

MESTA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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



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

Neighborhood meetings, board meetings or social events occur monthly.

GET INVOLVED!

MESTA FESTA SEPTEMBER 22 by Jennifer Bowman

The Mesta Park Neighborhood Association presents the **2019 Mesta Festa, which will take place Sunday, September 22, 2019 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Perle Mesta Park, located at NW 18th and Shartel Ave**

Mesta Festa is free and open to the public, and will include a beer and wine garden, outdoor games such as yard pong and bag toss, arts and crafts, live music, sand volleyball, local artists, and pop-up shopping booths, as well as food trucks. Funds raised at Mesta Festa benefit the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association, contributing a significant portion to its annual budget.

Admission to the enjoy the beer and wine garden requires a wristband, which will be available for purchase at the entrance to the garden for \$20 per person. Only those 21 years of age and older with a valid ID may enter the beer and wine garden. Mesta Festa shirts will also be available for sale on the day of the event. Cash and credit cards will be accepted.

Several local musical acts will perform throughout the day. Food trucks that will be at the event include Tasty Snow, The Saucee Sicilian, The Taco Plant and many more.

For a third year in a row, Mesta Festa will follow the annual Uptown Fun(5)k, Uptown 23rd's fun run though the tree-lined streets of Mesta Park and Heritage Hills. The official after-race party will be at the 24th annual Mesta Festa! Runners (21+) receive a beer garden wristband (a \$20 value) with their run registration (other registration options available; children are welcome). Please visit www.uptown23rd.com/5k for more information.

**Find Dates to Remember
on page 8 of this issue!**

MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE

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MESTA PARK HOLIDAY HOME TOUR - HOME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Amy Dalebroux and Julie Watson

We are excited to announce that the **42nd annual Home Tour will take place December 7 - 8, 2019**. This fun, longstanding tradition is part of what makes life in Mesta Park so special, and it is also one of our community's major fundraisers.

Perle Mesta Park was founded in 1902 and named after Perle Mesta, an ambassador to Luxembourg and honored OKC native. The Mesta Park Neighborhood Association introduced the Home Tour in 1977 as a fundraiser for neighborhood beautification and improvements. The tradition has evolved and grown over the years, but the MPNA mission remains the same.

Neighbors like you are the key to the Home Tour's success, and we are in need of volunteers to make this year's event possible. Each home is assigned a house captain to help manage the logistics for you, and every family will receive a rendering of their home as well as a complimentary hotel "staycation" on Saturday evening.

Please let us know if you are interested or would like to nominate a neighbor by sending an email to mestahometour@gmail.com. Without volunteers, we will be forced to cancel this time-honored event and major neighborhood fundraiser. We would hate to see this magical holiday event end simply due to a lack of volunteer homes! Please rest assured that if you participate, we will take care of the rest. Please help us keep the tradition going strong!

Want to get involved? Please contact mestahometour@gmail.com to join the Home Tour Committee.

UPTOWN 23RD FUN(5)K

by Riley Bailey

Join Uptown 23rd on **September 22nd at 10:00 a.m.** for the third annual Uptown Fun(5)k through the tree-lined streets of historic Mesta Park and Heritage Hills Historic Neighborhood Oklahoma City. The official after-race party will be at the 24th annual Mesta Festa 2019.

Runners (21+) can bundle and receive a Mesta Festa beer garden wristband with their run registration. The Uptown Fun(5)k is chip-timed and certified, with runner prizes for overall winners and finisher medals for each age category winners. Each participant will receive a race t-shirt, timed bib, and free beer at finish line (21+), thanks to COOP Ale Works.

Register here:

<https://okc.enmotive.com/events/register/2019-uptown-fun-5-k>. All proceeds benefit the Uptown 23rd District Association, which exists to promote the vibrant community of Uptown 23rd.



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WILSON ELEMENTARY CELEBRATING 100 YEARS: 1919 - 2019

by Amy Sergent

The **Wilson School Centennial** Committee is pleased to announce **October 5th for the school's 100th Anniversary Celebration**. The school, located at 501 NW 21st Street, will have an Open House and a display of photos and memorabilia during the Heritage Hills Historic Homes Tour from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Festivities will include creative celebrations of Wilson's past, present, and future and a **Cake Cutting Ceremony at 10:30 a.m.** Events at Wilson are free and open to the public. Tickets to tour the magnificent homes featured on the Heritage Hills Historic Homes Tour may be purchased at www.heritagehills.org. An **Alumni Gathering "A Toast to Wilson" will take place at 7:30 p.m. on the Overholser Mansion Lawn** located at 405 NW 15th Street. For more information visit www.wilsonartsinc.org. Contact Amy Sergent via amydean89@gmail.com or 405-659-9308 to send photos, memorabilia or information about alumni.

Wilson was designed as a seven-room school by Solomon Layton and S. Wemyss-Smith, the architects of the State Capitol. There was no indoor plumbing, and 21st and 22nd streets were dirt roads. A pond and field were located on what is now the playground, where neighbors grazed their cattle. Wilson first opened its doors on September 15th, 1919. Since the circus was in town that day, the superintendent let all the schools out early so the children could go downtown to see the circus parade. He believed school must not interfere with the circus this one day in the year. In the 1930s, Wilson became the first public elementary school in Oklahoma City to have a library and a lunch program on campus. Wilson also has a rich history of extraordinary art throughout the building, including 1934 Public Works of Art Project (PWAP) era murals that are some of the nation's first New Deal era art.

