

Late Fall 2012

A periodic newsletter of the Merriman Park Estates Club

# Merriman Park Estater



## *No matter the season ...*

You'll find a lot of Estaters getting into the spirit with décor to match the holiday at hand.

At Halloween we celebrated with spooks, goblins and more...and treated neighborhood (and drive-in) kids to candy galore (enough to last weeks ahead and require a trip to the dentist) and other goodies to enhance their enjoyment of being disguised as popular (and some not so popular) characters! We do have more than our share of precious children and are so very thankful for their safety and well-being!

That's the spirit of Merriman Park and why most (if not all) of us just love it here!

And, now that Christmas is the season, the beauty is unsurpassed! Take a nighttime drive or two around the Estates to absorb our winter (which hasn't yet felt much like winter) wonderland!

## FROM MPE'S PRESIDENT

MPE Neighbors:

I'm very excited to let you know of a new networking/communication tool Merriman Park Estates will be using to help us improve our awareness of local crime issues and for general purpose communication. **Nextdoor.com** is a private social network that facilitates a virtual neighborhood watch program and helps to foster neighbor-to-neighbor communications. **Nextdoor** has also partnered with the Dallas Police Department and will be providing neighborhood specific crime reports and detail related to patrol.

### From Dallas Police Chief David Brown

*"I am pleased to announce that starting today the Dallas Police Department will be utilizing **Nextdoor** in an effort to facilitate a virtual neighborhood watch program and help foster more neighbor to neighbor communications. **Nextdoor** is a tool for us to effectively share crime prevention and safer information such as alerts of property crimes in the area or suspicious activity. You can expect to receive hyperlocal crime and safety updates from your neighborhood police officer over **Nextdoor**, but your **Nextdoor** website is still kept private to only those who live in the neighborhood and who have a verified address."*

**All you need to do to be a part of this virtual neighborhood is create your account and verify your address. **Nextdoor** link for Merriman Park:**

**<https://nextdoor.com/invite/5ts9zdn7vcaru4gh6bm>**

JAMES ROBERTS, MPE PRESIDENT

## TAMMY DALTON, MPE VICE PRESIDENT , TALKS OF A GREAT DAY IN NOVEMBER!

What a great day in Merriman Park Estates!

This year's Fall Festival was co-hosted by...YOU! That's right. We couldn't have done it without you neighbors.

Each year our neighborhood gets together to celebrate fall and our community. The responsibility for planning the event that usually brings out 150-200 people falls largely on the vice president of the home owners club. I've done this before but this time I tried something new (to me anyway).

**Joanie Dunson, DeeAnn Baggett, Risa Tompson, Susie Cockrell, and Laura Atherton** all stepped up to help me plan and execute what turned out to be a really fun party.

Folks, let me tell you, I have NEVER been very good at sharing the planning portion of any event and I was a little nervous, but our awesome VP from last year, Mavis Stewart, made having a committee look so easy I just had to try it. These ladies made it less work and more fun and I highly recommend committee planning now to everyone.

**Mary Peters, Lisa Lovell, Lana Marker, Rachel Schulz, Mike Mata., my husband Jason Dalton,** and Mavis all pitched in to help on special projects too.

The setup was ready well ahead of time and we finished cleaning up before 6:45 p.m. with help from even more neighbors. Thank you to **Milo Maness** for coordinating with the city to provide trash pickup and cones. Even our paparazzi was local makeup and photography diva **Deeanna Boyd**.

And, who needs catering when you have all these great cooks in the neighborhood? I could not fit everything I wanted to try on my plate so I had to make a few trips!

OK. It is nice to have it all done for you and not have to make anything or carry it over a few blocks, but hopefully you will agree that it was a nice change for one year.

*Tammy—Continued*

Thank you to all who helped provide us with a tasty meal and congratulations to the Bake-Off winners: **Lisa Lovell** for her meringue pie; **Karen Johnstone** for her Reese's Peanut Butter Bars, **Mary** and **Ansley Peters** for their chocolate éclair delight, and **Susie Michalak** for her rum cake. Delicious!

