

# MESTA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

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[OfficersandBoard@MestaPark.org](mailto: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.

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



## GET INVOLVED!

### 42nd ANNUAL HOME TOUR

by Amy Dalebroux

Every year, the residents of Mesta Park throw open their doors and welcome visitors into their homes for a weekend tour to kick off the holiday season. This year marks the 42nd annual Mesta Park Holiday Home Tour, which will take place **December 7, 4 - 8 PM and December 8, 1 - 5 PM**. This fun, longstanding tradition is a part of what makes life in Mesta Park so special, and it is also one of our community's major fundraisers. The tour's profits support most endeavors made by the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association, including improvements and maintenance for Perle Mesta Park, neighborhood beautification, donations to our local public elementary school, and sponsorship of community events.

Come take a peek at the beautiful homes we will have on display this year:

900 NW 20th, Mat & McKenzie Clouse  
516 NW 16th, Tommy & Molly Cooke  
1008 NW 18th, Pete Marris & Whitney Buerger  
628 NW 21st, Jimmie & Susan Ownbey  
907 NW 18th, Floyd Simon  
901 NW 16th, Lauren Warkentine  
704 NW 18th, Andy & Jennifer Bowman [Refreshment Porch]

This annual tradition is a fun and festive way to kick off the holiday season with neighbors, family, and friends. In addition to the self-guided walking tour, Mesta Park Neighborhood Association offers a complimentary refreshment stand, luxury transportation from house to house, and so much more! Bring your whole family and your wish lists for a visit with Santa at the refreshment porch!

Tickets can be purchased online in advance for \$12 and at the door for \$15.

# MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE



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# ANITA IRWIN: MESTA PARK TREASURE



Anita Alice Irwin was born on June 5, 1938 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She passed peacefully at her Mesta Park home on September 14, 2019 with children by her side, at the age of 81. She lived much of her life in the heart of Oklahoma City in the Gatewood, Heritage Hills and Mesta Park Historic Districts and was so proud of Oklahoma City's recent progress. She was a member of the first graduating class of Northwest Classen High School. She attended Oklahoma City University and worked as a young adult in the Plaza District, Uptown and Downtown, joking that she rarely traveled north of 23rd Street. She married H. Grant Irwin, Sr. and spent the next 35 years in Hydro, Okeene and Woodward, OK, where they raised their family and built Irwin Auto Co. before she returned to Oklahoma City.

Anita is survived by her three children, Tamara Beam Cain and her husband Marty Gene Cain of Norman, OK; Grant Irwin, Jr. and his wife Brenda Irwin of Oklahoma City, OK; and Melinda Jane Irwin and her husband Dale Frey also of Oklahoma City, OK. She is also survived by her two grandsons, Stephen Grant Beam and Brooks Ryan Cain. She is survived by her brothers and sister, Gene Garlock, Jack Garlock, Allan Garlock, Marilyn Garlock Angwin and Bill Garlock, as well as more than 30 nieces, nephews and other family members. She is predeceased by her parents Emery Theodore Garlock and Doris Irene Elliott Garlock. She is also predeceased by her brother and sister, Maurice "Morrie" Garlock and Janice Garlock Donley. The siblings, nieces and nephews from coast to coast, credit Anita for being the "glue" that held the large family together.

It has been said that "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit". No truer words were ever spoken about Anita. When she moved to Mesta Park several years ago, she planted trees not only in her own yard, but in the yards of her neighbors. She wanted her grandsons to know that she was not planting and maintaining the trees for herself, but that a tree-lined street would exist for them and for future generations.

An extremely generous person, Anita shared her immense talents, her resources and her bounties freely with those she loved and the causes that she lovingly supported. In later years, Anita's family teased that her vocation became that of "garage and estate-saler" and "craftsman". Her craft became that of buying old things and making them look new again. Any Saturday afternoon, you might find her back yard full of her garage sale wares, newly-washed and drying in the sunshine. Family, friends, and neighbors were the grateful beneficiaries and furnished their homes with the beautiful items she gathered and made like new again. Her favorite charities were Infant Crisis Services, Inc., Positive Tomorrows, and Jesus House, where she made frequent deliveries of housewares, children's clothing, toys and books. She lovingly put the packages together not only for charities, but for anyone in need of a helping hand. She was like a modern-day Robin Hood who "peacefully redistributed the wealth". Anita's generosity also extended to four-legged beneficiaries. Her rescued dog, Jake, was a faithful companion for over 14 years.

