

Meyerlander MONTHLY

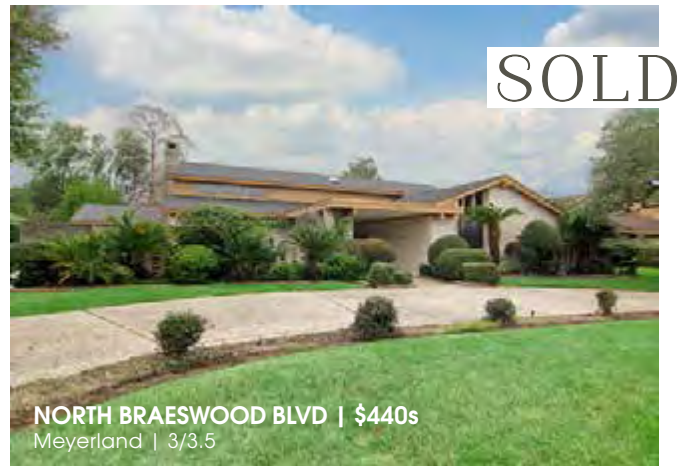
Volume 1 | Issue 6

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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
4999 West Bellfort St., Houston, TX 77035

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Godwin Park Community Center 713-393-1840

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SCHOOL DIRECTORY

by the MCIA Publications Committee

A big reason why the Meyerland housing market is so competitive is because of our outstanding neighborhood schools. Our schools are known for academic performance, diverse magnet programs, involved parents, and dedicated teachers. We've listed the Meyerland "zoned" schools in the Houston Independent School District as well as some religious and private schools:

HISD NEIGHBORHOOD ZONED SCHOOLS:

Herod Elementary School (Vanguard Magnet)

5627 Jason, Houston 77096 | 713-778-3317

Kolter Elementary School (Foreign Language Magnet)

9710 Runnymede, Houston 77096 | 713-726-3630

Lovett Elementary School (Fine Art Magnet)

8814 South Rice, Houston 77096 | 713-295-5258

Fondren Middle School (International Baccalaureate Magnet)

6333 South Braeswood, Houston 77096 | 713-778-3360

Johnston Middle School (Performing Arts Magnet)

10410 Manhattan, Houston 77096 | 713-726-3616

Pershing Middle School (Fine Arts Magnet)

3838 Blue Bonnet Blvd, Houston 77025 | 713-295-5240

Bellaire High School (Foreign Language Magnet, International Baccalaureate Program)

5100 Maple, Bellaire 77401 | 713-295-3704

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN AND NEAR MEYERLAND:

Beth Yeshurun Day School (age 15 months - Grade 5)

4525 Beechnut, Houston 77096 | 713-666-1884

The Emery/Weiner School (Grades 6-12)

9825 Stella Link, Houston 77025 | 832-204-5900

Pilgrim Lutheran School (age 18 months - Grade 8)

8601 Chimney Rock, Houston 77096 | 713-432-7082

St. Thomas' Episcopal (Grades K-12)

4900 Jackwood, Houston 77096 | 713-666-3111

St. Thomas More Parish School (age 3 - Grade 8)

5927 Wigton, Houston 77096 | 713-729-3434

The Shlenker School (age 15 months - Grade 5)

5600 North Braeswood, Houston 77096 | 713-270-6127

Westbury Christian School (age 3 - Grade 12)

10420 Hillcroft, Houston 77096 | 713-551-8100

Trafton Academy (Grades 4-8)

4711 McDermed, Houston 77035 | 713-723-3732

Houston Independent School District Calendar Reminder

First day of school is Monday, August 26th!

On the Cover

Our front cover features new construction at 5214 Jason, future home of the Little family. The custom home builder is Scheffer & Associates, Inc., 6712 Brompton Rd Houston, TX 77005 (713) 639-1246.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Neighbor,

This month's message is about awareness of our communities' resources for information and help: the *Meyerlander Monthly* newsletter, MCIA website and the MCIA Section Directors.

