

Issue 2 | Volume 1

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**APRIL 2013** 





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## **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

#### **MCIA OFFICE**

#### **OFFICE HOURS:**

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Friday	
	Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.
Telephone	2
Fax	713-729-0048
General E	mailoffice@meyerland.net

4999 West Bellfort St., Houston, TX 77035 Visit our website at www.meyerland.net

Architectural Control Committee ...... macc@meyerland.net

#### **SECURITY**

#### **CITY OF HOUSTON**

Houston Help & Information.... 311 or 713-837-0311

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER ELLEN COHEN**

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Monday - Thursday

......713-659-2111 or 888-876-5786

9:00 a m = 2:30 p m

For missed garbage pickup, water line break, dead animals, traffic signals, and other city services, dial 311. Some mobile phone users may need to dial 713-837-0311.

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To contact a member of the Board of Directors, please visit www.meyerland.net and click Contact Us.

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## Meyerland

## is a Deed Restricted Community

Springtime is upon us. As we all begin the winter clean-up, the Association would like to remind you that all Meyerland residents are required to conform to their deed restrictions as they preserve the character and attractiveness of the neighborhood. Homeowners who do not adhere to the deed restrictions of their section or fail to get approval from the MACC for exterior changes may face construction delays, citations, and other steps from the Association including legal action. Don't let this be you! All exterior work requires approval. Construction forms and deed restrictions for your property are available on your website, www.meyerland.net.



## Manager's Memo

### **PLANTING PROGRESS**

By Amy Hoechstetter, General Manager of MCIA

We have finally started the planting of our residential markers. By the end of the month, we hope to have the signs located on North and South Braeswood planted. We are also replacing color and sprucing up the sign on Hillcroft. Even the entrance at Jason is getting a much needed facelift. The plan there is to remove much of the concrete replacing it with grass, shrubs and flowers. With the completion of the signs at the Jason Street entrance, we will have 6 of the 11 total signs irrigated and planted. When in full bloom, the flowers, shrubs and trees will look outstanding. It is our goal to maintain the look once it is achieved. The signs will continually have flowers that are appropriate for the season.

We intend to spend the remainder of 2013 moving forward with the irrigation and planting of the remaining signs. Again, we will need to work with the City to approve the plans, meter placement and activation, laying of the irrigation lines, and ultimately planting at the sight of the residential markers. While that is in progress we will be reviewing all former landscaping bed sights and scouting for new locations as we rejuvenate the area by putting in fresh plant material. Watch us as we "grow"!



## **Meyerland Proud**

What does the Meyerland Community Improvement Association (MCIA) do with the annual fees it collects from the residents each year? Your money goes towards:

- Maintaining and improving 52 acres of common green space area
- Employing a General Manager and Architectural Coordinator
- Contracting with the Harris County Precinct 5 Constables for 7 Full-Time Deputies
- Contracting with a landscape company to provide care of the common grounds of the AssociationEnforcing deed restrictions
- Supporting the Citizens On Patrol program
- Maintaining five FEMA lots deemed not suitable for building
- Having a Homeowners Association office in the neighborhood for the convenience of our residents instead of an outsourced management company
- Producing an informative web site and email blasts to residents
- Holding events like "Afternoon in the Park", home improvement and security seminars, Annual Meetings, and monthly Board of Directors meetings

Additionally, we contract with attorneys, a Certified Public Accountant, tree trimmers, plumbers, electricians, and part-time office help as needed. And the list goes on. Best of all, our maintenance assessment rate has not increased since 2006. That's a model for supporting the community and the economy! Now, if we could get that kind of budget control carry over to the entities that TAX us.

### **Corrections & Clarifications**

"With Great Appreciation to Elite Concrete and Construction" (March 2013 issue) referred to an incorrect phone number. The correct number is (281) 690-2872. We regret any inconvenience.



# Meet Your Director

## **MIKE JONES**

"Meet Your Director" is a recurring article to acquaint you with your neighbors who serve on the Board of Directors. This month's featured director is Mike Jones, a Director for Section 8 South.

#### Why did you decide to join the MCIA Board of Directors?

My family and I moved to Meyerland in March 2012. I saw that there was a vacancy on the board for my Section and decided to run. I thought it would be a good way to get to know my neighbors and become involved in my new community. Unfortunately, someone else ran too and beat me by a few votes. I immediately volunteered for a committee and was made Chair of the Deed Restriction Compliance Committee. I was appointed to a Director position after a resignation.

#### What Board titles or committee seats do you hold?

I am on the Executive Board as Secretary, Chair of the Deed Restriction Compliance Committee, and member of the By-Laws Committee.