Thank you to all our volunteers for help at the Welcome and VIP tables and for running the children's activities. Even our local elementary school principal **Laurie Taylor** took a shift hair painting.

Thank you to everyone who brought canned goods for the North Texas Food Bank. Thank you to **Carol Ann Ramsour** and the Garden Club for the fun centerpieces. Thank you to local band **The Lupners**, who once again played fun music and kept young and old singing and dancing.

And, thank YOU for coming out on such a beautiful Sunday afternoon, MPE. I had a great time and took forward to seeing you all again soon.

TAMMY DALTON

(And, editor's note: THANK YOU **Tammy Dalton** for all your hard work in coordinating this grand neighborhood affair!)

## MPE Board

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**Having a Party?  
Planning for a  
Garage Sale?**

Merriman Park Estates Club  
to the rescue!

Save money and hassle by renting tables, chairs, and/or a great frozen margarita (or other concoction) machine available for rental right here in the neighborhood!

Tables, 8' long, are available for \$10 each; chairs for \$1...and that frozen drink maker is only \$50 (Tammy suggests frozen cranberry margaritas!) Yum! Yum!

Just think what you might have to pay from Ducky Bob's or elsewhere.!

Rentals are a fraction of what you pay for outside rentals and proceeds from your rental will be re-invested in more supplies for neighborhood events, not to mention we are conveniently located. Call or email Tammy Dalton, 214-674-6814 or [tamsidea@hotmail.com](mailto:tamsidea@hotmail.com) to reserve!

# Tis the Season...To Keep Our Eyes & Ears Open!

**Reminders from our  
resident police officer  
Mike Mata  
214-725-0261**

**Dear Neighbors,**

**The holiday season is off and running. "Black Friday" has turned into "Black Thursday." The turkey is all gone...bring on Christmas!!!!**

**I hope everyone is enjoying the family time and the somewhat cooler days (????) and nights. Personally, it's my kind of weather.**

**I'm writing a quick note to remind all of us that unfortunately the months of November through January typically bring a increase in crime. But, we can help curb that by remembering a few things to prevent yourself from being a victim of holiday thieves.**

- Always remember to bring any and all items from your vehicle inside the house. Even if you think no one would want that, trust me...somebody does want it. Never leave your purse or briefcase or back pack in the car so that it is visible from the outside. Even if you are not going to be inside very long, a thief only needs minutes.

- If possible, try not to place your Christmas tree in the front bay windows. I agree seeing them from the street is really pretty, but it's very tempting when there are dozens and dozens of wrapped gifts at the bottom!
- Tell your neighbors when you will be out of town and purchase a light timer so that the house looks lived in when seen from the street.
- Place motion lights on the exterior corners of your house, directed toward any type of common entry point.
- Make sure you email Sgt. McGuire and me the dates you will be gone so that we can check on your house.  
**(J.L.McGuire56@gmail.com;**  
**or mmata7313**  
**@yahool.com.**
- Invest in a non-factory car alarm. Even the simplest of systems will help. Most factory alarms only sound when the door is opened or the ignition is tampered with. Cars that are often left on the street need to have a motion and glass breakage alarm.
- These systems are very inexpensive and easy to install, most are less than \$100.

Please, please...if anything looks suspicious or out of the norm, call POLICE (911). You might think it is nothing and hopefully it is, but you never know for sure. So, please make that call. If you do see a person/car that is suspicious don't contact them but try to get as much visual information that you can find so that you can have the police officer who answers the call, the best chance of locating the person or car.

If you have questions or comments, please remember I am always willing to help in any way. So, don't hesitate to call or email.

Let's have the best in Christmas/holiday seasons by taking caution to make it as hard for wrongdoers as possible to dampen our spirits!

