

MESTA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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



OFFICERS:

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Vice-President, Steve Mathis
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Historic Preservation, Joe Earley
Home Tour, Amy Dalebroux & Julie Watson
Lighting & Signs, Jackie Arnold
Membership, Lindsey McCarty
Mesta Festa, David Carlson
Newsletter Editor, Laura Jergensen
Parks, JB Schuelein
Security, Vacant
Social Events, Lindsey Clinton & Holly Jarolim

* Board Members

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.

Find Dates to Remember on page 5 of this issue!

GET INVOLVED!

EASTER BUNNY TO VISIT HARN PARK by Amy Dalebroux

Calling all Mesta Park & Heritage Hills neighbors! Rumor has it the Easter Bunny will be back in town **Saturday, April 3** to wave hello to friends of all ages!

We heard the "hopping" will begin around **10:00 AM** starting near Harn Park. If you are home that morning, listen for honking and step out in your front yard to wave hello and grab an Easter treat!

Happy Easter to our friends and neighbors from the MPNA & HPI!

MESTA PARK LIGHT UPDATES by Jackie Arnold

Thanks to Buz, the MPNA Lighting Committee is putting together a proposal to get a great deal on new globes. The current globes are old, discolored and many are cracked or broken. We hope to make progress on updating and repairing all of our Lights throughout this year.

We also want to take a moment to share that we have received many emails from neighbors sharing lighting issues as well as offering funds for LED updates and new globes. THANK YOU! Please continue to email Jackie at lighting@mestapark.org.

GET INVOLVED!

DONATIONS INVITED TO MAINTAIN THE PARK

by JB Schuelein

By the time you read this newsletter, you should have received a flyer in the mail encouraging you to join the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA). For the first time, as residents complete their Membership application or renewal, they are also invited to make a donation to maintain Perle Mesta Park and Shartel Boulevard. Our goal is to raise enough money to assume responsibility for mowing and trimming the park this Summer. With enough donations, we could also include maintenance of the beds in the park and leaf removal next Fall.

The MPNA partners with the OKC Parks and Recreation Department through a Landscape and Maintenance Agreement. With approval from the Parks Department, the MPNA plants trees and makes other landscape improvements to the park. In 2019 and 2020 we made several improvements – expanding the irrigation system, rebuilding the volleyball courts and adding the new sign/entrance on the NW corner of the park. Under the provisions of our agreement, the MPNA assumes responsibility for watering the trees we plant and maintaining the flower beds. Our agreement does not include mowing or tree trimming.

The Parks Department maintains 6,200 acres and 166 other parks across the metro area and mows once every three weeks. They try to coordinate their mowing schedule around neighborhood events in the park (e.g., our annual picnic, ice cream social and Mesta Festa), but they cannot mow more frequently than once every three weeks. That leaves the park looking pretty ragged in the Spring and during rainy periods at other times of the year.

Have you wondered why Shartel Boulevard looks so nice compared to Perle Mesta Park? One obvious reason is irrigation, but another is that it is mowed and line-trimmed weekly. The Shartel Boulevard Development Authority, of which MPNA is a partner, maintains the Boulevard between 13th and Shartel and between 18th and Classen - not the Parks Department, so the Boulevard is mowed weekly. When MPNA fundraising returns to pre-COVID levels, we'll likely expand the irrigation system again to improve the turf and reduce erosion in other sections of the park. Until then, we can make a dramatic improvement to the aesthetics of the park by assuming responsibility for mowing and line trimming more frequently.

Please complete and return your membership application/renewal as soon as possible. The MPNA depends on your voluntary dues more this year than ever. And along with your dues, please consider a one-time, tax-deductible donation to maintain Perle Mesta Park and Shartel Boulevard. It will make a big difference.

OU BIG EVENT RETURNS SATURDAY, APRIL 10

by JB Schuelein

After a year off due to COVID, the OU Big Event will return **Saturday, April 10**. Each Spring for more than a decade, OU students and staff have converged on Perle Mesta Park to give it a thorough Spring cleaning. The Big Event is a day of community service when OU students volunteer at local non-profit organizations across the entire Oklahoma City metro area. Nearly 6,000 students representing more than 100 campus organizations participated in past years and we look forward to their help again this year.

Please consider joining us for a few hours Saturday morning, April 10. We need volunteers to coordinate and supervise the students with each of our projects – raking leaves, spreading mulch and cleaning out the gutters and storm drains. We also need wheelbarrows, shovels and other gardening tools.

