

Meyerlander MONTHLY

Volume 1 | Issue 3

MEYERLAND.NET

MAY 2013



Meyerlander's Keeping it Green
at Herod Elementary School
Photos Submitted by Tim Murray & Sandy Zarwulkoff

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Amy Hoechstetter MCIA General Manager
Lisa Murray Architectural Coordinator

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Central Time
Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

Telephone 713-729-2167
Fax 713-729-0048
General Email office@meyerland.net
Architectural Control Committee macc@meyerland.net
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2013 Annual Meeting Recap

by Shirley Hou, MCIA Publications Committee

Over 200 people attended Meyerland's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at Lovett Elementary School. The evening started on a lighthearted note with a few jokes and encouraging speech by guest speaker, Rabbi Jack Segal of Congregation Beth Yeshurun. Rabbi Segal is a widely published author of many books, including *Focus on the Bagel*, *Not on the Hole*. His main point was to think positively, and good things will happen. By the nods and smiles of the audience, it seemed that most agreed with his message.



The Lovett Elementary School Auditorium was filled with Meyerland residents

Treasurer and Director-at-Large Gerald Radack then explained the 2013 Budget. The Association also has no debt and comfortable cash reserves. Our expenses are under control and we have funds to improve the neighborhood while remaining debt-free. Due to some delay of starting some projects, we have savings from previous years that are unspent. The Association hopes to get the rest of the projects completed soon. Overall, the future looks really bright as Meyerland continues to be a very desirable place to live.

Acting President and Director of Section 7 Chris Bisel recognized Amy Hoechstetter, our General Manager, and Lisa Murray, Architectural Coordinator, for the fabulous job they are doing. Since Ms. Hoechstetter became general manager a few years ago, she has cleaned up our accounts such that our accounts receivables are very, very low. In fact, they are the lowest they have ever been in our history!

Director of Section 7 Jim Walters gave an update on the St. John's Presbyterian Church efforts to build transitional housing on the unrestricted reserve adjacent to Section 8 South. The MCIA Board of Directors voted to oppose the project in July 2012. Despite many efforts of a taskforce formed of concerned Meyerland residents and MCIA Directors, and meetings with various City of Houston officials, the project is moving forward. (Editor's Note: see Page 8 in the March 2013 issue for a full status update of the project.)

Security Chairperson and Director of Section 10 Rick Fritz encouraged residents to volunteer for Citizens on Patrol. He recognized several Precinct 5 Constables who were present, including Assistant Chief Terry Thurman who has accepted another position, Assistant Chief Ted Heap (from Precinct 1), who will be taking over as Precinct 5 Assistant Chief, Constable Mitch Hutter, Community Relations, and Sergeant Joe Morales, our Contract

Sergeant. Director of Section 8 West, Larry Rose, also introduced three officers from the Houston Police Department.

Image Chairperson and Director of Section 1 Charles Goforth gave an update on the major landscaping effort Meyerland has undertaken in the last few years. The process has been slow, but over the next few months, we will have some of the landscaping and irrigation finally installed. Much of the plants and old irrigation was over 50 years old and will be completely replaced.

After recognizing each member of the 2012-2013 Board of Directors, Chris Bisel awarded Jim Walters the "Most Outstanding Director Award" for his work on the St. John's PCHAS project. Gerald Radack surprised Chris with an award that recognized his commitment as Vice-President and Acting President this past year.

Finally, the time arrived that everyone was waiting for - the raffle! Twenty-three Meyerland residents received almost \$500 worth of door prizes. The jackpot winner was Ruijun Shen of 4906 North Braeswood. She won a waiver of her 2014 assessment!

Our long-time supporters, Terry Cominsky and Brena Moglovkin of Martha Turner Properties, were the sponsors for the 2013 Annual Meeting. They graciously donated over \$150 worth of gift cards



Rabbi Jack Segal

from local businesses, including Cafe Express, Beck's Prime, and a matching gift card from each business listed below in Meyerland Court and Meyerland Plaza. They also donated and personally served snacks and drinks to the crowd. Thank you, Terry and Brena!