#### What is your professional background?

I am an attorney. I practice civil litigation, with an emphasis in labor and employment defense.

#### What surprised you about being on the Board?

The time commitment required. Most residents are unaware of how much time the Directors spend outside of the monthly meetings working to keep Meyerland a great place to live. Between the monthly meeting, committee meetings, meeting with residents and responding to emails, it's a significant time commitment. It's one of those organizations that you get out what you put in, so the time commitment is worth it.



Mike Jones, his wife, Brooke, and their son, Max

#### What advice would you give a new Director?

Don't let fear cripple your success as a Director. Some people have fears of speaking in public (sometimes our meetings have several hundred visitors); some people have fears of being sued (certain decisions we make can be polarizing); and some people have fears of upsetting neighbors or friends. All of those fears need to be put aside in order to truly succeed.

## Trash Schedule - April - May, 2013

April, 2013								
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.		
	1	2 <b>Trash</b>	3	4	5	6		
7	8	9 T/R	10 Junk!	11	12	13		
14	15	16 <b>Trash</b>	17	18	19	20		
21	22	23 <b>T/R</b>	24	25	26	27		
28	29	30 Trash						

May, 2013								
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.		
			1	2	3	4		
5	6	7 <b>T/R</b>	8 Tree!	9	10	11		
12	13	14 <b>Trash</b>	15	16	17	18		
19	20	21 <b>T/R</b>	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29 <b>Trash</b>	30	31			

MCIA Deed Restriction Rules: Weekly - Put garbage and recycling containers, as well as yard trimmings, etc., on the curb no earlier than 6:00 p.m. one day before pickup. Remove containers no later than 10 p.m. on trash pickup day. Monthly - Put heavy junk/tree waste on the curb no earlier than Friday 6 p.m. before the 2nd Wednesday heavy junk/tree waste collection.

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Sunday, April 28th - noon to 8:00 p.m.

Admission is FREE; refreshments available for sale



The Willow Waterhole JazzFest is an exciting and unique community event with a beautiful 279 acre greenspace as its backdrop! The Festival will feature a diverse range of jazz performed by local schools as well as professional musicians.

Local schools include: Emery Weiner, Johnston Middle School, Houston High School for the Performing & Visual Arts, Parker Elementary, and Westbury High School.

Professional Groups include: Coretta Scott Bell, Kelly Dean Band, Kyle Turner, and the Texas Brass Band.

Support these musicians, your community, and The Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservacy (WWGC).

For more information, visit wwac.org.

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## Meyerlander MONTHLY

## Little known fact... Meyerland DOES have a **Community Center**

In the world of master-planned communities today, all of them have a community center which is open for residents to rent for parties, reunions, etc. Did you know there is such a place in Meyerland, too?

The new renovated Godwin Community Center located at 5101 Rutherglenn is the place. The Community Center is operated by City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department and has an on-site manager during scheduled hours. The community center is a great place to host special gatherings such as parties, showers, meetings, family reunions, even wedding receptions, for a nominal rental fee. Deposits are required and are refundable.

For more information, contact Godwin Community Center at 713-726-7114.



Godwin Community Center was the stage for live performances for the MCIA-sponsored festival Afternoon In the Park in 2011

### 2013-2014

### **Board of Directors Elected**

New directors were elected at the Annual Meeting on March 20th. The election occurred after this issue went to print, so you may have a different director than what is listed on page 3. To find your current Section Director, please go to www.meyerland.net and click "Contact Us."



The website will be refreshed in Spring 2013 with better navigation and a new look.

## The Web

The Meyerland website is getting a facelift. We have always heard many positive comments about the wealth of information that was available on our current site, but we still wanted to make it better. With the recent need to upgrade our website software, we also have the opportunity to improve the experience for the residents and make the website a better resource for all users.

In late January, a survey was conducted of website users to find out what you, the residents found most helpful and what else you wanted or needed from our website. We received a lot of wonderful comments and you provided us with confirmation that we are on the right track, but also gave us some things to think about. We will be incorporating many of your ideas into the new site, but some of them are not possible to implement and manage at this time.

The current website is still available while the new site is in development and it will be launched later this year. It will be designed with a fresh new look and user friendly navigation, updated with the latest information about our neighborhood and putting the most requested information up front and easy to find.

We are looking forward to the new website and the ability to provide yet another valuable communication tool for our residents.

### Like" Us on Facebook!



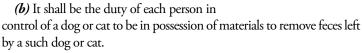
The MCIA Office has created a Facebook page. Get updates about trash, events and meetings, or share your views with others. Visit us at: facebook.com/ meyerlandtx.