## **It is NEVER too late...**

**To lend your financial support to Merriman Park Armed Security Patrol (MPASP)!**

**In order to keep Office McGuire on the move and lookout, we need money. While we request \$150 annually, any amount will help! And, don't fret if you need to pay in installments.**

**Deliver your checks, payable to MPASP, to Mike at 6840 Topsfield or to MPASP treasurer, John Beall, at 7104 Winedale. Address questions to Mike, 214-775-0261 or to John, 214-214-341-2595.  
mmata7313@yahoo.com**

### **A Dog Incident...**

A pit bull, not on a leash, attacked one of our neighbors on Tabor, reported by David Schroeder when he was on VIP volunteer patrol.

Please, please keep your dogs under control to help protect our residents who are walking, working in their yards, or whatever. A vicious dog is a dangerous proposition.

### **VIP Wants You!**

Have an hour or two per month to spare? Likely not since we're such busy folks. However, make it a priority to lend your eyes, ears, and support to Volunteers in Patrol. VIP is a neighborhood watch group dedicated to scouting the area to be alert for suspicious activity, open garage doors, unsafe parking near Brooks Park and anything that looks like trouble! It's a non gun-toting group with MPE's best interests at heart.

To volunteer, please call Gary Fritzsche at 214-341-2840 or email [gefritzsche@aol.com](mailto:gefritzsche@aol.com)! He'll tell you how to get going!

Just think...you can be an important person in this team of MPE'ers driving the area with a blinking yellow light atop your car and official signage noting your affiliation with the Crime Patrol!

### **Three Cheers for...**

Kathleen Thompson, Lee Casey, and Ginger Dann who have joined VIP recently, bringing the total volunteers to 30 + However, there are 90 + slots available monthly. We need you...and Gary Fritzsche is happy to sign you up!

### **Alley Numbers Missing...**

Be sure your house number is posted in your alley! This is very important information for emergency vehicles which may be looking for your house!

### **Keeping You In the Know... Crime Stat Update**

For the months of September through November, "events" have been reported: for the following streets/areas:

#### **Sedgwick—**

Vandalism & Burglary  
Theft

#### **Cosgrove (2)**

#### **Hyde Park**

#### **Claybrook**

#### **Blackwood (2)**

#### **Kenwhite**

#### **East of Skillman—8 offenses**

Also, make note...some stolen items have been found! Check with the Northwest Police Station to see if yours is in their possession.

Thanks to Marilyn Meyer for keeping tabs on this info.

### **IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW...**

The Estater is printed by one of our very own: John Cobb, proprietor of Minuteman Press, 10202 Garland Road, Dallas 75218. John, a MPE resident, living on Sherburne, provides first class printing and graphic services.

He and his staff have been very helpful to editor Judy Skelton as she learns new "tricks" about publishing! Thank you is in order!

### **VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE: ACTUAL OR SUSPECTED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY...**

To report suspicious individuals or activity in the neighborhood, call 911! The police would rather get a call that does not pan out rather than not to have received one that they should have.

Officer John McGuire is the police officer who patrols our neighborhood when off duty from DPD, at irregular times.

After you call 911, you may then send a follow up email to Officer McGuire, but he is not immediately on call to respond. We do not have a phone number to reach him, we communicate with him by email.

To request that he drive by for vacation checks, email:

[J.L.mcguire56@gmail.com](mailto:J.L.mcguire56@gmail.com)

If you have his old AOL email address, delete it!

