

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.

Find Items to Remember on page 4 of this issue!

GET INFORMED!

CHANGES COMING TO THE NEWSLETTER IN 2021!

by Steve Mathis

The Mesta Park Neighborhood Association Board of Directors has decided to transition the newsletter from print to digital only beginning with the January 2021 newsletter, but we will continue to have print and digital editions until the end of the year. *This can't happen without your help!*

Please visit the news => newsletter tab at MestaPark.org to provide your email address so you can continue to receive the newsletter! Also, please include your current email address when you renew your Mesta Park Association dues. ***This is the final "print" edition of our newsletter!***

This will only work though if we can increase the number of email addresses we have on file for residents (home owners and renters alike). We will never sell your email nor share it with anyone else. More importantly, we will not (I REPEAT ABSOLUTELY NOT) inundate you with too many emails, ever.

All who wish to receive the newsletters via email should promptly visit the news => newsletter tab at MestaPark.org to provide your email address so that you can continue to receive the newsletter! Do it now before you forget. And why not renew your membership in the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association - or join, if you're not yet a member - and include your current email address that way as well.

Thanks, and lets all work together to make beautiful Mesta Park an even better place to live and raise our kids

GET INVOLVED!

HNSA: NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

by JB Schuelein

In recent weeks, we've all noticed an increase in petty thefts throughout the neighborhood. Bicycles and packages left on our porches seem to be popular targets. The popular app Next Door has also reported an increase in car break-ins and vagrants around the perimeter of our neighborhood and in surrounding neighborhoods. These crimes of opportunity may increase as Oklahomans struggle from the downturn in our economy from COVID-19.

Now, more than ever, we need an extra set of eyes on our homes and property. Many residents have their own security with cameras and alarms to record intruders, but they are more effective if someone can respond to incidents in a timely fashion. The Historic Neighborhoods Security Association (HNSA) can do that – within minutes!

The Historic Neighborhoods Security Association (HNSA) is comprised of residents of Mesta Park and Heritage Hills neighborhoods. Membership is voluntary. Dues collected from our members support the security patrol which is staffed by off-duty uniformed Oklahoma City police officers. The officers patrol our neighborhoods at all hours of the day and night- depending on funding, which is directly related to the number of dues-paying members who participate. We are currently patrolling 16-18 hours/day. Our goal is to have coverage 24/7 – but, that can only happen if we increase our membership.

Patrol officers are familiar with the crime statistics and security concerns in our neighborhood. They understand our “hot spots” and have a dedicated mobile phone with them that allows HNSA members to reach a patrol officer directly during patrol hours. The HNSA Security Patrol provides a valuable service to our neighborhood. They serve as a deterrent to potential crimes in our neighborhood and respond to problems that might arise in Perle Mesta Park and other common areas. As uniformed OKC Policemen, they are armed and can arrest individuals with outstanding warrants in the neighborhood.

There are other benefits to membership. When you are out of town, you can request the security patrol officer to do personal checks of your home and property to insure it is secured. They will also pick up packages that arrive at your doorstep when you are away

Please consider joining the HNSA. HNSA security patrol officers are keeping our historic neighborhood safe. As a landlord, it comforts me to know that my tenants have a number they can call any time (day or night) if they have security concerns or see someone or something that is unfamiliar in our area – and know that someone can respond within minutes.

You can sign up for the HNSA from the link on our website: <http://www.mestapark.org/hnsa>, or by calling (405) 348-1436.

25TH ANNUAL MESTA FESTA WRAP-UP

by David Carlson

Thank you to all who participated in this year's virtual Mesta Festa! We hope you enjoyed your kit at home, or on your front porch with neighbors. Because of you and our generous sponsors, we were able to raise \$10,600 for the neighborhood!

Furthermore, we would like to thank the Craft Brewers Association of Oklahoma and its participating members for donating the beer for our take-home kits. We are so appreciative of their involvement and their support to keep this event going for a 25th consecutive year. As a way to give back, a portion of our beer sales from the event will be donated back to the CBAO.

Also, a special thank you for the time and effort put in by this year's planning committee – Micah Andrews, Andy Bowan, Justin Lawrence, and Beth Wilson. I could not have asked for a better team to help re-design and organize this fundraiser.

Again, thank you all for making this year's untraditional Mesta Festa such a success! Be well, and we hope to see you all back in the park for Mesta Festa 2021!

MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE



Newsweek

NAMED JOY BARESEL

#2 REALTOR

TO WORK WITH IN OKLAHOMA FOR 2020

We have a list of buyers hoping to move into Mesta Park. If you are thinking of selling, please text or call 405.826.7465

Joy Bareisel, Owner, Real Estate Advisor
Valerie Traynor, Buyer Specialist
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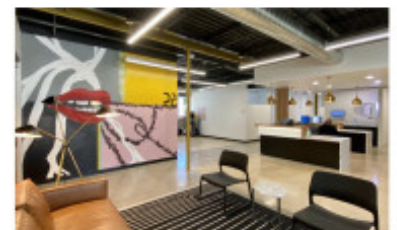
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Items to Remember

Renew your MPNA Membership using page 9 of this newsletter or by visiting www.MestaPark.org/Membership.

