilla siberica*.)

Still to come: fall aster, pink skullcap, daylilies and purple homestead verbena.

An inviting blue bench sits under a young but maturing redwood tree (who knew they grew in Texas!) in the strip of green grass between the bed and the driveway, leading the eye back along the side bed.

Here we find a yucca plant, a wide, low-growing rose bush, and then a bird bath and a St. Francis statue, set amid lamb's ear and more of those lovely blue *Scilla*(?).

A datura, echinacea and amaryllis are all getting ready to bloom, and the American beautyberry tree will be covered in bright purple berries in the fall.

And the bed continues, mostly out of the street-viewers' range, with Tiffany roses and more.

Susan is, as she puts it, a natural gardener in every sense of the word.

Not only does she use organic products, she also is willing to help plants find their desired place, moving them around if necessary to get more or less sun, or letting them go if they just don't make it.

Susan's floral masterpiece is a real lesson in what can be done with plants that are well adapted to our climate when they are attentively placed in well-mulched beds.

Thanks, Susan, for your long labor of garden-love!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The front garden of Claudia Camp and David Gunn at 2212 Mistletoe Blvd. has been a perennial favorite in Yard of the Month honors. Their back garden was one of six featured in the 2015 Hidden Gardens of Fort Worth Tour, which featured Mistletoe Heights.

Mistletoe Heights Association Annual Dues Drive

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.

Our annual dues drive begins in April and continues through October. You will see this flyer in our newsletter each of those months as we collect dues donations for our neighborhood association. We will recognize donors in EVERY newsletter through October with the final recognition published in our December issue.



Levels of giving for this year are:

- Mistletoe – up to \$49
- Holly - \$50 to \$99
- Magnolia - \$100 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

Please return your dues donation to:

Name(s) _____
(As you prefer to be listed in the newsletter)

Mistletoe Heights Association
c/o Jeri Jo Blackmon
1408 Mistletoe Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76110

Address: _____

Please check here if you wish your donation to remain anonymous

Check here if you can volunteer some time to our association and include a telephone number where we can reach you _____

WELCOME to the neighborhood

Josh Lindsay
president@mistletoeheights.org

Mary Ellen Peipert
newsletter@mistletoeheights.org
817-926-4117

Mistletoe Heights, as a "front porch community," would like to welcome all new residents.

If you know of any new neighbors, or if you're a new neighbor, please contact our association president, Josh Lindsay, or our newsletter editor, Mary Ellen Peipert.

They will need your name, address, names of family members, age and gender of children and your contact information.

They will then pass your information on to our incredible duo of ladies, Kathy Jo Rogers and Denise Semple, of the Welcome Basket Committee, who would like to present you with a basket of goodies to welcome you to the neighborhood.

Get connected

Get connected. Be more engaged. Please share with us your experiences of good will in the neighborhood to newsletter@mistletoeheights.org and write me at president@mistletoeheights.org. Here are some ways to find out what's going on in the neighborhood.
— Josh Lindsay, MHA president

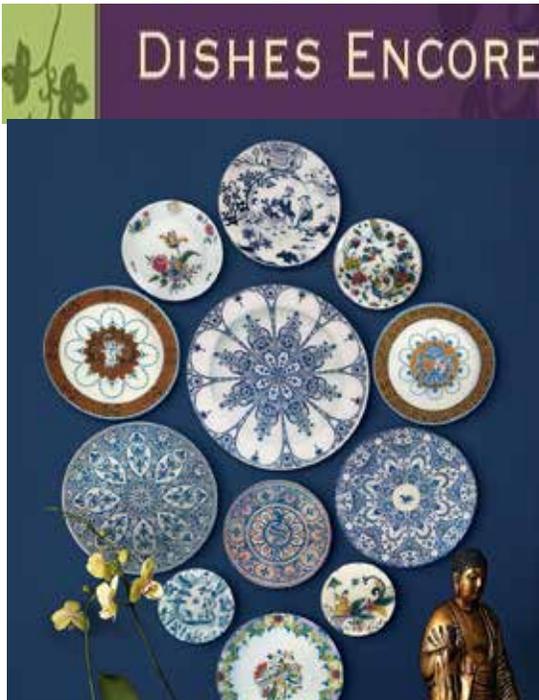
Facebook Chat Room www.facebook.com/groups/mhneighbors

