

A strategy and a strategy between the strategy and

Volume 1 | Issue 5

**MEYERLAND.NET** 

a to know all have a start

**JULY 2013** 



# MEYERLAND - A STAR SPANGLED NEIGHBORHOOD!

# Offering **PERSONALIZED** service and *innovative* marketing

Meyerland has been our area of expertise for a combined 50+ years! Let us help you with your next move.

**TELEVISION AWARENESS ADS** leadingre.com **PROPERTIES** magazine marthaturner.com INSTITUTIONAL ADVERTISING Luxury Portfolio International Professional Photography realtor.com cyberhomes.com **Broker Open Houses** *e*PROPERTIES National Real Estate Search Showing Follow-Up Houston Chronicle Leading Real Estate Companies of the World WEEK AT A GLANCE **Agent Property Preview** CHRISTIE'S INTERNATION REAL ESTATE **Custom Property Brochures** homes.com houston.org frontdoor.com trulia.com Support Staff **Buyers Books** chron.com

## WE WANT TO BE YOUR REALTOR!

Terry Cominsky 713.443.1610 tcominsky@marthaturner.com



Brena Moglovkin 832.264.6007

bmoglovkin@marthaturner.com

# **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

## **MCIA OFFICE**

Amy Hoechstetter	MCIA General Manager
Lisa Murray	Architectural Coordinator

## **OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Thursday					
Friday	9:00 a.m 12:00 p.m. Central Time				
Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.					
Telephone					
Fax					
General Email	office@meyerland.net				
Architectural Control Com	mittee macc@meyerland.net				
4999 West Bellf	ort St., Houston, TX 77035				
Visit our webs	ite at www.meverland.net				

#### **SECURITY**

Precinct 5 Constable (including burglar alarms)	281-463-6666
Emergency	
Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency	713-884-3131

## **CITY OF HOUSTON**

Houston Help & Information
District C Council Member, Ellen Cohen
Meyer Branch Library
Godwin Park Community Center713-393-1840
CENTERPOINT ENERGY
Electric outages or electric emergencies
Suspected natural gas leak

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.

Meyerlander MONTHLY

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Jim Walters
Vice-President	Rick Fritz
Treasurer	Gerald Radack
Assistant Treasurer	Charles Goforth
Secretary	Mike Jones
SECTION DIRECTORS	
Charles Goforth	Section 1
Bill Goforth	Section 1
Jim Walters	Section 2
Emilio Hisse	Section 2
James Ong	Section 3
Joyce Young	Section 3
Cary Robinson	Section 4
Gary Altergott	Section 5
Juan Harris	Section 6
Scott Minchen	Section 6
Chris Bisel	Section 7
Gerda Gomez	Section 7
Marlene Rocher	Section 8 North
Paul Conner	Section 8 North
Jesse Santos	Section 8 South
Darrell Bowles	Section 8 South
Larry Rose	Section 8 West
Josh Eberle	Section 8 West
Rick Fritz	Section 10
Benny Herzog	Section 10
Gerald Radack	Director At-Large
Mike Jones	Director At-Large

## **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

## **MCIA Publications Committee**

Gerald Radack - Editor	Cary Robinson
Jim Walters	Shirley Hou
Amy Hoechstetter	Lisa Murray
Gerda Gomez	Marlene Rocher
Emilio Hisse	Joyce Young
Benny Herzog	

#### Send comments to meyerlander@meyerland.net

Publisher - Peel Inc	www.peelinc.com
Advertising	1-888-687-6444

**Photo Opt Out** - If you do not want your home's photograph featured in the newsletter, please send an e-mail to meyerlander@meyerland.net with your address and the subject line "Opt-Out."

Ad Disclaimer Statement - The Meyerland Community Improvement Association neither represents nor endorses the accuracy or reliability of any advertisement in our newsletter. We strongly encourage you to do your own due diligence before responding to any advertisement.

Meyerlander and Meyerlander Monthly are trademarks of the Meyerland Community Improvement Association (MCIA). © Copyright MCIA 2013, All Rights Reserved



# **Letter from the President** regarding the Presbyterian Children's Home and Services Construction

The following letter was originally emailed to Meyerland residents on May 30, 2013.