Anita was fun-loving and was truly the "Hostess with the Mostest"! She loved spending time in the kitchen and collected recipes and cookbooks that she shared with all. She had the gift of hospitality, enjoyed entertaining, and was an amazing cook. Because of these gifts, talents and love, Anita became the adopted "mother and grandmother" to many, many lucky people!

A Celebration of the Life of Anita Alice Irwin will be held on October 26th at 4:00 pm at The Sieber where, according to her wishes, her friends, family and neighbors will have an "after-party and by all means enjoy good food, good drink and a good time". Memorial contributions may be made to the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association, PO Box 61095, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73146, where a project is planned for the Perle Mesta Park for all to enjoy.



# GET PROUD!

## BRADFORD FAMILY DONATES NEW PARK SIGN

by JB Schuelein

Reagan and Keri Bradford recently donated the new Perle Mesta Park sign and entrance to our neighborhood park. The Bradfords moved to Mesta Park in 2011 and made an impact immediately.

Reagan attended his first Mesta Park Neighborhood Association board meeting before he and Keri had even moved into the neighborhood. Their home would be under construction for several weeks but Reagan was anxious to get involved. So he found out when and where the MPNA Board met and showed up at the next meeting. He was surprised to find the neighborhood association less than organized. There was no agenda or minutes and only five board members present. Worse yet – there was no one to chair the Holiday Home Tour, the neighborhood's most important fundraiser, only a few months away!

Before the evening was over, Reagan had agreed to run for MPNA President. His first order of business was to convince Keri they could move into their new home (while still under construction), assume a leadership role in the MPNA and also chair the Holiday Home Tour! He and Keri went door-to-door in the neighborhood to recruit homes for the Tour. The 2011 Home Tour was a resounding success, but the following year was even better. Reagan and Keri laid the groundwork for the 2012 Tour by securing commitments from someone to chair the event AND from homeowners who agreed to have their homes on the tour the following year.

Reagan actively recruited his friends and colleagues to serve on the board. Before his term as President concluded, he found an outstanding successor to lead the neighborhood, while he and Keri served as Social Chairs. Once again they raised the bar for the neighborhood's annual Easter Egg Hunts, picnics and ice cream socials.

During their time in the neighborhood, the Bradfords remodeled two homes and started their family. They gave their time and energy generously to Mesta Park while raising two daughters and growing their careers – and they left Mesta Park a beautiful parting gift.

Many thanks Reagan and Keri. We hope you will visit often to enjoy the beautiful legacy you have left to Mesta Park for generations to come!





# MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE

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# GET PROUD!

## BURNETT SERVES ACE TO COMPLETE VOLLEYBALL COURTS; DOLESE, MCALISTER AND KELLY RALLY TO SAVE PROJECT by JB Schuelein

Andy Burnett is well known as a 'mover and shaker' in Oklahoma City circles. He's best known for brokering over \$2 Billion in real estate transactions that have transformed the west side of downtown as well as other sections of the City. He has also applied his business acumen to several important civic organizations including the Bricktown Association and City Care.

Andy has a passion for Oklahoma City and its efforts to become a Big League City. He also has a passion for volleyball and has enjoyed playing regularly in Perle Mesta Park with friends and colleagues since moving to Heritage Hills a few years ago. When he learned the neighborhood was considering upgrades to the sand volleyball courts, he was quick to offer his suggestions and coordinate input from the rest of the volleyball community.

With a pledge of support from the OKC Parks Recreation Dept and encouragement from the OCCF, the MPNA included renovating the volleyball courts with a package of three projects to 'complete the park' this Fall. Unfortunately, the volleyball project seemed doomed from the outset when the Parks Department had to renege on their commitment to provide the sand because funds were not available at the end of the fiscal year. Then the OCCF was unable to fund our request for the concrete curbing. Those two items left a \$32,000 hole in the budget for the project.