Come share your memories and visit with Wilson alumni including Gyöngy Laky, internationally recognized textile and sculpture artist and professor, and daughter of 1951 Wilson Cafeteria mural artist Zyta Laky. Gyöngy Laky was recently located through information from a photo and news article found in the school archives. She is returning to Oklahoma City for the first time since she was a third grade student in the early 1950s. Laky will lead a creative and colorful portraiture workshop for all ages entitled "Making Faces". ARTSPACE at Untitled art center will have an exciting exhibition of Gyöngy Laky's work from September 12th through November 2nd including an Artist Talk on Thursday, October 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

See page 7 of this newsletter for pictures and more information about the centennial celebrations.

Wilson Elementary School provides a diverse student body with excellent educational opportunities. In 1998, Wilson was designated as the state's first specialty school for arts integration. Wilson is a partner school with the Partners in Education Program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. and BLAC, Inc. (Black Liberated Arts Center) in Oklahoma City, for professional development of teachers in arts integration. Arts integration is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding through an art form. Students engage in a creative process which connects an art form and another subject area and meets evolving objectives in both. Wilson's classroom teachers and fine arts specialists in drama, vocal music, instrumental music, visual art, and dance work as a team to integrate the arts and required classroom skills. The arts integration program has been very successful as Wilson is consistently one of the top performers in the district.

GET INVOLVED!

PARDON OUR MESS - PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE

by JB Schuelein

Work is expected to begin soon on two much-anticipated projects for our neighborhood park. The new Perle Mesta Park sign/entrance feature and a significant expansion of the irrigation system will be constructed/installed concurrently to minimize disruption to the park. The projects are funded by the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association, the OKC Parks and Recreation Department and a private donor (watch for details to be announced soon).

These projects are part of an initiative by the MPNA Board to 'complete' the park. At press time, we still do not know the fate of our third project – a grant request to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Parks and Public Spaces Initiative to renovate the volleyball courts.

The first phase of construction will involve trenching and laying conduit for electric service from the gazebo to the northwest corner of the park. The new sign will be lighted. We also plan to relocate the irrigation controller (from the gazebo) and backflow preventer (the hideous green 'tin horn' on the north side of the park) to a location 'hidden' behind the new sign and entrance. The irrigation project will essentially 'loop the park' so it can be expanded to add zones we may want to irrigate in the future. Both projects should be completed by Mesta Festa on Sept 22.

The total cost of all three projects will exceed \$100,000. Mesta Park's contribution to the projects (approximately \$30,000) comes from proceeds from successful Mesta Festas and our annual Holiday Home Tours. The remaining funds are projected to come from the OKC Parks & Recreation Dept, the OCCF (if our grant request is approved) and private donations. Private donations are still needed. If you're interested in making a tax-deductible donation to complete the park – or you know someone who might be interested, please make your check payable to Mesta Park Neighborhood Association with 'Park Projects' noted in the Memo field.

SAVE THE DATE!
WILSON ELEMENTARY 100TH ANNIVERSARY

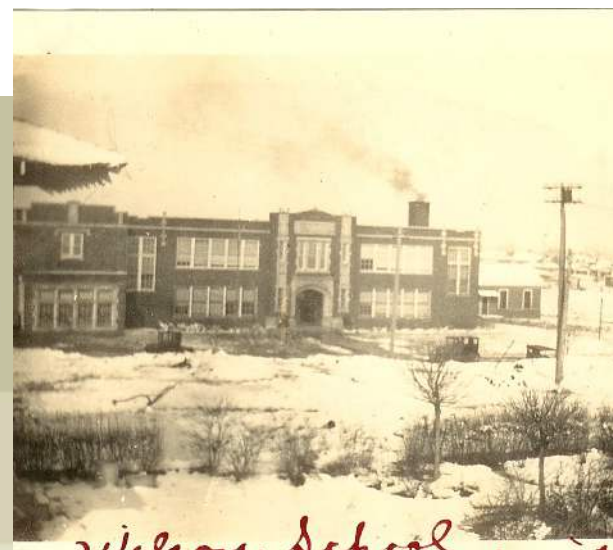
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 1:30 PM
PARADE AND ASSEMBLY
 WILSON ELEMENTARY
 501 NW 21ST STREET
 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73103

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 7:30 PM
A TOAST TO WILSON
FUNDRAISING RECEPTION AND ALUMNI GATHERING
 HENRY OVERHOLSER MANSION
 405 NW 15TH STREET
 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73103

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 10:30 AM
CAKE CUTTING AND PROCLAMATIONS
 WILSON ELEMENTARY
 501 NW 21ST STREET
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WILSON ELEMENTARY IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE HERITAGE HILLS HOME TOUR. SCHOOL TOURS ARE AVAILABLE FROM 12:00PM – 5:00PM BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.



Old Wilson School picture

MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE



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Dates to Remember

September 22: Uptown 23rd Fun(5)k
10am

September 22: Mesta Festa 2019
12pm - 6pm, Perle Mesta Park

October 4-5: Wilson 100th Anniversary
Wilson Elementary and Overholser Mansion
See pages 6 and 7 for more information

December 7-8: 42nd Annual Mesta Park
Holiday Home Tour

MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE

11th Annual Halloween Candy Buy Back

November 4th from 9am to 7pm

Help us support our troops by bringing your unopened Halloween candy to our office. We will, in turn, ship it to our troops in care packages with the help of Operation Gratitude and Blue Star Mothers.

Children who attend the event will receive \$1 per pound of candy (up to 10), a free toothbrush, and coupons to local eateries.

Lori M. LoVette, DDS
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Bimonthly Neighborhood Newsletter

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MPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM June 2019 - May 2020

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