#### Dear Residents,

On Wednesday, May 15th, representatives from the MCIA met with the following delegation of principals of the Partners in the PCHAS project:

Dr. Ed Knight, President, PCHAS

Mike Cole, General Presbyter of New Covenant Presbytery

Bette Moser, Executive Director, HomeAid Houston

Reverend Dr. Jon Burnham, SJPC

Ann Hardy, Clerk of Session, SJPC

David Thompson, General Counsel, PCHAS

The purposes of the meeting were for the Partners to present the current status of the project (layout, renderings, schedules), to allow questions on issues of concern from the MCIA and to establish a method for communication/coordination in going forward. The following is a summary of those issues discussed:

The above PCHAS delegation confirmed that SJPC is not struggling financially and not in danger of being closed. This has been a major concern from the beginning by the community. Mike Cole confirmed SJPC to be in the top 20% of Presbyterian churches in the Presbytery in size and giving, and has the Presbytery's full financial backing.

The above PCHAS delegation confirmed that the annual operational expense of ~\$100K will be financed from their broad donor support (several states), not just from local donations, and is not a financial concern. It represents a very small percentage of PCHAS donations.

The project is being built on the Unrestricted Reserve parcel around the church where deed restrictions do not exist. Another major concern of the community has been that in the event of SJPC default/closure, PCHAS would assume title to the adjacent church property and build additional units. The above PCHAS delegation clarified that the lease involved PCHAS and SJPC and required approval of the Presbytery, further emphatically confirming that no provision exists in the lease that would permit the above. The four buildings being planned are the only components of the PCHAS project at this location.

#### **OTHER CONCERNS:**

Security consists of perimeter fencing, lighting, cameras and monitoring. An 8 ft. wood fence will be along the southern and western project limits. A gated, 4-foot high wrought iron fence will front the entire project entrance.

Trash receptacles will be concealed at all times except when placed at the curb for pickup.

The detention pond is self-draining after heavy rains, eliminating the concern over stagnant water.

Low level landscape lighting along walkways and entrances and directionally-aimed LED lighting on the buildings will provide security but will not be a distraction for neighbors.

Project residences appear attractive from renderings, incorporating brick to blend in with community. Shrubs and trees will be located to provide a visual buffer consistent with the neighborhood's greenery.

A small playground for children participating in the program will be located in the extreme southwestern corner.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INCLUDES:

Ceremonial groundbreaking was May 16<sup>th</sup> with actual site work planned to start early July. Operations are anticipated to begin 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2014.

MCIA is forming an Ad Hoc Committee to interface with PCHAS during construction/operation to ensure community input/concerns are considered and to have open communication with PCHAS.

The MCIA committee will consist of the Directors living in Section(s) 8, and the Co-Chairs of the Security committee. PCHAS has agreed to this relationship, having already named their contact.

A layout of the PCHAS project can be found on the MCIA website, www.meyerland.net.

The above does not address all of the issues, nor will it satisfy all in the community. The majority of our community is opposed to this project but efforts (both legal and political) to stop it have failed. What lost it was the lack of deed restrictions. Now, we have to go forward, and focus our efforts in a positive direction.

Respectfully,

Jim Walters, President, Meyerland Community Improvement Association



Meyerlander MONTHLY

# PCHAS SITE PLAN



Copyright © 2013 Peel, Inc.

Meyerlander Monthly - July 2013 5

# Meyerlander MONTHLY

## Corrections & Clarifications

"Meet Your Director - Marlene Rocher" (June 2013) incorrectly referred to Jim Walters, Director of Section 2 in the introduction. Marlene is a Director of Section 8 North. We regret the error.

# On the Cover

Our front cover features the subdivision marker at S. Braeswood between S. Rice and Chimney Rock, decorated for Memorial Day. Thank you to the Bellaire/Southwest Houston Rotary Club for providing the flags around Meyerland's subdivision markers.

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .



# Another Good Reason To Know Your Neighbors!

By Amy Hoechstetter, MCIA General Manager Several weeks ago, a few homes were burglarized. The MCIA office sent out an email almost immediately about a specific vehicle that was believed to be the "getaway" car. Shortly following that, residents contacted the MCIA Office to say that they had seen it that day, or in recent days, driving around or "casing" the area.

This unfortunate event got neighbors talking. Some even researched their security cameras to find proof. Neighbors on one particular street were able to place the getaway car in the area at the exact time of the burglary. This evidence was shared with our Constables who included it in the investigation with the Houston Police Department.