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## **Pooper Scooper Law**

We regularly get complaints from residents concerned with problems of neighbors walking their pets and not picking up after them after they have done their "business." Not only is this un-neighborly conduct, it is also a violation of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances, "Section 6-24. Defecation by dogs or cats" which states:

(a) It is the duty of each person in control of a dog or cat to promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by such dog or cat.



(c) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the person in control of the dog or cat is the owner of the premises, or the owner's agent of the premises, where the dog or cat deposits feces."

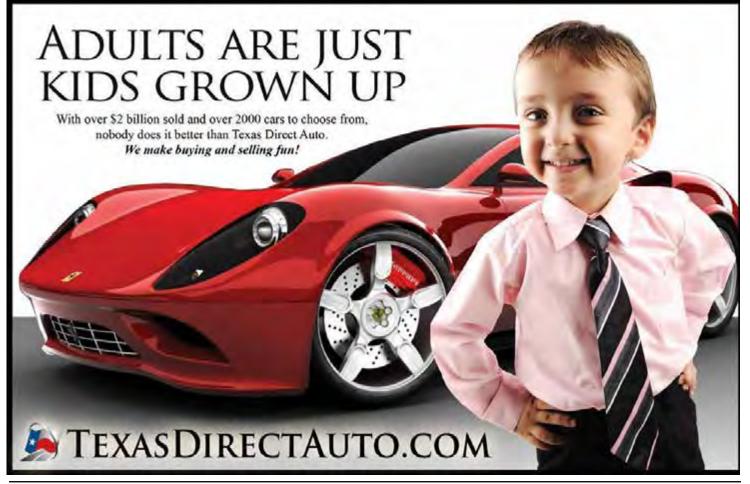
(d) Violation of this section is unlawful and any violation shall be punishable upon conviction by a fine of not less than \$75.00 or more than \$500.00. Each act in contravention of this section is a separate offense."

Please pick up after your pet!













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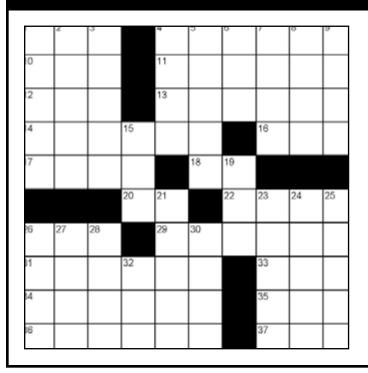
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## **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Can
- 4. At sea
- 10. Maturity
- 11. Apt
- 12. Winter mo.
- 13. Cactus drug
- 14. Choose (2 wds.)
- 16. Long time
- 17. Tush
- 18. You
- 20. Hey!
- 22. Baby's "ball"
- 26. Fortify
- 29. Groove
- 31. Relating to the laity
- 33. Loose gown worn at mass
- 34. Accounts
- 35. Central Intelligence Agency

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

- 36. Stacking card game
- 37. Critical

#### **DOWN**

- 1. College field of study
- 2. Open mouthed
- 3. Rumormonger
- 4. Dog food brand
- 5. Zealous
- 6. Repose
- 7. Double-reed instrument
- 8. Singing voice
- 9. Adolescent
- 15. Saute
- 19. Move away
- 21. Toothbrush brand
- 23. Taken (shocked)
- 24. Negate
- 25. Treed (2 wds.)
- 26. Alack's partner
- 27. Standing
- 28. Short
- 30. Too
- 32. Hat

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Did you forget the y Handyman Mame of that the Plastic name of the Plastic name o



## SAFE KIDS SAFETY TIPS

By Concentra Urgent Care

Accidental injury is the number one killer of America's children, taking more lives than disease, violence, and suicide. Prevention is the cure. It's estimated that by taking these and other simple precautions, almost all (90%) of these accidental injuries can be avoided.

- Childproof your home. Look at every room as your child would. Ask yourself what looks interesting and what can be reached. Get down on your hands and knees, and check for small things children can choke on.
- Use the back burners on stoves, and turn pot handles to the back. Keep children away from the stove or microwave when cooking, and don't serve hot food or drinks to them. Keep knives, glasses, and scissors where young kids can't reach them.
- Cover electrical outlets that are not in use.
- Keep guns locked, unloaded, and where kids can't reach them.
- Take precautions to avoid fire in the home. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and in every sleeping area. Test them once a month.
- Plan several ways to escape from each room if a fire starts. Practice the fire escape plan with your family. Identify a safe place to meet
- Lock up matches, lighters, and gasoline. Keep space heaters where kids can't reach them and away from curtains, beds, and papers.
- Never put electrical cords under rugs
- Always supervise children while they are in the bathroom, and follow other important bathroom safety guidelines. Keep the hot water heater at low-medium or less than 120° Farenheit. Mix hot

