

MESTA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

News and information for ALL residents of the Mesta Park Historic Preservation District



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Contact:

Chairs@MestaPark.org
OfficersandBoard@MestaPark.org

The MPNA Newsletter is published six times per year (bimonthly) by the MPNA.

Neighborhood meetings, board meetings or social events occur monthly.

GET INVOLVED!

KFF MATCHING GRANT BUILDS MPNA ENDOWMENT

by Jennifer Bowman and Sarah Jordan

Last Spring, the MPNA Board voted to enhance our neighborhood's endowment at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation (OCCF) by accepting a matching grant from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund. Established in 2003, our OCCF Endowment has grown to more than \$107,000 through a combination of personal gifts, matching grants from the OCCF and Kirkpatrick Family Fund and direct contributions from the MPNA. The MPNA Endowment and funds from other charitable organizations are managed by professional money managers at the OCCF and provide an annual distribution to the MPNA.

In 2019 Mesta Park's distribution was approximately \$4,700, which brings our earnings from the fund to more than \$45,000 since it's inception 16 years ago. Some years, instead of appropriating the funds in the annual budget, the MPNA Board has elected to reinvest the earnings to build the principal of our endowment.

With the recent success of fundraising from Mesta Festa and Holiday Home Tours, the MPNA Board voted to invest some of those funds for the future. Additionally, the Board voted to earmark all 2019-20 membership dues for the endowment fund. The Kirkpatrick Family Fund grant will match each dollar the MPNA contributes 3:1. Our goal is to raise \$10,500; in turn we will receive \$3,500 in matching funds from the Kirkpatrick Family fund – adding \$14,000 to our Endowment.

If you have not paid your annual membership dues (a nominal \$60/year), please do so – and know that your dues will be matched with another \$20 from the Kirkpatrick Family Fund for our permanent Endowment. And please consider the Mesta Park NA Endowment Fund in your year-end giving and help us reach our goal which will support neighborhood landscaping and beautification efforts for years to come. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Bowman at (405) 426-9698, Sarah Jordan at (501) 230-6327 or JB Schuelein at (405) 301-6822.

GET PROUD!

CHEERS TO THE 42ND ANNUAL MESTA PARK HOME TOUR!

by Amy Dalebroux & Julie Watson

The Mesta Park Neighborhood Association celebrated yet another successful Home Tour the weekend of December 7 - 8, thanks in large part to the amazing homeowners, sponsors, and volunteers who dedicated their time and support to make a difference in the community.

Guests came from all over the state to enjoy the charm of the Mesta Park neighborhood, made festive with caroling from Windsong Chamber Choir and Wilson Elementary School, plus a refreshment porch visit from Santa Claus himself. The purpose of the tour is to show the value of urban living, historic preservation, and community. Additionally, as the neighborhood's largest fundraiser, the tour's profits support most endeavors made by the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association (a nonprofit organization). This includes donations to our local public elementary school (Wilson Arts Integrated Elementary School), improvements and maintenance for Perle Mesta Park, neighborhood beautification, and sponsorship of community events.

Many thanks to Andy and Jennifer Bowman, Tommy and Molly Cooke, Mat and Kenzie Clouse, Pete and Whitney Marrs, Jimmie and Susan Ownbey, Floyd Simon, and Lauren Warkentine for opening their beautiful and unique homes for the neighborhood, city, and state residents to appreciate!

The Home Tour would not be possible without its countless volunteers! Thanks to all who helped throughout the weekend, and a special thanks to the following individuals for their outstanding participation this year:

Sponsorship Chair

Lindsey McCarty

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Mary Kathryn Austin

Andy & Jennifer Bowman

Jon & Amy Fisher

David & Amanda Jones

Lindsey McCarty

Don Steel & Corinne Simon

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Cocktail Party Co-Chairs

Lindsey Clinton

Holly Jarolim

Homeowners' Dinner Co-Chairs

Sarah Jordan

Will Lightfoot

Home History Co-Chairs

Kimberly Carlson

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MPNA Treasurer

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Finally, a HUGE thank you to the Home Tour's sponsors (see page 3), who made this wonderful neighborhood tradition possible!

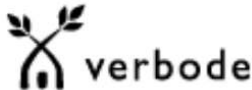
If you are looking for a fun way to get involved and meet people in the neighborhood, or if you want your home to be considered for the next tour, email mestahometour@gmail.com for more information!