This is a good example of neighbors helping each other. We need to encourage this kind of community all over Meyerland. Whether the need is something as small as a cup of sugar or as large as shelter after a natural disaster, neighbors can be life-savers. When we work together, it is amazing what we can do to help ourselves.

Perhaps the best lesson learned here (aside from the fact that security cameras are a good idea), is that your neighbors are good people who really can help you... especially when you least expect it.



# Your home. Our expertise.



Amy Bernstein abernstein@BernsteinRealty.com 713.882.1166

Mindy Tribolet mtribolet@BernsteinRealty.com 713.502.5915

For a real estate experience that will exceed your expectations, please contact us. We know Meyerland!



# 713.932.1032 www.BernsteinRealty.com



## Herod Elementary to Host Baylor College of Medicine's Summer Science Institute

by Lisa Murray, MCIA Architectural Coordinator

For the past two years, about 250 elementary and middle school teachers from more than 100 HISD schools participated in a 10-day training program at Herod Elementary School, organized by BCM's Center for Educational Outreach. The program includes presentations and lessons featuring content that is specific to teachers' grade levels. Each teacher receives science teaching resources and professional development credit.

This program has been so well received by HISD teachers, and Herod has been such a wonderful host, that the program is back for its third summer at Herod. Teachers from all over the District as well as BCM professionals will descend on the community once again from July 22 – August 2. Parking will be a bit of a challenge, but it is a wonderful way for our local schools to help enhance education for schools across the district as well as showcase the school and local community for area professionals.

# AND THE GRAND PRIZE GOES TO...

Congratulations to Marilyn Sackett of of 5147 S Braeswood who won a \$100 Visa gift card for submitting a comment about the *Meyerlander Monthly* in last month's drawing! Here are some of her excerpted comments:

I love this contest. The best way to get people engaged with your publication is to do something interactive. I greatly benefit from the trash/recycle calendars. This time of year there should be instructions (yes, again, we forget) on what to do when you go on vacation and leave town about notification of the security, and the phone numbers, etc. I would like to see more content. The biggest issue I have is there is too much advertising and the ads overpower the good stuff to read about Meyerland.

The MCIA Publications Committee appreciates all the residents who took time to write us feedback. We take each compliment and constructive criticism to heart, and we aim to improve each issue.





Copyright © 2013 Peel, Inc.

Meyerlander Monthly - July 2013 9

# Meyerlander MONTHLY

WHAT'S NEW AT Meyerland Pl

by Gerald Radack, Director At-Large and Editor-in-Chief We received an update from Margaret Garrett, General Manager of Meyerland Plaza, about what is going on at the shopping center.

- Kelsey-Seybold Clinic opened in April in the former Border's Books location
- Charming Charlie's opened June 25th in the former Den-Barr's Hallmark location next to Café Express
- Den-Bar's Hallmark Shop moved across the street to Meyerland Commons, near Men's Wearhouse
- The Joint opened May 8th east of Target
- Bikram Yoga opened May 18th also east of Target
- Carter's Kids just signed a lease on a location between Kelsey-Seybold Clinic and Marshalls. Construction is underway and they expect to open in September
- With the new tenants, Meyerland Plaza is now 99% leased.

Mrs. Garrett also reported that JCPenney is finishing their remodeling of the second floor Home Décor departments. They upgraded the entire store and designs, and have added many new lines of home décor. They finished the downstairs late last year and introduced many new fashion departments and retail offerings. Unfortunately, JCPenney experienced a fire in April which caused the store to close for a brief period, but everything is back to normal now.



# SIGN POLICY AMENDMENT EXPIRES



#### by the MCIA Office

In June of 2012, the MCIA Board voted to allow residents to place signs in their yards in support of or in opposition to the proposed housing project that was planned for construction on the property of St. John's Presbyterian Church, located at 5020 West Bellfort. This was a temporary change to the policy that would allow these signs to be displayed through June 1, 2013. The amendment has now expired. Please remove such signs.

The original provisions of the sign policy remain in effect. You can view the Yard Sign Policy in its entirety at our website, www.meyerland.net, under "Policies and Bylaws."