The *Meyerlander* newsletter is now published monthly, a change from our quarterly publication of the past. The Publications Committee puts in a lot of effort to make the issues current and interesting. You'll find helpful contact information, timely information on community events and calendars, and updates on developments in our community. Also, you've probably noticed we have a publishing company now, Peel Inc., which organizes the content we send them, then handles all of the reproduction, distribution, mailing and postage. Yes, there is advertisement throughout the newsletter, but that has greatly reduced the cost of the publication for the MCIA. We're also aware of the similarity of the appearance of our newsletter to promotional and merchandising brochures, so please be careful to look for the *Meyerlander Monthly* when taking in the mail.

Next, take a look at the MCIA website: www.meyerland.net. If you haven't already accessed it, which is the case for a surprising number of residents, you'll be impressed at what you find: FAQ's, relevant issues about Meyerland, board information including meeting minutes and financials, policies and Bylaws, links to community resources, security, Deed Restrictions and application process and forms for any architectural change. We're working on the construction of a new website, containing even more information, which should be rolled out by year end. Put us in your "Favorites", and make an effort to log on routinely to stay informed. We're also on Facebook.

Finally, know your Section Directors. These are the folks who live near you and volunteered to serve on the MCIA Board of Directors because of their interest in maintaining and promoting Meyerland. Their contact information can be found on the website under "Contact Us", then "List of Directors". If you're not sure of your section, go to "For Residents", then "Find Your Section". Please try to contact them with issues affecting your Section and nearby area. If they can't give you an answer immediately, they'll either direct you to the right source, or get back with you with the information.

Thanks for reading, and I hope this helps.

For a better Meyerland,

Jim Walters

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Amy Bernstein

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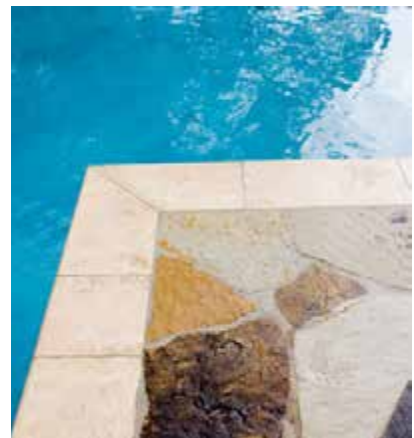
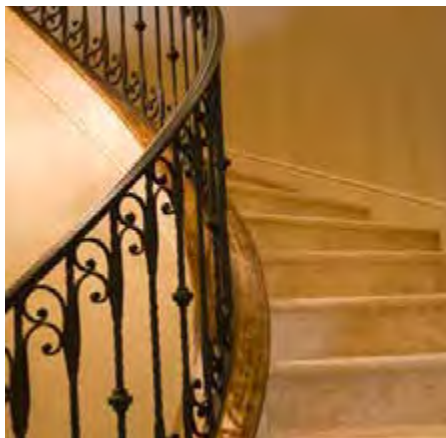


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NOTICE

Meyerland Citizens on Patrol is made up of over 100 residents just like you.

Meyerland Citizens on Patrol is trained and regulated by the Houston Police Department.

Meyerland Citizens on Patrol observe and report. Under no circumstances are suspects ever confronted. Weapons of any type are strictly forbidden.

To volunteer one hour per month, email JerryG112@aol.com.

Citizens on Patrol In Meyerland

by Jerry Goldman, Meyerland Citizens on Patrol

Meyerland Citizens on Patrol members are strictly forbidden from carrying any weapons, and we are required to stay in our vehicles and not confront any suspicious individuals. Our responsibility is to use our cell phones to contact law enforcement in the event we see anything that looks suspicious or warrants contacting the police.

Citizens on Patrol is not a committee of, or under the direction of, MCIA. Citizens on Patrol provides another set of eyes for the Precinct 5 Constables and Houston Police who protect and ensure our safety from criminal mischief in our subdivision. Even though our current crime rate is minimal, you, your vehicle, home, or property are still at risk.

We need your help patrolling our subdivision. All we require is one hour per month of your time to help us keep vigilant. If you are interested, please contact Rick Fritz or me at JerryG112@aol.com to deliver an application.

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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.

HEAVY TRASH REMINDER!

*August is Junk Waste
Wed., August 14*



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GREAT BUSINESS RATES TOO!