Visit the news => newsletter tab at MestaPark.org to provide your email address so you can continue to receive the newsletter!

GET INVOLVED!

MESTA PARK STREETLIGHTS

by Jackie Arnold

The Mesta Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA) wants to let you know that we are working diligently to repair our beautiful and unique street lights. We wanted to let you in on a little bit of Mesta Park's lighting history, our future plans, and how you can help!!

History

Our street lights were installed in three phases beginning in the mid 1990's. The MPNA purchased the lights with the assistance of Community Development Block Grant funding administered through the OKC Planning Department. Unfortunately we are no longer eligible for the grant.

Our lights have sodium vapor bulbs. At the time the lights were installed, residents were concerned about crime and wanted the brightest lights possible. Our neighborhood has really changed - crime is down and property values have increased.

While the MPNA owns and maintains the lights, the homeowner is responsible for the electricity bill. If you have a street light on your property, you are paying approximately \$6/mo (\$72/yr) in your electric bill and you have a photocell that controls the light on your breaker box or someplace near the front of your house.

Future Plans

Sodium vapor bulbs are increasingly difficult to find. We would like to gradually phase out the old sodium vapor lighting for energy saving LED lights. This would make the cost around \$8/yr. As funds permit, we might also replace the old plastic globes, which are yellowing and becoming more brittle, with a clear polycarbonate globe.

We have been fortunate enough to be able to begin working with Buz Goodrich, a resident of Heritage Hills, who has been taking care of the lights in Heritage Hills for several years. Buz has offered to help us make updates and replacements in his spare time.

How you can help

There are several ways to help! If you have a street light on your property, please locate the photocell. When you see Buz, an older gentleman with a long gray braid, working on lights in the neighborhood say, "Hi!" and thank him for his help.

And last but not least, updating the lights is expensive business. With MPNA's two major fundraisers, Mesta Festa (gone virtual) and the Holiday Home Tour out for the year (if not longer), we could use your help funding the updates. Please contact Jackie (our new Lighting Committee Chair) at lighting@mestapark.org if you are willing to fund the cost of updating a street light to an LED and/or update the old globes to polycarbonate globes with a tax deductible contribution to the neighborhood. If you would like to make a donation right away you can do so on the Mesta Park website at www.mestapark.org/street-lighting. If you have an issue, question or general concern with your street light, Jackie is also available to help in any way she can. Thank you for taking the time to learn about our street light history. We look forward to hearing from all our wonderful neighbors.

MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE

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Get your...

MESTA PARK WINDSPINNER!

Accessorize Your Porch - \$support Your 'Hood

- * Windspinners will be sold for \$25. All proceeds benefiting the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association
- * Designed + produced by hand in Mesta Park, OKC -- no two alike!
- * Uses repurposed professional film lighting gel -- waterproof and fireproof.
- * Casts brilliant colorful shadows when hung near light and breeze.
- * Makes a great host/hostess or special occasion gift!

Windspinners will be sold by contacting the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association at contact@mestapark.org



Public Art Project to Honor Anita Irwin

by JB Schuelein

“Deep Roots,” a sculpture by Stillwater artist Morgan Robinson, is proposed for the southeast corner of Perle Mesta Park. The project is funded by Melinda Irwin and the family and friends of Anita Irwin, long-time supporter of our neighborhood and Perle Mesta Park.



The selection process for the neighborhood’s first public art project was coordinated by Robbie Kienzle, Arts Liaison and Program Planner in the OKC Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs. Three finalists were selected from a Call to Artists in April, invited to present their conceptual designs to a neighborhood Selection Committee comprised of neighborhood board members, artists, and supporters of the park.

“Deep Roots” by Stillwater artist and sculptor Morgan Robinson was selected. His artist statement captures the essence of the project for Anita’s family and friends. “Deep Roots is inspired by the growth and vibrancy of Mesta Park. The sculptural form is meant to represent the connection of family and extended community. My work alludes to free flowing forms that connect and intertwine while also incorporating visual notions of delicacy and the ornate organic lines of Art Nouveau . I've brought these ideas into a sculpture that uses the metaphor of a family tree. I hope that this sculpture can convey Anita Alice Irwin’s hope to share beauty in the neighborhood for all to enjoy.”

The project was unanimously approved by the OKC Arts Commission, the OKC Parks & Recreation Commission, the Historic Preservation and Landmark Commission and will be presented to the OKC City Council in November.

MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE



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Mesta Park Market Report	60	38	\$382,010	\$443,958	181.95	197.88	\$660,000	\$925,000	283.39	330.26

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 Our Oklahoma City office is temporarily closed to support social distancing.

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Bimonthly Neighborhood Newsletter

Your neighborhood needs you!

Join the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association today.

MPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM June 2020 - May 2021

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Yes, I want to become a member of MPNA! Annual dues of \$60 are enclosed.

Mail to: **MPNA**, P.O. Box 61095, OKC, OK 73146

Or join online at [www.mestapark.org/membership!](http://www.mestapark.org/membership)