NextDoor page www.mistletoeheights.nextdoor.com

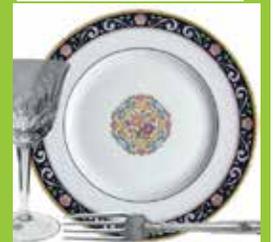
Webpage www.mistletoeheights.org/contacts

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Construction update



Exterior work is nearly finished on the three-story, 35-unit residential complex, Magnolia at Rosedale, at the southeast corner of West Rosedale and Jerome streets. The sign in front of the complex says it will be "pre-leasing" this summer.

PLEASE DON'T FENCE ME IN

In case you didn't know, I'm more than just a Mistletoe Heights' area Realtor—I represent buyers and sellers all over Fort Worth, Tarrant County and beyond.



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Holidays are coming! Birthdays, too!! Birthdays too! Portraits of your four-legged family members. Visit my website for examples. www.mkohouthorseportraits.com or call 817-313-1419. Questions welcomed!

TUTOR

K-3rd grade. Caring, encouraging, experienced (12 years) certified elementary school teacher is offering tutoring this summer. Contact Kathy Jo Rogers at 817.688.0905 or kathyjorogers@sbcglobal.net.

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Sally Sledge ministers on the harp as a worshiper, psalmist and vocalist. She has recorded two CDs: "Return to Your Rest" and "Cherished Times". She is available to play for home groups, church events, Bible studies, weddings, funerals, dinner parties or any special occasion. For more information and song samples, you may access her web site at www.sallysledge.com.

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Contact Jeri Jo Blackmon at 817-923-4393 or email JeriJo@Charter.net. 1408 Mistletoe Drive.

MISTLETOE HEIGHTS PET SITTERS

MISTLETOE HEIGHTS PET SITTERS is now booking for your vacation, or any other time. References available on request. Mistletoeheightspetsitters.com or 817-247-2870

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIANA BRANDENBERG

At-home mom would love to take your family photos! I will come to you, portrait session or special events. Just call and we'll get those perfect photos for the Christmas card! Call 214-734-9140.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Mistletoe Musikgarten (www.MistletoeMusik.com) has returned to its roots, right here in our neighborhood. We offer music and movement classes for infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers and kinders. We sing, dance, and play simple instruments in our parent-child classes. Music and movement classes prepare your child for future learning successes. Contact Carol Spencer joyous579@gmail.com ~ 817.927.3240

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PET SITTING

At-home mom who LOVES animals would love to help take care of yours! Please call Diana Brandenburg, 214-734-9140.

Happy Spring!
from Ruth and the Story Group!

Ruth Story, Broker Associate

817.992.9232

askRuthStory@gmail.com

www.ruthstoryonline.com

Helpful phone numbers, emails, addresses and websites

City information

City Code violations	817.392.1234
City of Fort Worth	817.392.2255
fortworthtexas.gov	
Police—nonemergency	817.392.4222
Garage sale permits	817.392.7851
Graffiti abatement	817.212.2700
Lily B. Clayton Elementary	817.922.6660
schools.fwisd.org/clayton	
Paschal High School	817.814.5000
paschalhs.org	
Historical Preservation	
Justin Newhart	817.392.8037
justin.newhart@fortworthtexas.gov	
Southside Preservation Hall	
Hallyes@earthlink.net	817.926.2800
southsidepreservation.com	
The T/Longhorn Trolley	817.215.8600
the-t.com	
Trinity Railway Express	817.215.8600
trinityrailwayexpress.org	
City Council District 9	
Ann Zadeh	817.392.8809
district9@fortworthtexas.gov	