But Andy was not deterred. He reached out to our neighbors at Dolese and secured a commitment for the sand. He also recruited Mesta Park homebuilder Greg McAlister to help on the project. Greg and his crew exceeded all expectations. Just like the homes he's built in the neighborhood, the renovated volleyball courts are exceptionally well built. Greg worked all weekend Sept 14-15 moving sand, grading and backfilling around the courts himself to save the neighborhood money. His crew was conscientious, professional and respectful – taking care not to disturb other sections of the park during construction that required a lot of heavy equipment, including dump trucks. And they were timely, making every effort to have the courts completed by Mesta Festa.

Andy also met with Doug Kupper, Director of the OKC Parks Department, to personally request they increase their commitment to our park projects. As a result, the OKC Parks Department provided additional in-kind support by installing a drain in the east volleyball court and agreed to honor an earlier cash commitment toward expansion of the irrigation system in the park. The goal for renovating the courts was threefold – to make the courts safe, sustainable and aesthetic. With the playing surface expanded by five feet on each side, the courts are now regulation size: 55' x 80'. A 4' black iron fence serves as a back stop for most of the balls that previously rolled out of the playing area and dangerously into NW 18th street. The low, smooth concrete curbs keep the sand inside the playing area and the Bermuda grass and other weeds out – which means we will no longer need to control weeds with cancer-causing glyphosate (Round Up). And the courts are more aesthetically pleasing with landscaping provided by another Mesta Park neighbor Todd Kelly, who owns Green Stock Nursery (formerly Total Environment Landscape Nursery). Being in an Historic Preservation Neighborhood, the MPNA Parks Committee placed additional emphasis on aesthetics. Our agreement between the neighbors on the park, the MPNA Board and the volleyball community was to landscape the south side of the courts to screen the fence/backstop from NW 18th St.

Todd Kelly and his crew at Green Stock Nursery took that step to the next level. Todd and his partner generously donated the plant materials, leaving the MPNA (with grant funding from the OCCF Parks and Public Spaces Initiative) responsible for only the labor, soil amendments and mulch! Anchored by a row of Shawnee Brave Cypress and stately "Exclamation" Sycamores, the landscaping will be more formal and eventually provide shade for players during hot Summer months.

Mesta Park is fortunate to have friends and neighbors like Andy Burnett, Dolese, Greg McAlister and Todd Kelly who are committed to making our neighborhood the best it can be. Our sand volleyball courts have been popular for many years but, with the improvements made possible by these friends of Perle Mesta Park, the courts are now among the best in the City and will be sustainable for years to come. Many thanks to Andy Burnett, Kermit Franks with Dolese, Greg McAlister and Todd Kelly. We sincerely appreciate your efforts for our neighborhood park!

# GET INVOLVED!

## GET INVOLVED IN THE HOME TOUR!

by Amy Dalebroux

Our neighborhood thrives because of volunteers like you! Participating in the Home Tour is a great way to meet new people and help support your community. You will also receive one free Home Tour ticket as a token of our gratitude!

Sign up here to volunteer at a tour home: [www.mestapark.org/volunteer](http://www.mestapark.org/volunteer)

Looking for other ways to help? Email co-chairs Amy Dalebroux and Julie Watson at [mestahometour@gmail.com](mailto:mestahometour@gmail.com) for more information on how you can make a difference.

## MESTA FESTA 2019

by Jennifer Bowman

Thank you to all of our sponsors, vendors, volunteers, committee members and all of you who attended for making Mesta Festa 2019 a huge SUCCESS!!

Because of you, we raised \$15,000 which will go towards park and neighborhood improvements! A special THANK YOU to Jen Roberts of Toast OKC for taking us to the next level!

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## Dates to Remember

December 7, 4pm - 8pm  
and  
December 8, 1pm - 5pm

42nd Annual  
Mesta Park Holiday Home Tour  
Watch [MestaPark.org](http://MestaPark.org)  
Facebook,  
and NextDoor  
for details!



# 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.

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