If you are unable to help, please consider donating snacks, bottled water or other supplies. There's nothing that says 'thanks' better than a plate of homemade cookies or brownies to share with these students who will give up their Saturday morning to make our neighborhood a better place! If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact JB Schuelein at 525-2059.

GET INVOLVED!

SHARTEL BOULEVARD - HISTORY AND APPEAL FOR FUNDING

by Anne Zachritz

The Mesta Park Story begins in 1906 when Charles Colcord, Henry Overholser and Anton Classen extended the Metropolitan Street Railway Company "University Line" north on Shartel Avenue to provide trolley service from downtown "all the way" to 18th Street. The first and some of the grandest homes in Mesta Park fanned out from the streetcar line from 16th Street and were clustered along Shartel Avenue.

When the trolleys were discontinued in the 1950's, the streetcar rails remained in the center of a 60' wide, four-lane thoroughfare that divided both the Mesta Park and Heritage Hills neighborhoods. Automobiles, buses and other heavy vehicles routinely traveled at speeds up to 40-50 mph – making it unsafe for children and pets along NW 18th Street and Shartel Avenue.

In the 1990's, neighborhood leaders met with OKC Planning Director Garner Stoll to address burgeoning traffic in the two historic neighborhoods. Working together, they developed a comprehensive traffic plan for traffic calming that included cul-de-sacs at NW 14th and NW 17th Streets and created Classen Drive. It also reintroduced two-way traffic on Hudson and Harvey avenues and proposed a median for Shartel Avenue and 18th Street.

In 1996, Mesta Park and Heritage Hills leaders presented a conceptual drawing of the Shartel Boulevard project to City officials. The City offered to commit Community Development Block Grant funding for the project if the neighborhoods could raise the required matching funds. St. Anthony Hospital provided \$40,000 in seed money and the neighborhoods raised \$230,000 through a series of fundraisers to meet the City's challenge. Along with construction of the median, the City had to replace the sewer main and a major water line and resurface the road, which resulted in a total project cost of \$1,030,000.

But before they would proceed with the project, the City required a commitment from Mesta Park and Heritage Hills that they would maintain the median once the project was finished. To accomplish this requirement, the Shartel Boulevard Development Authority, Inc., (SBDA), a 501(C)3 tax exempt corporation, was established.

The SBDA Board of Directors is comprised of residents of Mesta Park and Heritage Hills and a representative from SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital (St. Anthony). The SBDA, through its Board, contracts and pays for all Boulevard maintenance including mowing, trimming, irrigation, leaf pick up, mulching and planting seasonal annuals at the entries to both neighborhoods – on a budget of approximately \$20,000/year. The SBDA also contracts and pays for damage to the Boulevard and its trees caused by weather events and the occasional reckless driver. The SBDA is funded through annual contributions from Mesta Park Neighborhood Association (MPNA), Heritage Hills and St. Anthony, as well as through private donations from residents of both neighborhoods.

The SBDA has also established a Charitable Organization Endowment Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation (OCCF) in hopes that, in the future, the income generated by the endowment will cover the annual cost of maintenance. The SBDA board has a plan to achieve that goal with a capital campaign that begins this Spring.

However, before we can fundraise to build up the endowment, the SBDA has to recover its costs from the devastating ice storm last October. The historic storm severely damaged many of the trees in the median and at Trolley Island. To date, the SBDA has spent nearly \$20,000 on ice storm clean-up, pruning the trees and removing six trees that were judged too damaged to save. Additional expenses are anticipated including repairs to the irrigation system and eventually replacing trees that were removed. The ice storm exhausted the SBDA's budgeted reserves – essentially wiping out an entire year's budget.

The SBDA Board has reached out to our partners – MPNA, Heritage Hills and St Anthony for contributions. St. Anthony generously donated \$11,000 toward the cause and MPNA generously donated \$5,000. Every member of the SBDA Board has contributed personally and are reaching out to friends and neighbors from both neighborhoods for donations. Once we have recovered our expenses from the storm, all donations will go to build our Endowment fund at the OCCF.

The SBDA will also make application to the Kirkpatrick Family Fund (KFF) which will match donations to enhance our Endowment Fund. If you're interested in making a one-time, tax-deductible donation for the beautification of our neighborhood, please donate. Your donation will be matched 3:1. i.e., for each \$100 donated, the KFF will match with \$33. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 over and above the funds needed to replenish our reserves. The KFF will provide \$5,000 in matching funds – for total of \$20,000 added to our Endowment. Please help if you can. All donations of any size are appreciated!