MHA officers

officers@mistletoeheights.org	
President	
Josh Lindsay	817.927.0323
president@mistletoeheights.org	
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Chad Jung	817.291.5849
vicepresident@mistletoeheights.org	
Secretary	
Valerie Ewing	817.791.9535
secretary@mistletoeheights.org	
Treasurer	
Jeri Jo Blackmon	817.923.4393
treasurer@mistletoeheights.org	
Newsletter Editor	
Mary Ellen Peipert	817.926.4117
newsletter@mistletoeheights.org	

Volunteers

Historic Preservation Committee	
Roger Ross	817.372.6865
Susan Willis	817.924.4000
Street Rep Captains	
Melissa Kohout (East side)	817.313.1419
Rosaline Eastepp Takes	817.207.9750
(West side)	
Welcome Baskets	
Kathy Jo Rogers	817.688.0905
Denise Semple	817.733.0404
Advertising Manager	
advertise@mistletoeheights.org	
Newby Park	
Vacancy	
Email Moderator	
Richard Yantis	817.924.2857
Webmaster	
Scott Ewing	214.403.7762
Historian	
Luke Ellis	817.339.2459
Yard of the Month	
Claudia Camp	817.924.5193

Street reps (listed by blocks)

East of Forest Park	
2200 W. Rosedale South	
Lysta Haynes	817.675.4163
2200 Irwin	
Gary Willis	817.924.4000
2100/2200 Mistletoe Blvd.	
Melissa Kohout	817.313.1419
2100/2200 West Magnolia	
Colleen Shutt	214.455.9097
2200 Harrison	
Aaron Torkelson	817.907.5533
2100 Harrison Ave.	
Chris & Sawyer Taylor	817.201.5320
2100 Mistletoe Ave.	
Pat Hale	817.924.5263
2200 Mistletoe Ave.	
Richard & Christi Yantis	817.924.2857
2100/2200 Edwin	
Katrina Pittman	817.921.2221

2100 Weatherbee	
Adam & Anne Weiskittel	817.653.2912
2200 Weatherbee	
Adam & Anne Weiskittel	817.653.2912
2100 Morphy	
Ben Connelly	
Forest Park Blvd.	
Steve McReynolds	817.926.7955

West of Forest Park

2300 W. Rosedale South	
Kimberly Helixon	817.927.4641
2300 Irwin	
Sue Duvall	817.926.8714
2300/2400 Mistletoe Blvd.	
Lisa Stewart	817.924.9666
2300 West Magnolia	
Susan Pressley	817.923.6061
2300/2400 Harrison	
Robert DeVargas	817.923.9393
2300 Mistletoe Ave.	
Vacancy	
2300 Edwin	
Grant Pannell	817.924.0051
1100 Clara	
Marc & Kathy Jo Rogers	817.923.3304
1200 Clara	
Bryce & Laura Docker	bryedocker@ hotmail.com
1100 Buck	
Kate Herring	817.923.3843
1200/1300 Buck	
Irene Stemple	817.926.6546
Mistletoe Drive	
Meralen & Gerry Tyson	817.926.5909
2300 Mistletoe Drive	
Chris Fershtand	817.923.8422
Carol Benson	817.921.4000

Neighborhood police officers

Robert "Matt" McClellan (West)	817-372-2418
Josh Caprio (East)	817-858-8609

MHA yearly memberships

Voluntary dues are \$15, \$25, \$50 or whatever 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 one free classified ad. Please submit copy by the 15th of the month. Notify the editor at 817.201.1909 or email: newsletter@mistletoeheights.org.

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 information helps, especially if we have questions for you.

Letters to the editor are limited to a half-page (approximately 350 words). Please

send email to:
newsletter@mistletoeheights.org.

Advertising information

To place an advertisement or for actual mechanical sizes, please email: advertise@mistletoeheights.org
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Deadline for ads, payment and artwork is the 15th of the month.