

# MESTA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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



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Vice-President, Laura Linville  
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Lighting & Signs, Jackie Arnold  
Membership, Lindsey McCarty  
Mesta Festa, By Committee  
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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!



Find **Dates to Remember** on  
page 2 of this issue!

# GET COMPLIANT!

by Paul Shinn

## MESTA PARK'S PRESERVATION REVIEW COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

As a historic preservation neighborhood, Mesta Park has a neighborhood preservation review committee (PRC), and we are looking for new members. The PRC confers monthly on the weekend before each scheduled meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission meetings, which are held the first Wednesday of each month (generally). The purpose of the PRC is to provide guidance and to answer questions for homeowners regarding their project applications as well as to review applications for Certificates of Appropriateness which have been submitted to the Planning Department by homeowners or their representatives. The PRC Chair also acts as a spokesperson regarding Historic Preservation matters.

The members of the PRC generally discuss items by email, with the chair or another member reviewing the MP agenda items and sharing opinions with the group. The group then discusses during the weekend. The PRC reviews each application with its supporting documents, the Staff Report and recommendations on each application. It then provides opinions to the Planning Department staff and the applicants, which are shared with the Historic Preservation Commission members prior to each Commission meeting.

If you have an interest in getting involved, please email PRC chair Paul Shinn at [pshinnok@gmail.com](mailto:pshinnok@gmail.com).

# GET INVOLVED!

## TREE-PLANTING PROGRAM

by Troy Zaikis

Calling all Mesta Park residents! Want to make our beautiful neighborhood even greener? OKC Beautiful is partnering with the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association to bring you an exciting opportunity to plant trees this fall!

Why trees? Trees do so much more than just look pretty. They clean our air, provide shade (which can lower your energy bills!), increase property values, and create a healthier environment for everyone.

Here's the deal:

- What: A tree planting initiative to increase the tree canopy in Mesta Park.
- Deadline: Don't miss out! **Sign up by November 4th** to reserve your spot.
- When: **Planting Day is November 16th!**
- Where: Your very own property in Mesta Park!
- How: Mesta Park Neighborhood Association sharing the cost of trees and planting with the property owner!

Ready to dig in? Visit [www.okcbeautiful.com/mestapark](http://www.okcbeautiful.com/mestapark) to learn more and sign up. You'll find information about eligible tree species, the planting process, and answers to frequently asked questions.

Let's make Mesta Park a greener, shadier, and even more beautiful place to live!

P.S. Spread the word! Tell your neighbors about this great opportunity to enhance our community.

## Dates to Remember

**Tree Planting**  
**Sign up by November 4, 2024**  
**Planting Day is November 16, 2024**  
*See article above for details*

**Mesta Park Home Tour**  
**December 7-8, 2024**

*Watch Mesta Park social media for details on these events!*



# MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE

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## Newsweek

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If you are thinking of selling, please text or call 405.826.7465

Joy Baresel, Owner, President, and Real Estate Advisor  
Alex Knoll, Buyer Specialist  
Amber Graham, Buyer Specialist  
Valerie Traynor, Buyer Specialist



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# GET PROUD!

## FRIENDS OF MESTA PARK CELEBRATE 29 YEARS OF MESTA FESTA

by Lindsey McCarty

Combine a little neighborly merriment with the best local food, beer, cocktails, live music, sponsors, shopping, volleyball, and sunshine, and you get the 29th Annual Mesta Festa. The community showed up in a big way on September 29<sup>th</sup> to participate in this time-honored tradition, bringing people together across OKC to support this unique urban community. All funds raised at the event benefit the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association, a nonprofit organization, and its efforts to improve and maintain the park, neighborhood, and greater OKC community. Event sponsors deserve a final shout out for their incredible support in making this yet another successful event:

Presenting Sponsor: Heartland

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- A Good Egg Dining Group
- Tasty Snow
- Urban Lawn & Landscape
- Mr. Rita Man
- Oklahoma City Parks



Perle Sponsors: Thanks to the 88 households who supported Mesta Festa as Perle sponsors! Your support is critical.

This event simply would not be possible without the consistent support the MPNA receives from local breweries, including: Anthem Brewing, 405 Brewing, Broke Brewing Co., COOP, Lively, Big Friendly, Kahloseum, Capital, Anheuser Busch, and Clubby. Thank you all for the beers and cheers! Additionally, for the first time this year we were lucky to be supported by local restaurants and establishments who enabled us to add to our beverage offerings. Thank you so much to those who made this inaugural effort a smashing success: Guyutes, Good for a Few, Bunker, Pump Bar, Jones Assembly, HTeaO, and Rambler.