Belden's Supermarket, another steadfast supporter of Meyerland, donated delicious cookies and water. Starbucks at both Meyerland Plaza and S. Rice @ Bellaire locations donated fresh, hot coffee.

From Meyerland Court, Batteries Plus donated a \$100 gift card. Fadi's Mediterranean Grill donated a \$20 gift card.

From Meyerland Plaza, Escalante's Restaurant donated a \$50 gift card. Palais Royal donated four, \$25 gift cards. Berripop donated a \$10 gift card. La Madeleine French Bakery provided two \$10 gift cards. James Coney Island donated four, \$5 coupons.

We hope that when residents patronize these stores, you will thank them for their support.

The meeting ended with the announcement of the election results. You may find the new Directors on Page 3. See you next year!

Meyerland Community Improvement Association

2013 Budget

REVENUE

Assessments - Maintenance	\$517,939
Assessments - Security	\$521,382
Other Income	\$62,796

Revenue Total	\$1,102,117
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EXPENSES

Auto/Transportation	\$850
Building Expense	\$1,000
Committee Expenses	\$23,000
Computer & Software	\$5,000
Insurance	\$25,000
Landscaping	\$251,000
Miscellaneous expenses	\$17,500
Newsletter expenses	\$ 15,500
Office Expenses	\$ 20,000
Professional Fees	\$ 56,500
Salaries and Wages	\$ 100,000
Security - Harris County	\$ 531,382
Taxes	\$9,500
Utilities	\$10,800

Expenses Total	\$1,067,032
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PROJECTS & IMPROVEMENTS

Office Renovations	\$2,500
Irrigation & Landscape Improvements	\$380,000

Projects and Improvements Total	\$382,500
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Total Expenditures	\$1,449,532
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Grand Total (<i>excess drawn from Reserves</i>)	(347,415)
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Do You Know Who Your Director Is?

by Amy Hoechstetter, MCIA General Manager

New directors were recently elected at the MCIA Annual Meeting this past March. We are excited to welcome this nearly complete board of 22 people. The role of Director is an important one. They are owner volunteers elected by you, to represent and help you when you need assistance.

Each Director's name is listed on our website along with their contact phone number. The Director should be the first person you reach out to when you have a concern, complaint, problem or need. This often is the fastest way to resolve an issue quickly and easily. And as always, the office is available to assist you, too.

According to our Bylaws, Directors must be residents who own a home in the section they represent. Much like a councilperson or city mayor, these directors work for you. The key difference is that they are volunteers. They feel passionate about this neighborhood and in maintaining the values and image for which you have chosen to live in Meyerland.

Encouraging residents to engage their Directors is one more way we are making an effort to try to communicate with you. We look forward to a smoother process for you and a more effective process for us.

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Meet Your Director

JIM WALTERS

"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 Jim Walters, a Director for Section 2.

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

I became increasingly frustrated with several "neglected" houses in my immediate area and was aware of what they can do to affect curb appeal, potentially discouraging home buyers. I thought by serving as a Director I could become more involved in getting problems like these resolved.

What Board titles or committee seats do you hold?

I am President for the current year, and served on the Deed Restriction Compliance and HR committees last year.

What is your professional background?

I'm a Professional Engineer retired from the energy industry. I began my career in nuclear power but spent the majority of it in refining and petrochemicals.

What surprised you about being on the Board?

The time commitment. You start to realize it's easy to get involved in board issues that require more time than anticipated.

What advice would you give a new Director?

The MCIA's charge is to maintain, preserve and promote the Meyerland environment. Houston does not have a zoning ordinance, and as such, all we have to protect us are our Deed Restrictions. Knowledge of them, and how the system works, are important to the Directors to keep Meyerland a desirable community.



Jim received the 2012-2013 President's Award for "The Most Outstanding Director" at the Annual Meeting

Trash/Recycling Schedule - May - June, 2013

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

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

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.