# Neighborhood Notes

## Keeping MPE Beautiful...

Thanks to the following residents selected by the Garden Club for their landscaping efforts as worthy of special recognition::

OCTOBER

*Yard of the Month*

**GARY & ANN MEYER**

6918 Kenwhite

*Alleyscape of the Month*

**ROBERT & LANELL LONG**

7135 Cosgrove

NOVEMBER

*Yard of the Month*

**GUY, JR. & JANET BROWN**

7037 Merriman Parkway

*Alleyscape of the Month*

**GARY & EDITH FRITZSCHE**

7050 Blackwood

DECEMBER

*Yard of the Month*

**CHARLES & ALICE LEGGETTE**

6828 Hyde Park Drive

*Alleyscape of the Month*

**WADE MCIINTYRE & JEFF LESTER**

6847 Sedgwick

**MPE Membership in  
[nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) is  
Growing Rapidly**

At last report, nearly 40 MPE'ers have signed up for this great neighborhood online communication tool!

See James Roberts' article p. 2!

## Garden Club Says Thank You!

To you who purchased pansies from MPE's Garden Club, a big thank you! Your contributions go to help in beautifying our neighborhood, specifically the area around the MPE sign at Skillman & Blackwood., which Garden Club members continually work to enhance the entrance to MPE.

The club's annual Christmas party was held at the home of Sandra Bruns. It was a celebration dedicated to good food, great company, a gift exchange, and laughter all around.

Upcoming events include a January 10 meeting with Mary Stall of Public Art Walk as presenter. Laura Tyree, 6839 Sedgwick, will host.

For the romantics among us, plan to wine & dine on Valentine's Day at the home of Jeanene Harrell, 7155 Blackwood.

Details of these events as well as how-to-join info can be yours by emailing President Corinne Schaefer at [cfigc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cfigc@sbcglobal.net) or Vice President Jeanene Tips at [J7012@SBCglobal.net](mailto:J7012@SBCglobal.net).

## Hip, Hip, Hooray!

As we speak, trees are being planted in the valley area to replace those that burned up during our summer heat spells.

And, for future protection, an irrigation system has been installed! Thanks again to Milo Maness for his coordination!

## Moving on to...

Less complicated living are two MPE families selecting independent living retirement residences for their future. Both are long-term Estaters:

**Bill & Judy Chiles** who lived at 6856 Blackwood for 40+ years &

**Frankie & Wilma Vrla**, residing at 6917 Topsfield for 33 years...

Though we'll miss them, we wish them Godspeed and blessings as they move into new chapters of their lives.

Bill Chiles, you know, was *Estate* editor for 40 years! What a testimony to his volunteer spirit and hard work on behalf of MPE!

## MPE Teen Reads to Underprivileged Children

Sarah Tonn, of Claybrook fame volunteers time and expertise to help children who need help with their reading.

A sophomore at Lake Highlands High School, Sarah's purpose in this community project is to encourage the love of reading among younger children.

## Here's how you can help!

Donate children's books appropriate for preschool aged to early elementary to Sarah who can delight the kids by giving them a book to take home.

For book pick up, call Sarah's mom, Kitty, 214-478-2666 or email her: [kittytonn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kittytonn@sbcglobal.net).

## MPE Moments in Pictures

The “story” about photos shown on page 12!

- Halloween décor “graced” many MPE yards during that “spooky” season. Hats off to those neighbors who got with the “program” and displayed creativity and spirit with their yard displays.
- MPE’s annual Fall Festival brought neighbors together for food, fun, and friendly fellowship and more. It was a beautiful day, a great time, and we are so appreciative of those who planned, executed, baked, manned the activities, judged, cleaned up, and more! Tammy Dalton was in charge of this marvelous affair!
- In spite of a very hot summer, fall color prevailed and we enjoyed the splendor of this favorite season for many. The beauty of Merriman Park Estates was significantly enhanced by the turning of the leaves.

## TO SEND EMAIL TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD...

If the info you’d like to send is of general interest, email

[mpeinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:mpeinfo@yahoo.com)

At this time, this is a good way of keeping each other informed on burglaries of homes and vehicles. Descriptions are very helpful. Another way is through [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com). See MPE President James Roberts’ article on page 2.

Kathleen Thompson is responsible for general emails to Estaters. When you receive one, please do not hit “Reply” to start a conversation. That goes to everyone on MPE’s email list and is not to be used for that purpose.