What is Heavy Trash and What is Tree Trash?

by Amy Hoechstetter, MCIA General Manager

"Just what is 'Heavy trash' and why do we pick up 'Tree trash' on a different month?" is a common question I receive from homeowners. Simply answered, "Heavy trash", also referred to as junk waste, is typically any item that is large such as furniture, appliances, and other items that are bulky. "Tree trash" is just that – trees, shrubs, and any natural plant material that is too large to be picked up with your weekly yard cleaning.

THE TOP 2 REASONS WHY HEAVY TRASH ISN'T COLLECTED:

1. Access to the heavy trash is blocked by a vehicle
2. Heavy trash has prohibited materials and needs to be sorted

Tree trash is collected separately because it is recycled. It is mulched and prepared for re-use, so the city must avoid collecting treated wood such as furniture, fence pickets and posts and other non-tree debris items. If any of these items are thrown in with your tree trash, the city will not sort the pile, and they will just skip you. It is up to you to properly pile and place your tree trash on the curb. Tree trash is collected on ODD months (January, March, May, July, September and November).

Heavy trash collection occurs every other month on the EVEN months of the year (February, April, June, August, October and December). If you include tree trash with your junk waste, it will be collected, but it won't be recycled. If you have items that need to be disposed of during a time other than a heavy trash pickup month, you can take them to a heavy trash drop off site. The site closest to Meyerland is located at 10785 Southwest Freeway. You can call them at 713-541-1953 before you go to be sure they are open. When you drop by, they will take the heavy trash items, free of charge.

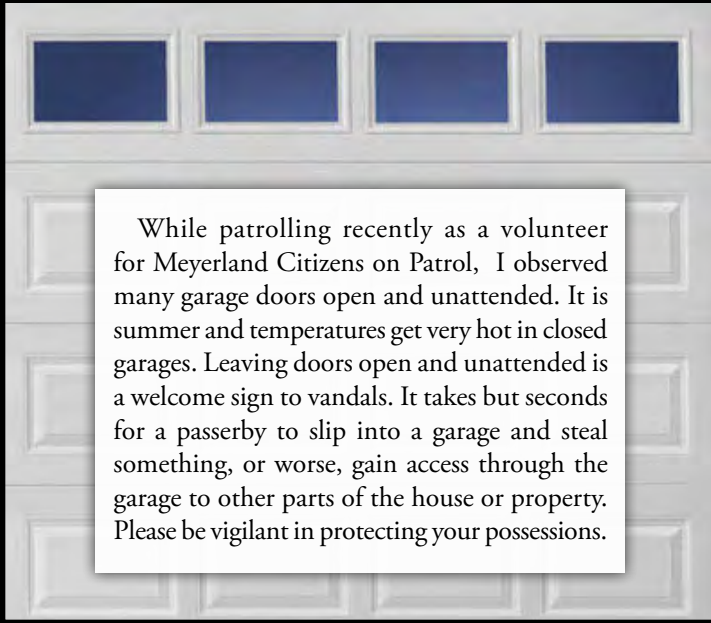
It is important to note that there are rules regarding heavy trash.

- No chemicals in appliances. Chemicals need to be removed by a certified technician and tagged as such
- No paint or motor oil
- No building materials such as roof shingles, plaster or concrete. Contractors must remove their own materials
- No more than 8 cubic yards of heavy trash per household per collection
- Do not place heavy trash in such a way as to block vehicles or pedestrians, and do not put it under power lines or next to fire hydrants. If you put tires out for collection, it may take up to a week to be collected as the city picks these up in a different manner than regular heavy trash. Also note that the city will only collect four tires per household.

Whether it's tree waste or junk waste, your heavy trash can only be collected if there is clear, easy access to it. A vehicle parked in the street is the number one reason these types of collections are missed. Be sure to move your car into the driveway on collection day to avoid having that problem. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the City's helpline by dialing 311 or visit their website at <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/treewaste.html> where your question may be answered.

KEEP YOUR GARAGE DOOR CLOSED

by Rick Fritz, Director of Section 10 and Security & Traffic Chair



While patrolling recently as a volunteer for Meyerland Citizens on Patrol, I observed many garage doors open and unattended. It is summer and temperatures get very hot in closed garages. Leaving doors open and unattended is a welcome sign to vandals. It takes but seconds for a passerby to slip into a garage and steal something, or worse, gain access through the garage to other parts of the house or property. Please be vigilant in protecting your possessions.

