

Meyerlander

MONTHLY

Volume 1 | Issue 8

MEYERLAND.NET

OCTOBER 2013

**AFTERNOON
IN THE PARK**
SUNDAY, OCT. 27



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On the Cover

Our front cover features the spooktacular home of Benny and Lori Herzog at 5723 Jackwood. Benny is currently Director of Section 10. Look for his article in this issue!

PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Beautifully framed print (approximately 3 feet tall by 5 feet wide) of nine koi fish (said to symbolize prosperity). \$100. Call David: (832) 260-8487

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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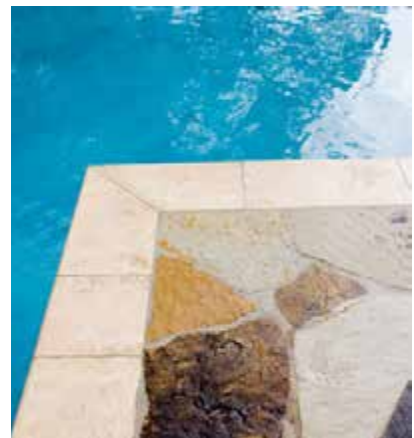
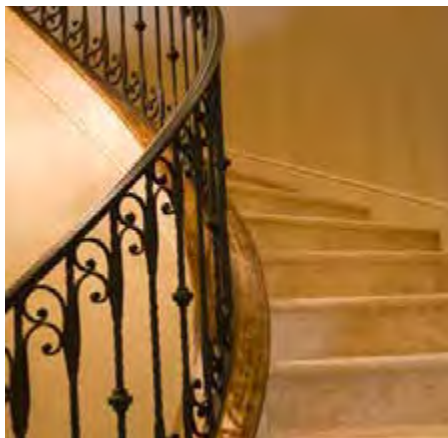


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Meyerland Electronic Recycling Collection Event

All Meyerland residents are invited to bring their end-of-life electronics to be responsibly recycled by CompuCycle Inc. on Sunday, October 27, 2013 from 1pm - 5 pm in Godwin Park, 5101 Rutherglen Drive, Houston TX 77096. The truck will be there an hour early before Afternoon in the Park begins.

CompuCycle is an EPA-accredited and R2/ISO 14001:2004 Certified electronics recycling company. All electronics will be "responsibly recycled" and any component likely to have data stored on it will be destroyed. Remember, CompuCycle has a No Landfill – No Exceptions Policy!

ITEMS WE CAN ACCEPT:

- PCs & servers
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- Printers Cords & cables
- Copiers
- Hard drives
- Projectors
- Tape drives
- Keyboards & mice
- PDAs
- Vacuum cleaners
- Telephones/cell phones

ITEMS WE CANNOT ACCEPT:

- Weed eaters
- Washers & dryers
- Refrigerators
- Alkaline batteries

If you have electronics you would like to recycle that are not on this list, please call the office at 713-869-6700 and someone will be glad to assist you.

www.CompuCycle.net
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It's Coming!

AFTERNOON IN THE PARK

by Shirley Hou, Festival Chair

Mark your calendars now... it's that time of year for Meyerland's beloved tradition of fun, food, and family at Afternoon in the Park, Sunday, Oct. 27 from 2-5 pm at Godwin Park. The last festival was in 2011, and 2012 was skipped due to the extreme drought conditions. Now the park is looking good again, and we can all celebrate.

Did I mention that Afternoon in the Park is FREE? There will be food, drinks, petting zoo, giant slide, inflatable obstacle course, crafts, face painters, balloon artists, caricature artists, and entertainment by our local schools' performing arts groups. Residents who check-in at our registration desk will receive an exclusive Meyerland-branded T-shirt (while supplies last). This year we are ordering smaller sizes so that even kids can sport a Meyerland t-shirt.

Returning this year is our partnership with CompuCycle, an electronics recycling company whose owners live in Meyerland. Bring your old electronics (see separate article for detailed list of acceptable items) and CompuCycle will take care of recycling the items for you.

And yes, this is all FREE. Afternoon in the Park takes months of planning and hard work by our VOLUNTEER committee. I would like to recognize the dedication of the Afternoon in the Park committee for making this happen: Amy Hoechstetter, Scott Minchen, Gerald Radack, Marlene Rocher, Jim Walters, and Joyce Young. This event is sponsored by the Meyerland Communication Improvement Association (MCIA) and made possible by the responsible residents of Meyerland who pay their assessment fees on time.



Boy meets llama in petting zoo.



Children lining up for the Big Kahuna slide.

Meyerland

Sunday, October 27th • 2 pm to 5 pm

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HALLOWEEN SPIRIT

By Benny Herzog, Director of Section 10

Our Meyerland neighborhoods are safe and welcoming. Our streets are well lit, our homes and sidewalks are well kept and many residents decorate their homes to bring a bright and festive Halloween. This is a time when neighbors welcome neighbors to share in this holiday spirit, creating a fun and safe environment for our children.