## MILO SAYS THANK YOU

Milo Maness, our parks guru *extraordinaire*, writes: “I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the MPE residents who assisted in cleaning up the park and valley (creek) on October 20, 2012.

“We had 30 plus participants which is classified as a good turnout...not as good as March, but good!

“Special thanks to David and Joanie Dunson for their assistance and to Jeff and Daniel LaFayette and to Gary Fritzsche for cleaning up Skillman.”

## ALSO, THANKS FROM THE CITY OF DALLAS

Dear “It’s My Park Day” Friends and Volunteers:

Thank you for making “It’s My Park Day” a huge success. You are among more than 1,400 volunteers who signed up and did their part in beautifying our parks.

As a result of your participation, we were able to raise awareness of the importance and value of our parks to our community and to keep them clean and green. “It’s My Park Day” provided citizens an opportunity to have greater involvement and personal investment in their neighborhood parks and to demonstrate that care and maintenance of our parks is also a community responsibility.

Please mark your calendars and join us Saturday, March 2, 2013 for our next “It’s My Park Day!”

Your dedication and commitment did not go unnoticed. Once again, thank you for your gift of time and effort to help keep our parks flourishing for years to come!

Sincerely, **MAX W. WELLS, PRESIDENT, PARKS & RECREATION BOARD**



## Social Club Doings...

They get together just to have fun! MPE's ladies take time for coffee and conversation monthly at our Women's Social Club meetings.

Merriman Park's WSC enjoyed a December 11 Mexican Fiesta at the home of Stephanie Agnew. It was followed by a gift exchange of "WSC's Favorite Things". Everyone brought one of their favorite things costing \$20 or under for a White Elephant Exchange. They also collected donations for Toys for Tots at the party.

Earlier in the fall, the Halloween Pre Trick or Treat party was a huge success. WSC members and their families joined up on the lawns of the Yates and Carrell families for pizza, play, and pictures before heading out to trick or treat.

For information on how you can join the fun and fellowship of WSC, contact Meredith Yates, 512-773-6641.

Precious kiddos benefit from playtime while their mom's enjoy getting together with WSC friends!



*Goblins and ghosts galore gathered for the Women's Social Club Halloween Pre Trick or Treat party, which was a huge success!*



MPE is a wonderful place to raise children with all its opportunities for friends and playmates to enjoy neighborhood activities.





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6441 E. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas, TX 75214

I have lived in the neighborhood for over 16 years and have kept up with the value of property as well as some history of the area. If you are considering selling your home or know someone in the area that may be selling theirs, I would love to help.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

TO BE ANNOUNCED...A General Membership Meeting of Merriman Park Estates Club in early 2013.