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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.



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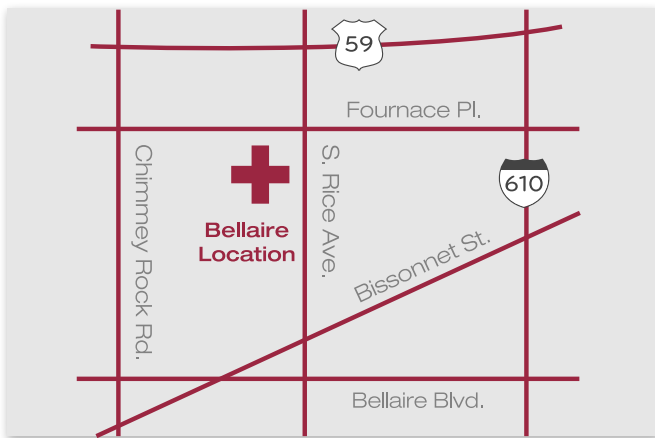
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Meet Your Director **CHARLES GOFORTH**

"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 Charles Goforth, Director of Section 1.

Why did you decide to join the MCIA Board of Directors? I decided to run for the Board for the first time back in 2010:

- To help increase the property values of not only my properties, but those of my Meyerland friends and neighbors.
- To increase my stature when addressing the City of Houston and Harris County about the need for revisions to the Flood Plain Map. I felt that all of Meyerland was being punished after Tropical Storm Allison flooded a small percentage of homes in the area. (You can see me addressing the Houston City Council in this video <http://houstontx.swagit.com/play/05232011-3> at the 51-minute mark.)
- To gain more insight into how my HOA dues were being applied.

After years of personally criticizing MCIA and hearing the dissatisfaction from numerous long time residents throughout Meyerland, I decided to go from words to action with hopes of becoming part of the solution.

What Board titles or committee seats do you hold? I am presently serving as Assistant Treasurer, Chair of the Image/Drainage Committee and also a member of the Finance and Budget Committee.

What is your professional background? Real Estate and Agricultural Production. I've been a licensed Realtor in the state of Texas for the past 25 plus years. My involvement with Real Estate investing began at the age of four, when I could hold a paintbrush. I am also active working with Buyers, Sellers and Consulting. I am blessed to have a lifelong attachment to the farming community in Brenham. No experience has proved more valuable to me than the culture that I've been exposed to living and working on a farm.

What surprised you about being on the Board? How truly messy the Board process can be, but much more often than not, the end results justify the effort.

What advice would you give a new Director? Concentrate on your section and those in your section that you represent. Always put what is in your section's best interest first. Your committee assignments are how you serve Meyerland as a whole. Participate in the dialog and discussion. There's never a lame question, but pay attention because it's a good chance your question was addressed during open communications within the Board of Directors.

What type of changes or improvements would you like to see within the MCIA? I would like to see more communication with the City of Houston regarding infrastructure and service improvements that we are, or are not, receiving. I feel we get very little in return for the amount of taxes we contribute. I also would like to see more flexibility in deed restriction monitoring and an increase in customer service.

MEYERLAND REAL ESTATE

by Joyce Young, Director of Section 3

The Meyerland community which consists of 2,300 homes is situated on 1,200 acres of prime real estate. For homebuyers who are lucky enough to call Meyerland their home, it is almost as perfect as winning the trifecta as it is conveniently located near downtown Houston, the Galleria and the Texas Medical Center.

According to Ed Wolff, President of Beth Wolff Realtors, in June there were approximately 14 homes for sale in Meyerland and 23 homes that were sale pending. The average number of days on the market is 30. "In today's market, you should be able to find a buyer in a matter of two weeks and sell within 99% or more of your asking price" for homes that are properly staged and priced appropriately.

