

MESTA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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



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Social Events, Mallory Carter &
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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.

GET INVOLVED!

MESTA PARK'S PRESERVATION REVIEW COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

by Paul Shinn

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.

MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE

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Newsweek

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Joy Baresel, Owner, President, and Real Estate Advisor
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GET PROUD!

THANKFUL! - PERLE MESTA PARK

by JB Schuelein

As the days get shorter and cool temperatures have finally arrived, 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)

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.**

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) for more information about Mesta Park, upcoming events, and our quarterly newsletter. Questions? E-mail us at 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
PO Box 61095
Oklahoma City, OK 73146

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

**Your personal information is strictly for internal MPNA use and will never be sold or shared externally*