The heartbeat of this neighborhood is its people, and with a volunteer-led committee, there are a few that certainly deserve to be recognized. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU to the Mesta Festa Committee (pictured above): Justin Brannon, Olivia Mitchell, Justin Lawrence, Matt Vaughan, Kaylea Vaughan, Lindsey McCarty, Jeff Gockstetter, Noah McCarty, Josh Newberry, Amy Newberry, Troy Zaikis, and Laura Linville. We were lucky to have Seth Lewis and his team lend their talents to Mesta Festa this year- thank you for everything! We are also deeply grateful to JB Schuelein for his outstanding dedication to keeping Perle Mesta Park beautiful.

One final thanks must also go to all the neighbors and friends who volunteered or came to enjoy the day and support the neighborhood. It takes a village! We are counting down the days to Mesta Festa 2024 - if you are interested in getting plugged into this fun event next year, email [officersandboard@mestapark.org](mailto:officersandboard@mestapark.org).



# MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE

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# GET PROUD!

## THANKSGIVING UPDATE - PERLE MESTA PARK

by JB Schuelein

As the days get shorter and Fall temperatures finally arrive, it seems appropriate to express our gratitude to all those who have donated their time and resources to make our neighborhood park a better place.

First, we're thankful to the Oklahoma City Parks and Recreation Department for mowing and trimming our park regularly throughout the Summer. Thanks to a healthy economy in our City that is growing faster than many of us "old-timers" could have imagined only a few years ago, the Parks Department budget was increased to allow for mowing and trimming every two weeks – and it has made a huge difference in the appearance of the park. In past years, the park was only mowed on a three week mowing schedule.

We're also grateful to Mayor Holt, the City Council and OKC voters for including \$140 million in MAPS4 funding to improve all our city's neighborhood parks! Kimley-Horn, the consultant hired by the City to implement the MAPS4 Park plans, has completed a thorough survey of all the City's neighborhood parks and is preparing recommendations to the City Council. We're anxious to see what is proposed for Perle Mesta Park – and trust that it will include several recommendations submitted by the MPNA Board and Parks Committee.

Many thanks to the MPNA Board of Directors and all of the volunteers who support our neighborhood by paying their annual membership dues and support our neighborhood fundraising events throughout the year – particularly Mesta Festa and the annual Holiday Home Tour! Those funds are critical to support our neighborhood's beautification efforts including Perle Mesta Park, Shartel Boulevard and our neighborhood street lights and signage programs.

The Board has increased our budget for our Parks and public spaces in recent years – thanks to the resounding success of these fundraisers and the generosity of a few neighborhood donors. Additional funding in the Parks budget enables us to maintain our irrigation system, over seed the irrigated turf zones in the park and purchase annuals and perennials for the flower beds. It also enables us to maintain the infrastructure in the park and hire Urban Lawns to perform supplemental mowing and to edge all the curbs and sidewalks a couple times throughout the year – things that are beyond the purview of the parks department.

And finally, we are most grateful to the Mainteneers: a group organized two years ago by Raina Pelofsky to maintain the park. They are truly unsung heroes for keeping the park in pristine condition – making it look great throughout the year. The "Mainteneers" devote a few hours each week to maintain one or more areas in the park. Those who visit the park have noticed Raina and Cindy Knox regularly picking up litter, sweeping the gazebo and blowing the leaves off the sidewalks. Together they have devoted hundreds of hours making the park cleaner and safer for all to enjoy.

Raina has set the standard with her efforts on the "Sanctuary" on the Southwest entry to the park. While Cindy shepherds the flower bed under the old Perle Mesta Park sign and does so much more throughout the park, Patty Phelps and Lynette Mathis have adopted the flower beds on the northeast corner of the park. Katie Huskerson has systematically developed the Pollinator garden into a demonstration garden that inspires us to plant more native plantings that require less water and provide habitat for bees and butterflies. Dylan Bergey, one of our newest Mainteneers, has adopted the flower beds around the gazebo and given them a makeover, installing a beautiful earth-friendly landscape featuring pollinators and other native plants. This year, Jim and Lawanda Pickens, Ulises Serano and Ed Clark have also joined our group – and others are always welcome.

Spreading the work among more people has made a big difference in the appearance of the park. Each member of the group agrees it has been fun and rewarding. People who use the park genuinely appreciate our efforts. If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Raina at (405) 990-5068, or JB at (405) 525-2059.

# MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE

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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.

**FAQ**

**Where do my dues go?**

- Contribute to the preservation and enhancement of our neighborhood and local organizations (such as 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 below, or online with a credit/debit card  
([www.mestapark.org/membership](http://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 below or register and pay online at [www.mestapark.org/membership](http://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 & cocktail party (annually in December)
- Maintain and improve park and medians

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

**Yes! I'd like to join or renew my MPNA membership for 2025.**

*All donations are tax deductible!*

\$60 check enclosed for my 2025 membership

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I would also like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help maintain Perle Mesta Park and Shartel Blvd. (mowing, seasonal leaf removal, tree trimming)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer! Please contact me.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to MPNA  
Mesta Park Neighborhood Association  
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Oklahoma City, OK 73146

Please send me bi-monthly newsletter distributions using this e-mail address

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