Heavy Trash Reminder! July is Tree Waste - Wed. July 10

10 Meyerlander Monthly - July 2013

Meyerlander MONTHLY

# Trash/Recycling Schedule - July - August, 2013

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

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

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

Support Your Community Newsletter



Kelly Peel VP Sales and Marketing 512-263-9181 ext 22 kelly@PEELinc.com

www.PEELinc.com

Brilliant Energy Texas OUC #10140



USE "NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER" AS REFERRAL

BRILLIANT ENERGY = SERIOUSLY LOW RATES BRILLIANT ENERGY'S ELECTRICITY RATES CHALLENGE THE RATES OF EVERY OTHER PROVIDER IN TEXAS!

> LOCK-IN A LOW ELECTRICITY RATE FOR UP TO 3 YEARS

BRILLIANT ENERGY IS RECOMMENDED BY TEXAS ENERGY ANALYST, ALAN LAMMEY THE HOST OF THE "ENERGY WEEK" RADIO SHOW ON NEWSTALK 1070 KNTH!

> Ask the "Energy Analyst" 281.658.0395

**GREAT BUSINESS RATES TOO!** 

Copyright © 2013 Peel, Inc.

Meyerlander Monthly - July 2013 11

BBB

# Meyerlander MONTHLY



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.



## Your newsletter is provided 100% Free of charge ...

and is made possible by the advertisers within.

Please frequent their businesses and let them know where you saw their advertisement.

While there, be sure to say "Thanks!" www.peelinc.com









"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 Gerald Radack, a Director At-Large.

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

A neighbor of mine and a Board Member at that time, Thelma Bush, urged me to join the Board. I had some pet peeves that I wanted addressed - namely a home on my street that had five vehicles, four of which were inoperable. I was also distressed that our common areas were beginning to show signs of age and needed attention.

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

Currently, I am Treasurer of MCIA and the Editor of the *Meyerlander*. I'm also on the Image Committee.

#### What is your professional background?

I have a degree in Accounting and Computer Information Systems. I grew up in a mid-size family business, and went on to work in commercial mortgage finance. When the firm I was working for moved our positions to another state, it was time to return to my small business roots.

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

Some people have closed opinions and won't deviate from them.

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

You only get out of it the efforts you put into it. Leave your personal agenda at home when you have your director hat on - the Directors are here for the greater good of the entire neighborhood and to provide excellent customer service to the residents.

Many of our "Laws of the Association" are dictated by our Deed Restrictions - like it or not, that's the "law," and even if Directors do not agree with something in them, they need to enforce them.

#### You've been on the Board for quite some time and you were still associated with it when you were off the Board. What do you see as the biggest changes during that time?

Over the last ten years, I've seen the organization completely reinvent itself. It has adopted an organized business model and become a transparent organization. Decisions at one time were made by a very small group, and now the entire Board is empowered. We've also moved out of the dark ages technology wise.

12 Meyerlander Monthly - July 2013

Meyerlander MONTHLY

# THINK YOUR POOCH IS CUTE? by the MCIA Publications Committee

We are seeking adorable photos of Meyerland pets to feature on the cover of an upcoming Meyerlander Monthly issue. If you would like to nominate your furry friend, please send a photo to meyerlander@meyerland.net, Subject: Cover Photo. Please do not crop your photo. Cats are welcome, too.



Image courtesy of olovedog / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

# CLASSIFIED ADS

#### ENERGY EFFICIENT WINDOWS AND ROOFING:

Replace your single pane windows with new energy efficient windows. Enjoy your home's new look as you watch your energy bills drop. Call or email for a no cost, no hassle quote. Saber 713.397.3883 info@saberretro.net.\_

## Free Personal Classifieds

Do you have a "For Sale" or "Wanted" ad? Meyerland residents can place a personal classified in the Meyerlander Monthly absolutely for FREE. 1. Limit your ad to 40 words, text only.

2. Sign your full name, street address, and phone so that we may verify Meyerland residency. This will NOT be printed in the official ad.

3. Email your ad to meyerlander@meyerland.net, Subject: Classifieds. Deadline is the 12th of the month prior to the issue..

The Editor reserves the discretion to edit or withhold personal ads that do not follow guidelines. Garage, estate, and yard sales are not permitted in Meyerland. If you are placing a personal ad to sell something, remember this is a private transaction and you are not permitted to place the item outside in a yard sale manner. If you are a business, you can purchase a business classified through Peel Inc. (888-687-6444) at a very reasonable cost.