Lovett Band Goes to the Capitol

Submitted by Ginny Croft, Lovett Elementary Band Director

Forty-six Lovett Elementary Band members spent Monday, March 4th, touring the Capitol building in Austin and performing for the legislators and top Texas Arts Administrators as part of the biennial "Arts Education Days" ceremonies. Three student members of the school press, "The Whoo's News," Mason Hartley, Connie Escobar and Vincent Hernandez, along with their advisor, Lovett art teacher, Rickey Polidore, accompanied the group to document the day's events on film and in personal interviews.

Chosen as among "The Best of the Best" from over 200 groups across Texas who applied for the honor, the Lovett Band's performance of "Texas, Our Texas," "America, the Beautiful," other appropriate numbers and closing the day with the "Star Spangled Banner" thrilled everyone, even while battling strong winds on the Capitol south steps.

The event (two days of constant performances) is sponsored by the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education (TCQAE), which demonstrates to the law-makers the value of the Arts in the quest for excellence in a Texas student's education.

During the course of the afternoon, the Lovett students met with Dan Patrick, Rodney Ellis, Gene Wu and Sara Davis from the legislature, who were present to greet the ONLY group from the Houston Independent School District which performed; and afterwards the TCQAE officials invited the Lovett Band to return for the next biennium.

Fifth Grade Band Members who made the trip were Braden Nathan, Jackson Robeson, Harrison Staats, Terron Youngs, John Liu, Christian Lopez, Samuel Varela, Ben Jeanty, Patrick Hudnell, Elizabeth Reyes, Katie Scinto, Ellen Nathan, Casey Hoppe-Veal, Ka'lyn Watson, India Crook, Esther Lopez-Garcia and Bria Washington.

Fourth Graders were Brian Mayes, Andrew Sun, Jacob Serna-Cohan, Ilai Lichtental, Aaron Ratner, Ezri Greenberg, Benjamin Peng, Vernon Mosely, Terry O'Rourke, Kedrick Moses, Myles Brown, Sebastian Gaona, Jordan Mackey, Sean Thurmond, Samuel Jares, Alex Ray, Carson Musser, Paige Fly, Lina Li-Kroeger, Lily Peters, Cheyenne Moore, Nicole Miranda and Kai Sawyer Harris.

Third Graders were Michael Hall, Austin Gaines, Chase Moore, Lexi Martin, Lindsay White, and Annie Lin.

The group was accompanied by Curriculum Specialist Heather Gaines, Nurse Chanthini Thomas, Rickey Polidore, parent volunteers and Ginny Croft, Band Director.



Citizens on Patrol Get Involved

Citizens on Patrol is a group of Meyerland residents who have agreed to commit only one hour per month to helping keep Meyerland safe. It is a program sponsored by the Houston Police Department and only requires a short training class and a routine background check to get started. This program is active in many subdivisions in Houston.

We currently have around 60 residents actively involved who put in a monthly total of almost 150 hours by either patrolling by car or walking in their neighborhood.

Crime doesn't take a holiday and it is important to have as many 'eyes' as possible out on the street looking for suspicious behavior. Due to the daytime nature of much of the crimes it is a great program for retirees to get involved in. Patrollers generally work in pairs in a car so it is also a great way to visit with a fellow resident.

If you want to get involved contact Jerry Goldman at jerryg112@aol.com 713-253-3006 or Rick Fritz at sharick71@gmail.com 713-628-0207.

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Herod Greens up the School

By Lisa Murray, Herod PTO President

On Saturday, October 6th of 2012, Herod Elementary parents, student and staff, organized by Herod PTO, participated in the first ever Green Apple Day of Service. Initiated by the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council, it encourages communities to come together in support of healthy, sustainable schools by taking real action in their community.

There was a fantastic turnout of volunteers. Over 100 volunteers - children aged 3 - 16, parents, teachers and staff, local architects, and families of Cub Scout Pack 197 worked throughout the morning to clean out planting beds, remove debris from the school grounds and plant 3 trees and over 150 bedding plants. Fully funded by Herod PTO, participants logged over 400 volunteer hours to make a significant contribution to the school's exterior environment.