Terry Cominsky and Brena Moglovkin from Martha Turner Properties stated that from January to May of 2013 the homes sold in Meyerland ranged from \$200k - \$900k which included homes with 2,000 to 6,000 square feet of space. "The market is definitely strong because of the low interest rates that are already beginning to climb, but the main reason for the boost in sales is the low inventory and buyers want to be zoned to certain schools and will pay a little more to get into those areas."

With Houston's international climate and industries, Wolff reports that "there is not a bad time to sell". New doctors and fellowship students start work July 1 of each year. "This directly coincides with the need to solidify your address to register your children for school before June 30 making late April through early June the prime time for Meyerland homes."

Wolff, Cominsky and Moglovkin had the following tips for selling your home:

Price it right – work with a Realtor who knows the neighborhood and the current trends.

Make sure your home is available for showing (within reason) whenever you are called.

Declutter - items should be removed from shelves and countertops and placed in storage. Remove personal items, e.g., family photos so as not to distract the buyer.

Stage properly – often times removing two pieces out of each room will increase the perception of the size of the room.

Remove rugs – rugs make rooms look smaller and they detract from seeing the actual floors.

Closets – make each closet so that the ceiling and floor are visible and no items are hung on the back of the door. This will give the perception of ample storage space.

Curb appeal – you never get a second chance to make a first impression. Power wash the outside of your home, plant colorful flowers and be sure and leave your house show ready with the blinds and drapes open to let in the natural light.

Leave your home when it is being shown. Buyers feel uncomfortable when the seller is present.

Meyerland is an active, vibrant community that is richly sought after. Therefore, if you are currently looking to sell your home, the market is good and the tips provided could possibly lead to a quicker sale and a price close to your asking price.



LET'S GET RIPPED

by Joyce Young, Director of Section 3

Have you noticed the group of mostly women hanging out in the dark of morning at Godwin Park? Could it be there's a secret society of which only early risers are aware? Men have been known to show up, but none have lasted as long as the women. What is going on?

It turns out that three days a week the women show up with yoga mats, weights, water and towels and promptly get started on their quests to get ripped! They are part of a group of RipQuest Bootcampers who have been working out diligently for more than a year at this location. The bootcamp was originally held in Bellaire, but was moved to Godwin Park to accommodate more people. In addition, the covered basketball court provides a "no excuses" protection for those infamous Houston rain-pelted mornings. The bootcamps are only canceled if there are extreme weather conditions that make it unsafe.

Carrie Moore, the Program Director and Founder holds a master's degree in Physical Therapy and is an Orthopedic Certified Specialist. She was inspired to start the RipQuest Boot Camp after "seeing firsthand the outcome of not making exercise and fitness a priority in your life". Many of her patients' debilitating conditions could have been lessened if proper physical exercise had been implemented at an earlier age. Her frustration led to her inspiration to help others. "I want to intervene before it becomes too late and the disablement has already set in."

The group attending Godwin Park's 5:15 a.m. boot camp have rotated in and out, but there is a core group of women who have been attending for a year at this location and several who are nearing the two-year mark with RipQuest. There isn't a lot of talking going on while doing the aerobic exercises or isolated muscle weight training exercises. These women are serious, but it's evident they are close and enjoy the spirit of each other's company. Mixed in with all the sweating is a fair amount of laughing which masks the groaning! The recent June session ended with one of the Boot Camp regulars moving to California and a special going away party was held at Los Tios where 15 members and spouses showed up for a proper goodbye. That's how close these women have become.

The class is taught by physical therapists and each class begins with some sort of aerobic exercise to get warmed up. Many of the bootcampers are runners and have run numerous marathons, half marathons and competed in triathlons. But don't let that discourage you because all levels of fitness are welcome. The



*From left: Carrie Moore, founder, and trainers
Mallory Brooks and Jessica Dalmonli*



Ripped Ladies!

attendees range in age from the 20's to the 50's and the trainers are well equipped to modify any exercise to accommodate knee, shoulder, hip or other problems. The classes are held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 5:15 to 6:15. The sessions are either four or five weeks long with a one week break in between sessions.

For further information, please visit ripquest.com, sign up and enjoy some camaraderie while getting "ripped".

CARING FOR MEYERLAND TREES

Part 1

by Gerda Gomez, Director of Section 7

Do you know what kind of tree is on your property? The variety and number of trees in Meyerland make it an eye-catching neighborhood in Houston. Trees do need proper care to flourish, though.

