



The Mistletoe Express

www.mistletoeheights.com

October 2008

Remembering My Alley

St Louis Alley

Jim Piepert

importance of alleys in American life dredged up a raft of childhood memories about alleys in St. Louis.

My mother, Virginia Sieve, was born at 3302 Cherokee St. in south St. Louis, a part of the city where the streets are named for states and Indian tribes - Meramec and Michigan, Iowa and Osage, Chippewa and Vermont.

That enclave, hard by the Mississippi River, was inhabited by blue-collar Germans with names like Kleycamp and Feltmann, Strathmann and Lakebrink.

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: U a] \ m \ [U h \ Y f] b [g \ U h \ a m Virginia Ave. \ where one of my cousins still lives \ invariably included talk of baseball and \ if the weather

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Art and the Great Pumpkin

Editor

Back in the day, all we ever did to our orange pumpkin was carve a toothless grin, two triangle eyes and pop an emergency candle in its gut, and Mom claimed we had a future in the world of art. Today, non commitment to the carving of the annual autumnal pumpkin is history. From the artistic painting of pumpkin faces to carefully carved spooky scenes, the pumpkin of today has gone art house. Some folks still make the classic Jack o Lantern while others push the pumpkin into the extreme. The editor opines that the old school funky steak knife cut pumpkin with a grin trumps a stencil hands down.



Great Gourds A Fire!

SteveMcReynolds

After a long hot summer, the mornings are once again crisp, and fall is threatening. Before you turn around,] h \ g \ h] a Y \ Z c f \ h \ Y \ U b b i U Carving Contest. The rules for this event are simple.

After dusk, on the night before Halloween (Thursday October 30th) an elite gang of gourd judges hit the street to pick the best pumpkin creations.

Only real carved pumpkins can be entered into the contest. The Grand Prize winner will get 100 shares of @ Y \ a U b \ 6 f c h \ Y f \ g \ h c W \ later). The winner and all honorable mentions will get a fabulous write up in the newsletter.

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CURB APPEAL AND YOUR CAR

YOU CAN INSTANTLY IMPROVE YOUR STREET'S CURB APPEAL BY SIMPLY PARKING YOUR CAR IN THE GARAGE. IF THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE, PARK YOUR CAR AND OR CARS IN THE DRIVEWAY, UNDER YOUR PORTECHERE OR AT LEAST BEHIND THE FRONT FAÇADE OF YOUR HOME. THIS MAKES THE EYE GO TO THE BEAUTY OF THE ARCHITECTURE OF OUR HOMES AND NOT A SERIES OF MODERN CARS. THIS IS A NO COST IMPROVEMENT THAT REALLY UPS THE BEAUTY OF OUR STREETS AND ALLIEVIATES CONGESTION ON THE NARROW BLOCK. IT ALSO REDUCES THE LIKELIHOOD OF AUTO THEFT AND VANDALISM AS THE CARS MOST OFTEN SOUGHT AFTER ARE THE ONES FARTHEST FROM THE HOME.

OCTOBER EVENTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

YOUR FRONT PORCH-MISTLETOE HEIGHTS
DUSK - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30TH (NIGHT BEFORE HALLOWEEN)
CARVE YOUR PUMPKIN, AND WAIT FOR THE JUDGES!

BOO AT THE ZOO

FORT WORTH ZOO
October 24-29 (817)-759-7360

Great Event for Little Trick or Treaters

HALLOWEEN OCTOBER 31

DUSK AND BEYOND
Mistletoe Heights gets plenty of action! Be sure to have candy and treat ready. Leave your porch light on!

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 3 FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
THE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETS TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW UPCOMING HOME RENOVATIONS AND NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORIC CHARACTER KATHY McREYNOLDS-KMTIS@SWB.NET

D` U b ` m c i f ` [c i f X g ` [f] a U W
involved! Remember judging occurs the night before Halloween and Styrofoam and plastic pumpkins will not be considered a viable entry.

NEW NEIGHBORS!

I should point out that Trick or Treaters flock to Mistletoe Heights from all over town so be prepared to deliver the hospitality and treats.

And keep an eye out for The Mistletoe Halloween
G h f Y Y h ` 6 U b X ` c b ` h \ Y] f ` U b

Do we have time to sew these up for Friday?



PHOTOS OF YOUR COSTUMES!

SEND IN PHOTOS OF YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUMES FOR OUR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER. WHETHER YOU ARE WHIMPING OUT WITH A POLITICAL MASK AND SUIT OR YOU HAVE REALLY INVESTED YOUR TIME AND CREATIVITY INTO YOUR COSTUME—WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU DRESSED UP!

SEND THE NEWSLETTER PHOTOS OF YOUR HALLOWEENED CHILDREN, COSTUMED PETS, PICTURES OF YOUR DECORATED HOME, AND THE EVER WONDERFUL GROUP PORTRAIT OF TRICK AND TREATERS.



Questions and Answers

What are the alley rules?

Our alleys are a right of way for utilities providers above and below ground. Originally, alleys served as access for servants, carriage houses and the delivery of milk, ice and the collection of **garbage**. John K *Program*, says as long as utilities are in alleys, the city will keep the status of alleys as is.

Many people think that their back lot line is in the middle of the alley. Can they make an alley part of their yard?

No, absolutely not. The alley is owned by the city and residents cannot move their fences to impede access.

What are the alley rules?

Mr. Hobson told me that Fort Worth passed an ordinance saying that homeowners are responsible for maintaining half of the alley space to the mid point, *W] h m X c Y g b X c b D h a U] b h U] b h Y U Y*

W] h m W Y U b

Fort Worth cleans on a quarterly basis, trimming

trees to avoid hazards to service lines, and whacking down tall weeds and grass. Easy access is important for utilities, especially with our potential for severe weather.

What about tall grass, weeds and debris?

The city will pick up debris on a quarterly basis, but *W] b W* illegally. This means that tossing yard waste and unwanted items into an alley is a code violation. Homeowners should mow the grass.

May we garden the alleys?

The city is excited about homeowners improving the alleys and making them neighborhood assets. The homeowner must make it obvious that a flower or vegetable bed is along the fence line by using a small barrier, such as a bed liner, small divider, a raised bed or clearly cut-in beds. It should extend no more than two feet into the alley from the fence line so that maintenance vehicles are able to pass through.

Do you need help with a fence or debris, or would like to part in an alley improvement program contact perrellim@aol.com



Along with milk and food delivery and Garbage Collection. Our alleys are an important part of our American History. Please consider helping to bring them back

10 Steps to Improving our Alleys

1. Take immediate responsibility for the care of your half of the alley by mowing, edging and performing weekly maintenance. This is your charge as good community homeowners.
 2. You should repair broken fencing in the alley. Failure to do so is a code violation.
 3. Get on your gloves on and clear your alley of debris.
 4. Put motion-detecting lights and/or solar-activated lights on the alley to help prevent crime. Demand they have eternal daytime.
 5. Consider that the alley was the main drag for the workers of Mistletoe Heights. For many folks, the alley was the main street.
 6. If replacing fencing, consider putting in a locking alley gate for visitors. Consider period-style fences. We will be publishing an article about period fences in a future issue of the newsletter.
 7. The alleys make great walking and jogging areas.
 8. Repair any damage to the alley.
 9. Take a walk through our alleys. Open up what an unmapped historic resource we have and a shock at how horribly we are maintaining them.
- Success.