On February 27 of 2013, W&T Offshore volunteers, partnering with Trees For Houston, planted 20 mixed native trees at Herod Elementary through a program called Trees for Schools which began in 1993.

Volunteers and Herod students of all ages planted several native tree species throughout the property to help improve the campus

that lost many trees due to the recent construction of the new school and was further devastated by drought. Trees for Houston has committed to maintaining the trees for two years to aid in their establishment.

This has been a great year for Herod Elementary, and the students have learned valuable lessons about volunteering and contributing to the community. They will continue to enjoy the benefits of their efforts for many years.



Photo Credit: Sandy Zarwulkoff

A large advertisement for Texas Direct Auto. It features a smiling woman holding a young child. The text reads: "MOMS DESERVE THE VERY BEST". Below this, it says: "Make Mom's special day even better! With over \$2 billion sold and over 2000 cars to choose from, nobody does it better than Texas Direct Auto. We make buying and selling fun!". At the bottom, it says "TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM" with a small Texas flag logo to the left.

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Houston Camp Directory

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METRO Bus Schedule *Changes that affect Meyerland*

Modifications will take place starting Sunday June 9, 2013:

- 4 Beechnut - Weekdays - Adjust running time to improve service reliability. Saturday - adjust frequency from 25 to 27 minutes; Sunday - adjust frequency from 30 to 33 minutes.

- 49 Chimney Rock - Weekdays & Saturday - Change vehicle from 40-foot bus to new, smaller 27-foot bus (capacity 15) to match service with ridership demand. These new vehicles include all the amenities of our 40 foot buses - overhead route signage, visual and auditory stop announcements, and increased seating options.

- 265 West Bellfort Park & Ride - Weekdays - Add a 8:15 a.m. inbound trip; add a 4:57 p.m. outbound trip; and adjust p.m. trip times, all to minimize overcrowding.

METRO is conducting a public hearing regarding these series of route and schedule modifications. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at the METRO Headquarters, 1900 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Board Room, 1:00 p.m.

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If you are willing to make a long-term commitment to the study, are ages 30-65, and have never personally been diagnosed with cancer (except for basal cell or squamous cell skin cancer), you are eligible to enroll. The Jewish Community Center on South Braeswood Blvd. is Meyerland's closest enrollment location.

After scheduling your appointment you will receive a confirmation e-mail with instructions to go online and complete your first, most comprehensive survey. At the enrollment location you will be asked to read and sign an informed consent form, complete a brief survey, provide a waist measurement and a small blood sample (similar to a doctor's visit). The blood sample will

be drawn by a trained, certified phlebotomist. Your appointment should last 20-30 minutes. Following enrollment, you will receive mailed surveys at home every few years for the next 20-30 years to update your information.

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It Can Wait, Houston - No Texting While Driving Campaign

Mayor Annise Parker encourages all Houstonians not to text while driving. The new City of Houston campaign, It Can Wait, Houston, was launched April 2, 2013, as a part of National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

In 2011, 13 percent of the over 3,000 traffic fatalities in Texas were due to texting while driving. Without a change in the trend, there will be roughly 1.3 million traffic accidents due to texting while driving this year. New research released just last week by AT&T indicates that 43 percent of commuters admit to a "habit" of texting while driving, even though they are aware of the risks. The main risk is that those who text while driving are 23 times more likely to be in a crash.

It Can Wait, Houston is an extension of AT&T's national Texting and Driving-It Can Wait movement. The local effort will be guided by a task force consisting of representatives of law enforcement, government, education, corporate, medical, professional and faith-based organizations. The task force members have agreed to not only help get the word out, but also consider developing company or institutional policies that prohibit texting while driving, if such policies don't already exist.

The Texas state legislature is currently considering a bill that would ban texting and driving statewide. Such legislation was vetoed

two years ago. The mayor urges Houstonians to utilize Twitter and Facebook to voice their support for It Can Wait, Houston and for a different outcome in Austin this year. Use the hash tag #itcanwaithou.

For any questions or comments, email mayor@houston.tx.gov.

- As published in the City of Houston eNewsletter



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