I like Halloween. No, make that I love Halloween! For over 25 years, Lori and I have made our home a welcoming haven for our family and friends as well as our Meyerland neighbors. It started small with a few white trash bags made into ghosts hanging from the trees and a homemade scarecrow on a bench, where my daughters and their friends would take an annual group photo.

Over time it became its current spectacle: nearly 10,000 lights, smoke machines, music, the roof covered with a web of lights and a 40 foot spider on top, trees engulfed with orange lights, scarecrows, cobwebs, skeletons and witches. Oh, did I mention the thousands of pieces of a candy that the children enjoy every year? It sometimes feels like we singlehandedly kept Arnie's Warehouse & Party Store in business this time of year. Local television stations have featured our home as an example of how neighborhoods embrace safe places to celebrate Halloween.

For me, it's the simple joy of that Halloween night, after all the

preparation and work is done. It's the adorable 4 year old girl, shyly and slowly walking up the walkway, decked out in a perfect butterfly princess witch bear costume... (obviously a combination of at least 3 or 4 costumes). She drags her full bag of candy conquests behind her, with her eye on the prize, the Snickers that awaits her at my bright and welcoming front door. I can still pull one more "Trick or Treat" from her... and her effort is rewarded.

Friends and family have gathered at our home for over 25 years. There's always a hot pot of chili cooking for a quick meal, a tradition my mother started when we were children, cupcakes, cookies and the special "fingerlings" from neighbor Ronna Silver are all always a must have. But here is my challenge to my fellow neighbors... even if you don't build a spider on your roof (and trust me, you don't want to!), you can bring a smile to a child's face with a safely wrapped chocolate bar or lollipop. Keep your porch light on this year and get a few bags of candy. Let's keep Meyerland the neighborhood that makes kids happy. (Happy kids make their parents want to keep living here).

The Spider on the roof and all the lights may be down this year, as we are in the midst of a remodel project, but on Halloween night, the chili will be on the stove and there will be plenty of Snickers bars and lollipops for any child.

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POLITICAL SIGNS ARE EVERYWHERE...

by Lisa Murray, MCIA Staff

Political Season is here! That is obvious by driving around the neighborhood and seeing all the political signs proudly displayed in the residents' yards. How great that we are able to freely express our support and participate in the political process!

Meyerland encourages community involvement, but we must be respectful of our neighbors and follow some guidelines for displaying political signs. You may display only one sign per candidate or issue, up to a maximum of 4x6 feet per sign, and it should be located between the sidewalk and your home. Signs must be ground mounted and may not contain offensive language or graphics. Don't forget to vote on Nov. 5th!

Speeding Car Damages Sign at S. Rice and Beechnut

by the MCIA Office

Early in the morning on Thursday, August 22nd, a vehicle travelling southbound on South Rice drove through the plantings on the north and south side of Beechnut and hit our "Meyerland" subdivision sign. The police report stated that the driver was transported to a local hospital. There were no reported passengers and the accident was isolated to one vehicle. We have no knowledge of the driver's condition but can only assume it is serious based on the debris field of the accident. The damage will be repaired by the driver, but this will take some time. We appreciate your patience while we go through this process. We do not have any further details at this time.



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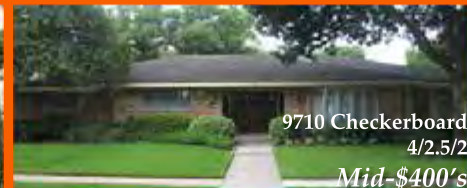
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Trash/Recycling Schedule - October - November, 2013

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

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

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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CARING FOR MEYERLAND TREES

Part 2

by Gerda Gomez, Director of Section 7

In this 2-part series, we continue to educate Meyerland residents about the importance of caring for their trees. 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.

Can trees cause house foundation problems? If so, what is recommended to prevent foundation problems? Trees can, over long periods of time and under the right circumstances, cause foundation problems. These can, however, be easily avoided. First, if planting a new tree, keep it a good ten feet or more from the foundation. Second, install an inexpensive root barrier next to the foundation. Third, keep the moisture level in the soil around the home consistent. I have seen dozens of instances where a tree was blamed for foundation failure when the real culprit was the shifting that resulted from repeated cycles of desiccation (dried up) and saturation (soaked) due to our semi-tropical climate. Consult a certified arborist before removing your prized tree for this reason. Most trees in our area have the same root zone profile and therefore the same risk factors in relation to foundation damage, so plant whatever you want in regards to this.