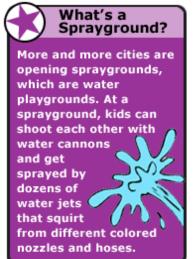
- and cold water in the bathtub, and test it on your forearm before putting children into the tub. Never leave the room while they are bathing.
- · Keep toilet lids closed and locked, and doors to bathrooms and utility rooms closed when not in use. Put razors, curling irons, and hair dryers out of reach.
- Avoid exposing children to potential poisons. Lock up potential poisons out of children's reach, including cleaning supplies, pet food, medicine, vitamins, beer, wine, and liquor. Read labels and follow directions when giving medicine to children. Know which houseplants are poisonous and keep them where children can't reach them.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors in every sleeping area and test them every month. Make sure heating systems are vented outside and checked every year.
- Prevent serious falls. Keep furniture away from windows. Install guards or stops on windows that are not emergency exits.
- Install safety gates at the top and the bottom of stairs. Never use baby walkers.
- Keep emergency numbers by every telephone. Call 911 if a child is choking, collapses, can't breathe, or is having a seizure. If you suspect a child has been poisoned, call 1-800-222-1222.
- Keep first aid supplies on hand.

For more information about preventing child injury, you can visit the Safe Kids USA Web site at: http://www.usa. safekids.org

# - Kids Stuff-

Section for Kids with news, puzzles, games and more!





Do you have a favorite playground? Maybe it's a new wooden one that has lots of tall towers and passageways. Or maybe your favorite is an old-fashioned playground with swings and a seesaw. Playgrounds are fun places for kids because there's so much to do and other kids to have fun with. But sometimes kids get hurt at playgrounds. That's no fun, so here are 10 ways to keep safe:

I. Take a grown-up. As kids get bigger, they like doing things on their own. Going to the playground shouldn't be one of them, though. Grown-ups come in handy because they might spot problems at the playground, they can help you down if you get in a tight spot, and they can help if you happen to get hurt.

- 2. Take a good look around. If the playground has lots of trash, such as broken glass, or the equipment looks broken, don't play there.
- 3. Keep your size in mind. Many playgrounds have some equipment that's for little kids (like 2- to 5-year-olds) and other equipment that's meant for older kids. Use the equipment that's right for your age. If you squeeze yourself onto a swing for toddlers, you might get stuck. Likewise, if your little brother or sister starts climbing something meant for older kids, guide him or her to the little kid stuff
- 4. Don't go too high. Many playgrounds have tall stuff to play on, such as towers or open passageways between equipment. Don't climb higher than you feel comfortable, and feel free to ask your grown-up if you need help getting down. Never climb up the outside of equipment, or hoist yourself up on the roof. The view might be cool, but it's a long way down.
- **5. Look out below.** The best playgrounds put down special surfacing material, such as mulch, wood chips, sand, gravel, or rubber matting. These surfaces can help soften a fall, but that doesn't mean you won't get hurt, especially if you tumble from a high spot.
- **6. Swing safely.** Kids often get hurt at the playground because they get hit by someone on a swing. If you're swinging, watch out for people who

- might be getting too close. And if you're walking around the playground, don't get too close to the swingers.
- 7. Use your head. Sometimes you'll see kids going headfirst down the slide or maybe two or three kids will get on a piece of equipment that's only meant for one. Or some kids might start goofing around and trying to push each other off a swing or off of a high spot. If your grown-up sees you doing this, he or she will probably say, "Knock it off. Someone's going to get hurt." It's true, so try to use the playground equipment properly. And if you get stuck, or don't know how to get down from something, call your grown-up over so he or she can help you down.
- **8. Report problems.** If you see graffiti (when people write or paint on stuff), a broken swing, or find any other problems while you're playing, tell your grown-up. He or she can report the problem so it can be fixed.
- **9. Clean up.** If you bring a drink or snack to the playground, clean up your trash before you leave. When you do, the park will look nice when the next kid comes along to play and you will have shown that you're a good playground citizen.
- I 0.Have a great time! How can you make a good time at the playground even better? Bring a friend and only complain a little when it's time to leave.
  Reviewed by: Steven Dowshen, MD
  Date reviewed: May 2008

This information was provided by KidsHealth, one of the largest resources online for medically reviewed health information written for parents, kids, and teens. For more articles like this one, visit www.KidsHealth.org or www.TeensHealth.org. ©1995-2006. The Nemours Foundation

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