Barry J. Ward, Executive Director of Trees for Houston, 713-840-8733, has graciously answered the following questions posed to him on behalf of Meyerland residents.

What are general recommendations for pruning large trees? Does pruning vary for healthy or sick trees or trees near the end of their life cycle? Large trees should never be pruned without consulting with a qualified, ISA certified arborist. Each tree and circumstance is unique, so other than seeking professional guidance to eliminate damage to the tree, property and potentially loss of life, leave the large pruning projects to bonded and certified professionals! Every year tree trimming is rated as one of the ten most dangerous jobs in the United States. A good rule of thumb is that if it requires a ladder, you probably should hire the job out. Just as humans need more health care in their final years, pruning needs frequently increase as trees enter into terminal decline.

Is there an optimum time of year to prune? Opinions vary on this, but generally speaking I advise pruning in cooler weather, during dormancy, and if possible, a few weeks before budding out in the spring. These are very broad recommendations and trees can be successfully pruned under a wide variety of conditions if care is taken.

Should some trees, such as palm trees, not be pruned? Palm trees need pruning as the fronds build up, but this can be very dangerous. Around 20 tree workers are killed every year in the U.S. while pruning palms. The same rule applies: if you need a ladder, hire it out to a professional.

Do trees need regular fertilization? How often? Does fertilization vary for tree types? Trees typically do not need fertilization. Different species and, more commonly, different soils, may necessitate the addition of minerals commonly called "fertilizers", more properly called "amendments". If your tree is growing normally and looks healthy, don't mess with it! More information can be accessed on our website at www.treesforhouston.org.



Look for Part 2 of our "Caring for Meyerland Trees" article in the next issue!

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Thanks for your feedback!

The MCIA Publications Committee appreciates all the suggestions we received about the newsletter. Here's what we've heard:

I like the new *Meyerlander Monthly*. I find it acceptable to have business advertisement in MCIA newsletter in exchange for professional quality and no cost to the association.

I suggest including in future issues news from local schools, security tips from MCIA, yard/garden information, and info on the upcoming local events (school festivals, charity runs, etc.).

I hope other residents also support the new format and we will see many more great issues of the *Meyerlander Monthly*.

Ilya Yun, 5343 Yarwell Dr

It is fantastic that this type of quality publication is done at no cost to association. Ads from vendors are great and informative – keep them up! Love the frequency – very helpful! Definitely continue this monthly publication. Please add even more ads from community and city vendors. Please add a “classified” section so neighbors can sell to each other since we can't have garage sales and Craigslist can be scary. Please add a section so neighbors can offer their services (babysitting or dog walking) to each other.

Felice Klein, 5231 Cheena Dr.

Editor's Note: Meyerland residents can list items and services FOR FREE in the Meyerlander Monthly. Just submit your request to 'meyerlander@meyerland.net Subject: Classifieds' by the 12th of the month for the next issue.



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BETH WOLFF
CHAIRMAN/CEO

BETH WOLFF
REALTORS®

RealLiving®



ED WOLFF
PRESIDENT

EXPERTS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



PRICHETT

Gorgeous house with fantastic floor plan for entertaining overlooking landscaped yard.
LISTED AT \$579,000



LYMPBAR

Wonderful updated home with a sparkling pool and backyard oasis!
LISTED AT \$379,000



BIRDWOOD

Exceptional home with fine details throughout features a park like backyard.
LISTED AT \$749,000



PROSPECT

Open floor plan with a bedroom down. Back patio with trellis looks out to huge backyard.
LISTED AT \$567,000



CEDAR

Beth Wolff Realtors represented the buyer in the purchase of this stunning home on a cul-de-sac street with fine finishes and a pool!
LISTED AT \$725,000



BRAESHEATHER

Extensively remodeled in Maplewood South with a large fenced backyard!
LISTED AT \$359,900



CAVERSHAM

Large corner property with a great backyard and spacious bedrooms!
LISTED AT \$379,000

*If there was ever a time to sell
your house, the time is now!*

Low Inventory +
Low Interest Rates =

High Sales Price

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