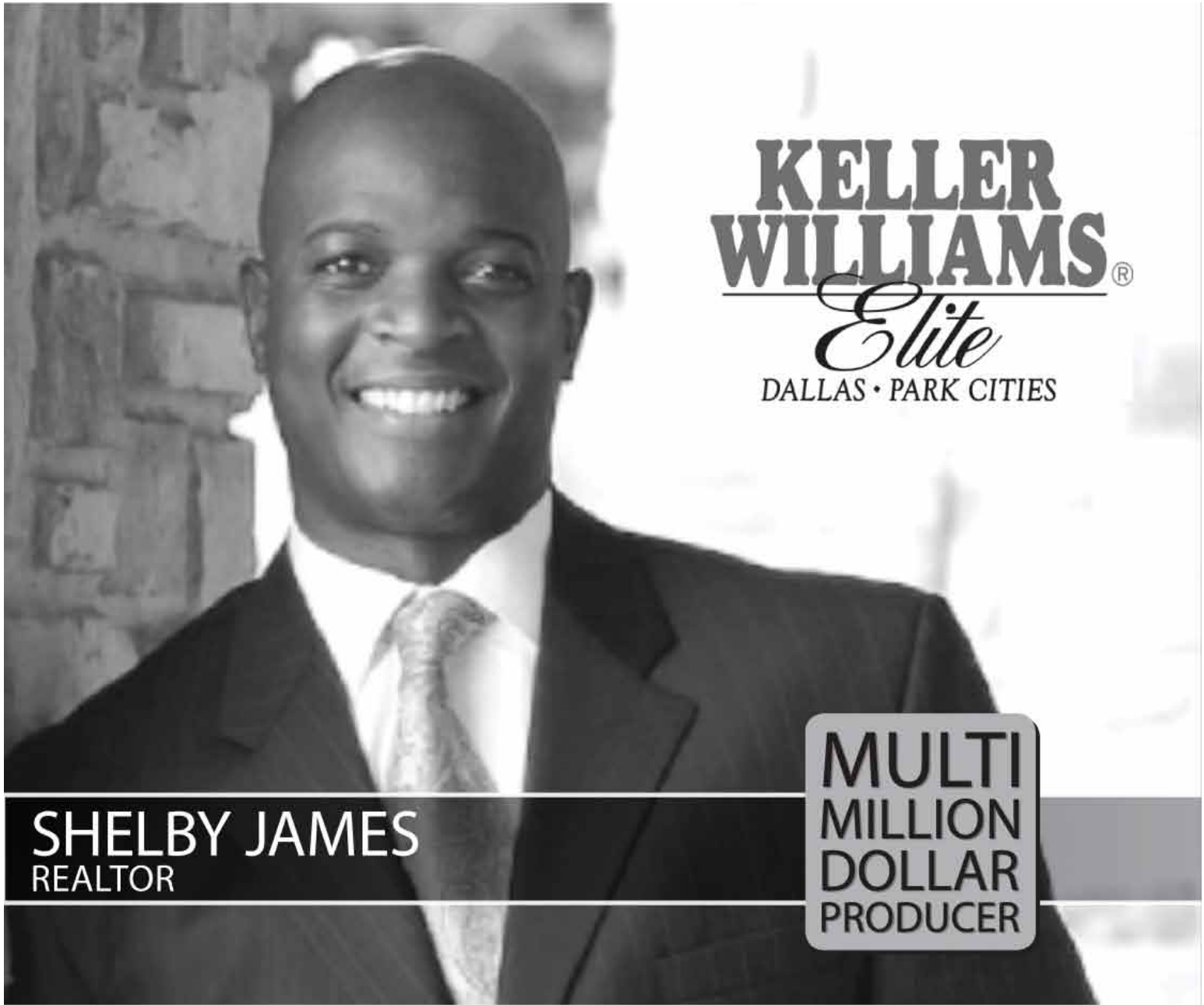
Main topic: Thwarting crime in our neighborhood. Be watching for community emails announcing this meeting and make plans to attend. Contact is: James Roberts.

JANUARY, 2ND WEEK...Women's Social Club meeting, details to be announced. Contact is: Meredith Yates.

JANUARY 10...Garden Club meeting at the home of Laura Tyree, 6839 Sedgwick. Mary Stall of Public Art Work will be the featured speaker. Contact is: Corinne Schaefer.

FEBRUARY 14...For Valentine Day romantics, a Garden Club "wining and dining" event at the home of Jeanene Harrell, 7155 Blackwood. Contact is: Corinne Schaefer.

MARCH 20...Another "It's My Park Day." Volunteers needed. Contact is: Milo Maness.



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**Allison Combs**

**Pet Care**

A student at Lake Highlands High School & an alumni of Forest Meadow & Merriman Park, I have lived in MPE my entire life & this will be my 4th year to own my business. . Call me when pet care extraordinaire or other services are needed.

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clovisfeet@aol.com

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*MPE ESTATER*

A periodic newsletter of the  
MERRIMAN PARK ESTATES CLUB

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submitted to the editor as noted above.

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