42nd Annual Holiday Home Tour

PRESENTED BY  **Communication
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With special thanks to our sponsors:



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GET PROUD!

OCCF GRANTS GROW PARKS PROJECTS

by JB Schuelein

Over the past 20 years, the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association, with private donors and friends, have invested more than \$200,000 in Perle Mesta Park. Beginning with four lacebark elms planted in 2001, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation (OCCF) has assisted with funding, technical assistance and support with each major project in our neighborhood park.

Brian Dougherty is Director of the OCCF Parks & Public Spaces Initiative, a program that grew out of the Margaret Annis Boys Trust which was established to encourage landscaping and beautification projects in parks, medians and other public lands in Oklahoma City. He is a landscape architect and is knowledgeable of Oklahoma-proven plant materials that can thrive in Oklahoma's challenging weather extremes. Brian also takes a personal interest in each OCCF grant, and offers invaluable assistance to ensure each project has the maximum opportunity to succeed.

Mesta Park has been fortunate to receive 4 OCCF grants for landscaping projects to enhance Perle Mesta Park.

2005: The OCCF funded the planting of three dozen crape myrtles, six vitek and a dozen live oaks – that complement the old growth trees in the park and provide seasonal color. Virtually all of those plants survive today because the neighborhood was able to devote our funds to irrigation and borders around the crape myrtle beds - and thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers who watered the trees regularly until they were established.

2007: Dr. Stan and Raina Pelofsky donated the Southwest entrance to the park. The project was significantly enhanced by an OCCF grant for the plant materials, including the cedar elms, juniper, red yucca, lavender and vitek. The funds from the Pelofsky donation were utilized for hardscaping, irrigation and a border to keep the bermudagrass out.

2010: The MPNA received a grant from the OKC Parks Department to construct the gazebo in the center of the park. With support from the OCCF, MPNA installed the planting bed, irrigation, soil amendments and a border, along with four (4) Shantung maples. Again, OCCF funded all the plant materials.

2019: Finally as a part of our current initiative to “complete the park,” the OCCF has funded: (1) the installation of six ‘Shawnee Brave’ cypress and three sycamore trees around the volleyball courts, (2) the installation of landscape materials around the new entrance on the NW corner of the park, and (3) new sod on the south side of the park.

The OCCF has made a profound difference in the development of Perle Mesta Park. Their funding has given us a variety of beautiful shade trees, flowering shrubs that provide seasonal color, and other flowers and shrubs that will be enjoyed by the next generation. But, Perle Mesta Park is just one of their projects. Dougherty and the OCCF are growing parks and public spaces in Heritage Hills, Edgemere Park, Gatewood, Crown Heights, Linwood, Lincoln Terrace – and hundreds of other parks and public spaces across Oklahoma City and central Oklahoma.

The MPNA and all residents of our community extend our heartfelt thanks to Brian Dougherty and the OKC Community Foundation. OKC is fortunate to have you as partners in the development and enhancement of our neighborhood parks, improving the quality of life for us all.

GET PROUD!

SPRING FLOWERS DONATED BY WILSON DAISY TROOP

by JB Schuelein

Perle Mesta Park recently received a generous donation of nearly 2,000 Spring flowering bulbs from Wilson Daisy Troop # 1184. The Girl Scouts' mission is "...to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place."

The Wilson Daisy Troop took that mission to heart and made an investment that will make their neighborhood park a better place. With proceeds from their cookie sales, the Troop voted to purchase and plant an assortment of daffodils, narcissus, crocus and muscari in Perle Mesta Park.

On Sunday, November 3, nearly a dozen girls with their parents and team leaders, gathered in the park and planted the bulbs in "waves" across the southeast quadrant of the park. The bulbs will create a mass of color next Spring. We hope they will naturalize over time and bring joy to visitors to the park each Spring for years to come.

Thanks to Kristin Liles, Katie Huskerson, Traci Brannon and Brent Wall and the girls and parents who spent a beautiful Sunday afternoon in service to our neighborhood park. And thanks to all the girl scouts who sold cookies – and those of us who consume them. Its good to know that some of those calories are going to a good cause!



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Bimonthly Neighborhood Newsletter

Your neighborhood needs you!

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MPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM June 2019 - May 2020

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Or join online at www.mestapark.org/membership!