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 Barese, Owner, Real Estate Advisor
Valerie Traynor, Buyer Specialist
Amber Graham, Buyer Specialist



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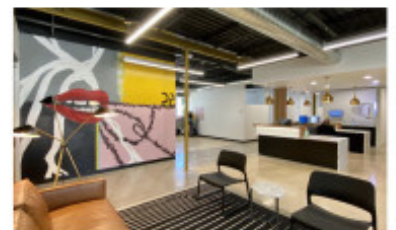


MARIE BOCKUS, DDS
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MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE

give yourself something to smile about

beauty

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Lori M. LoVette, DDS

You could be, too!

KILROY WAS HERE!

Advertise in the Mesta Park Newsletter!
Email newsletter@mestapark.org

MODERN ENVIRONMENT

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Dates to Remember

Easter Bunny Visit

Saturday, April 3 at 10am, Harn Park

OU Big Event

Saturday, April 10, Perle Mesta Park
 (or April 24 in case of inclement weather on April 10)

MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE



WENDY CHONG

#1 Oklahoma RE/MAX REALTOR® 2009, 2011, 2012, 2016, 2017
 Certified Home Luxury Marketing Specialist | 405.209.3880
 wendywchong@gmail.com | www.WendyChong.com

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1018 NW 17th Street 4 bed | 3.5 bath | 3,695 sqft

Our daily routines and environments are changing. You may find yourself spending more time at home thinking about a new approach, and your real estate company should too. At Verbode, we closely monitor the pulse of the housing market to find opportunities that benefit our clients.

Mesta Park Market Report	DAYS ON MARKET		AVG PRICE		AVG PRICE PER SQ FT		HIGH PRICE		HIGH PRICE PER SQ FT	
	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19
	60	38	\$382,010	\$443,958	181.95	197.88	\$660,000	\$925,000	283.39	330.26

Source: Copyright 2020 MLSCK, Inc. We do not attempt to verify the currency, completeness, accuracy or authenticity of the data contained herein. Information is subject to verification by all parties and is subject to transcription and transmission errors. All information is provided "as is". The listing information provided is for consumers' personal, non-commercial use and may not be used for any purpose other than to identify prospective purchasers. This data is copyrighted and may not be transmitted, retransmitted, copied, frames, repurposed or altered in any way for any other site, individual and/or purpose without the express written permission of MLSCK, Inc. Information last updated in July 2020. Data includes August 1 2018-July 31 2019 compared to August 1 2019-July 31 2020.



View our current real estate listings at verbode.com or call for consultation.
 Our Oklahoma City office is temporarily closed to support social distancing.

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GET INVOLVED!

Dear Neighbor,

Mesta Park is a wonderful neighborhood to live in, but WE CANNOT DO IT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT! To help our neighborhood continue to thrive, we need your voice and input to share ideas about how we can continue to improve the beautiful neighborhood that we all call home.

Beginning in 2021, the MPNA membership system changed to align with the calendar year to make it easier for our members to keep up with their renewals. Current members who joined/renewed in July 2020 or later will automatically remain current through December 2021.

Where do my dues go?

- Contribute to the preservation and enhancement of our neighborhood and local organizations (for example, dues funded volleyball court improvements and sprinkler system installations in 2020)
- Enable the continuation of signature community events like Mesta Festa and the Mesta Park Home Tour
- Provide each member household with one vote at our annual meeting to elect our Board of Directors

How much does membership cost?

\$60 annually

Who is eligible to be a member?

All residents of Mesta Park

Where do I join or renew?

Using mail-in form on page 8 of this newsletter, or online with a credit/debit card (www.mestapark.org/membership)

THANK YOU to those who renew their membership year after year! If you are not a member: please consider joining the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association. Dues are just \$60 per household each year and help keep Mesta Park one of the most sought-after residential areas in Oklahoma City. To join or renew, simply return the form on page 8 or register and pay online at www.mestapark.org/membership.

MPNA activities & efforts:

- Easter egg hunt (annually around Easter)
- Picnic & election of officers/directors (annually in June)
- Ice cream social (annually each summer)
- Ongoing support to important local organizations
- Mesta Festa (annually in September)
- Mesta Park Home Tour (annually in December)
- Maintain and improve park and medians

Visit our website (www.mestapark.org) for more information about Mesta Park, upcoming events, and our bi-monthly newsletter. Questions? E-mail us at www.mestapark.org/contact.



Mesta Park Neighborhood Association
P. O. Box 61095
Oklahoma City, OK 73146-1095
www.mestapark.org

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Bimonthly Neighborhood Newsletter

Your neighborhood needs you!

Join the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association today.

MPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM January 2021 - December 2021

NAME _____

ADDRESS/ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK/CELL PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

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!