



Newsletter

Get Involved!

www.mestapark.org

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Contact: Chairs@mestapark.org

OfficersandBoard@mestapark.org

Visit www.mestapark.org/association-leaders for additional contact info.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 19: AIDS Walk and 5K Run

October 9: Mesta Festa, Perle Mesta Park

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER PARTY! by Cathy Chernausek

The Mesta Park monthly newsletters touch a lot of hands before they arrive in your mailboxes. For the last 6 months we have had board members volunteer to help seal the newsletters, so special thanks to Huda, Michael, Jackie, JB and Janice for that extra help!

This last month we tried something new and had a sealing party on a Wednesday evening! We had volunteers from 17th street to help us seal, label and mail the newsletters. Thanks to Kaime, Janet, Bill, Steve and Cathy. We will try that again, so email or call Cathy Chernausek (605-2149 or catchmatilda@gmail.com) if you would like to join us at the next sealing/labeling party!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE by Janice Menser

We are having a great response to the membership drive which runs from June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011. Thank you so much to the following for joining the 2010/2011 Mesta Park Neighborhood Association in July and August:

Teresa Peck
Chris and Trina Kopacka Morrison
Adam and Amanda Potter

Jan and Cary Adams
Jacob and Michelle Magan
Mark and Julia Jordan Gillett

Your support to our neighborhood goes towards maintenance and improvements to our park, boulevard, sidewalks, street lights and many other neighborhood projects and functions. Not sure if you have joined? Check at www.mestapark.org for a complete list of members. If you have not joined, please sign up today!

AIDS WALK OF OKC by Terry Dennison

This year's **AIDS Walk and 5K Run** will be **September 19th**. It is a day filled with HIV/AIDS awareness where Oklahomans from all walks of life come together. Since 1998, the AIDS Walk of OKC has distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to non-profit organizations that help families and individuals get the services and prevention information that they need. The Walk is a 100% volunteer-driven event. The Walk has no office and no paid staff.

You can help by walking or running, by forming a walk team with neighbors or friends, by volunteering to help or by making a direct donation to the event or sponsoring a participant. Please visit www.aidswalkokc.org for more information!

Get Proud!

A TIME TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO OLD MESTA PARK by Jackie Simpson

Turn off the cable channel, unplug your I-pod, put your mobile phone on “silent,” and then sit down, lean back and just close your eyes. I will weave a tale from over 50 years ago that will take you back in time to the way it used to be in Mesta Park.

It's summertime, and the Oklahoma City heat feels familiar, doesn't it? But look around and notice the differences. People are not sheltered within their central air conditioned cocoons but instead are outside doing the most curious things: adults walking down the sidewalk stop and talk with neighbors on their front porches. Some can't stay long, because they are carrying groceries from the neighborhood Safeway. Beyond the porch, you can see that the windows are open, and curtains wave with the breeze of hidden electric fans.

Kids are everywhere; many are barefoot, and boys are often shirtless. Some are selling their wares at the streetside, dispensing lemonade to beat the heat or comic books to read in the shade. The older boy is pushing the family lawn mower, headed for a neighbor's house to mow the grass and earn some pocket change to add to his baseball card collection or pay for the triple feature playing at the Mayflower movie theater. Most of the kids are playing instead of working. For the boys, baseball is the game of choice. If we found our way to McKinley Park or Wilson Elementary, we would see the older boys playing “Indian baseball” with regulation balls and wooden bats. But here in the neighborhood, plastic bats and whiffle balls work best in the narrow playing fields between the houses. A closer look at the plastic bats would reveal smudges from June bugs swatted the night before. The smaller kids just learning the game are throwing baseballs on the roofs of the houses and honing their outfielding talents by catching the “high flies” that roll back at them. Many of the girls are giggling as they run through the front yard sprinklers, and some are even diving head first across a newly-available “Whammo slip and slide.” But when the siren song of the Popsicle man is first heard from streets away, girls and boys alike head for the closest parent to plead for a dime to have ready when the truck arrives.

If the streets seem shadier, it is because they are lined by elms that regrettably will all be lost in coming years to a Dutch fungal disease. If the neighbors seem friendlier, it is because regular personal interactions have made the neighborhood a big family, with everyone watching each other's backs. As a result, doors remain unlocked except for vacations, and even then neighbors know where to find the hidden key. Kids stray far from home, protected by parents other their own that know them well and supervise them closely until the universal darkness curfew sends this far flung bunch running back to each one's own family.

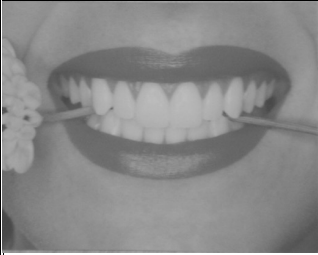
Get Compliant!

STAYING COMPLIANT

Mesta Park is a Historic Preservation neighborhood. If you have any questions or concerns with regard to code violations, please call the Action Center at 297-2535 or go to www.mestapark.org to contact the code compliance committee members. With compliance questions, contact Don Hawkins at compliant@mestapark.org. With historic preservation questions, contact Raina Pelofsky at hp@mestapark.org. **Get informed and stay compliant!**

MESTA PARK BUSINESS PAGE

SMILE



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Get Secure!

HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS SECURITY ASSOCIATION by Ann Dell

As the school year begins, caution your children to be observant for traffic as they walk to and from school. Continue to keep doors and gates locked routinely and keep an eye out for people who wander onto your porch or into your yard. There are more dog-walkers out now than ever, and while most carry plastic collection bags, some do not. I observed a woman with no collection materials this week walking three large dogs. Dog poo is a most unpleasant surprise in a lawn, and dog urine can kill the herbs in a garden and will certainly make them unpalatable.

Please join the Historic Neighborhoods Security Association and help us maintain our safety efforts. Contact Neighborhood Services, 348-1436, or email security@mestapark.org.



Mesta Park Neighborhood Association
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www.mestapark.org

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Monthly Neighborhood Newsletter

Your neighborhood needs you!

Join the Mesta Park Neighborhood Association today.

MPNA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS/ZIP _____

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Yes, I want to become a member of MPNA! Annual dues of \$30 are enclosed.

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

Or join online at www.mestapark.org/membership!