HAT MAKES

HAPPY

Scan and sell us your car

r search our inventory

# SELL US YOUR CAR! TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM We make buying and selling fun!

Copyright © 2013 Peel, Inc.

# BEING WATERSMART IS THE BEST STRATEGY O With Or Without Drought O

by Chris LaChance. Reprinted with permission.

Welcoming rains gave Houston some reprieve from the drought. However, already we seem to be back to hot, dry conditions. In addition, a fact we cannot ignore is that the population of the Houston area is predicted to double within twenty years, making water restrictions a real possibility even with our more normal 54 inch average annual rainfall. Whatever the case, the drought gave us an opportunity to rethink the way we view landscapes. This year, as you continue to plant or as you prepare for your fall garden, think about how you can make your yard "watersmart". The watersmart landscape is a resilient,

sustainable landscape in which beauty and function coexist in an eco-friendly environment.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you take a fresh look at your landscape.

Begin with a plan. The plan or design forces us to take a step back and evaluate the site elevation (low and high spots), how the property drains, and just how much time you want and have to invest in maintaining the landscape. We have all had the problem of falling in love with a plant at the nursery only to end up wondering where to plant it once we are home.

Improve the health of the soil. Healthy soil, containing lots of organic matter in the form of compost, allows soil to be more efficient at absorbing and retaining water. Due to its sponge-like quality, organic-rich soil is able hold a lot of water and then releases it slowly. There is no better time than the present to start your own composting program.

Create permeable surfaces that allow water to penetrate into the soil. For example, a patio might be designed using brick pavers set into sand rather than being a solid concrete pad. There are many products now available that can improve permeability in the landscape and along sidewalks and driveways. We want to keep as much of the water we apply or that we get from rainfall.

Reduce the size of the lawn area by gradually expanding planting beds. Lawns, by far, require the most input—time, money, and water.



It is estimated that lawns absorb only one tenth of rainfall when compared to planted or natural areas. Turf has more shallow roots and is less effective in preventing erosion. Much of the nitrogen applied to keep lawns green ends up running off and polluting bayous and bays during a rain event or when we over-water.

Add native plants. Most of these survived the latest drought period and with good reason. They are adapted to our periods of drought but are forgiving when deluges return. Once established, native plants require less water and need no chemical fertilizers or pesticides to flourish. As more native plants are added

to the landscape, there will be an added bonus. Song birds along with butterflies and other beneficial insects will be attracted to plants that offer a natural food source. Remember, native wildlife and native plants evolved together.

Mulch, mulch, mulch. A two to three inch layer applied twice a year to landscape beds and around trees conserves water, slows evaporation, protects root systems by keeping soil temperatures more even, and adds nutrients to the soil as the mulch decomposes. Be sure to keep mulch from covering the center or crown of plants as this may cause the plant to rot. Never pile mulch up against the trunk of trees. The "flare", the base of the tree that curves outward, should always be visible.

Maintain the landscape by being proactive. Remove weeds that compete with desirable plants for water and nutrients. Prune broken and dead branches on trees and shrubs as these can harbor plant pests and diseases. Inspect plants for pests. Often a good hard spray of water can stop a potential invasion.

Enjoy your landscape. Often our landscapes are the only exposure to the outdoors we have on a regular basis. By following watersmart strategies you will have more time, energy and resources to make your yard a haven no matter what nature sends our way.

Chris LaChance is WaterSmart Coordinator for Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas Sea Grant, part of the Texas A&M University System. WaterSmart is funded by a grant from Houston Endowment, Inc. Contact Chris at c-lachance@tamu.edu.

All exterior maintenance or changes made on your property require written approval by the Meyerland Architectural Control Committee (MACC) before work begins. Please complete the appropriate forms and direct any questions to the Architectural Coordinator for the MACC at macc@meyerland.net, at the MCIA office at 713-729-2167. Want to read more articles like this in the Meyerlander Monthly? Send in your comments to meyerlander@meyerland.net Subject: Landscaping.



# Call Today for Your Consultation!

Over 30 Years of Experience BBB Pinnacle Award Winner Structural Engineer on Staff

2012 Remodeler of the Year Texas Association of Builders Architect & Interior Decorator







PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID PEEL, INC.

MEY



16 Meyerlander Monthly - July 2013

Copyright © 2013 Peel, Inc.