When removing a tree, is it important to also remove the stump, and if so, why? Regarding stumps, it is important to distinguish between stump removal and stump grinding. Stump removal usually refers to cutting the stump down to an aesthetically acceptable level close to or at ground level. Stump grinding refers to the process of actually grinding away a portion of the remaining woody tissue beneath the ground. If the goal is tree replacement in the same spot, then stump grinding must be done. The larger the replacement tree being planted, the more grinding that must be done.

Of the types of trees known to be planted in Meyerland, which have short life cycles? “Short” is a relative term for tree life. Productive life versus full life span must be factored in as well. Of the species mentioned below, including the replacements and originals planted, I have seen all except Siberian Elm. There are however, many Chinese

and American elm varieties in the area. “Evergreen” oaks in our area typically refer to live oak or Mexican white oak. Both are very long-lived, particularly the live oak, which can and does live for hundreds of years. Water oaks are short-lived for an oak, with 40-50 years being the typical life span in an urban setting. Ash trees are even worse, with most individual trees having a healthy life span of only 30 years or so. I would avoid the maples as well, as they are typically not planted correctly to maximize growth or life span and tend to not do well here, though there are certainly exceptions.

What are the signs that a tree is healthy, sick, or near the end of its life cycle? The signs of an unhealthy tree include die-back on the peripheral limbs, dead leaves that don't fall-off; shedding of leaves at unusual times and yellowing of leaves. Also cankers or fungus on the outside of a tree can indicate a problem. An ISA-certified arborist should be consulted when dealing with tree issues, as there is a lot of inaccurate information concerning sick trees and how they should be treated.

When deciding to plant trees, what trees are recommended for Meyerland taking into consideration soil, climate, and drought conditions?

There are dozens of species that can be successfully planted in the area. Your particular location, sun exposure, water availability, maintenance issues, and surrounding infrastructure all need to be considered when planting your tree. Keep in mind that Trees For Houston plants a wide variety of sites ranging from yards to large parks. Some of my favorites include:

- Live oak
- Mexican white oak
- White oak (quercus albus)
- Pecan
- Sycamore
- Cottonwood
- Cedar elm
- American persimmon
- Swamp chestnut oak
- Loblolly pine
- Tupelo
- Sweetgum/liquid amber



If you have more landscaping questions that you would like featured in future issues, please send your idea to meyerlander@meyerland.net.



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WHERE ARE YOUR RECYCLING & TRASH CANS?

by Amy Hoechstetter, MCIA General Manager

Meyerland residents must store their trash and recycle bins out of view from the street. This includes homes on corner lots. If you enter your garage from a side street, your trash and recycling containers may not be in view from that side street.

We have noticed some properties in violation of this deed restriction. Listed below are common ways your neighbors have successfully accomplished shielding their cans from view from the street:

- Place the bins inside the garage
- Place the bins behind the fence next to the garage
- Place the bins between your home and garage
- Place the bins behind full grown shrubs next to the garage

Application for fencing may be requested to hide the bins next to the driveway at the rear of the property

For more information regarding this issue, including photos of the appropriate way to restrict view of your trash and recycling bins, please visit our website at www.meyerland.net.



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This Home Is the “Bomb”

by Jim Walters, MCIA President and Director of Section 2

The year was 1946, and the Parade of Homes was making its first appearance in Salt Lake City. Builders, architects and developers were starting to realize the home buying potential of returning service men and women from WWII duty, and wanted to showcase both new homes and neighborhoods. While the homes may not have been affordable by all, the concept definitely had the ability to attract attention to the new developments.

Meyerland, founded in 1955 in southwest Houston (at that time, it was considered to be a fairly remote area), needed something to gain visibility for the new development. The Parade of Homes was the perfect venue and in the spring of that year, it came to Houston and featured model homes on Jackwood in the newly opened sections 1 & 2 of Meyerland for a full month. Vice President Nixon was here to cut the ceremonial ribbon, which needless to say, focused even more attention on the event, which was open to the public. Schools, churches and parks were in the planning stages, and the nearby Meyerland Plaza shopping center was scheduled to open in 1957.

Interesting facts, but why am I writing about this? The home around the corner from me at 5102 Jackwood recently sold. This home was in the original “Parade of Homes”, and it featured, believe it or not, a bomb shelter, obviously built underground! The Cold War was gaining momentum, as was the concept of mutual assured destruction. Common on Fridays during that period, and for several years afterwards, was for air raid sirens to sound around the city, and students to retreat below their desks in a tucked position, as protection against the pressure wave of a bomb blast. I’m old enough to remember all of that, plus my parents toured the “bomb shelter house” in the Parade of Homes spectacle, dragging me along with them.

I’ve met the new owners of 5102 Jackwood. They plan to restore the house, not tear it down, keeping the bomb shelter intact.



Meet Your Director RICK FRITZ

“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 Rick Fritz, Director of Section 10.

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

I had been involved with the Meyerland Citizens on Patrol group. By joining the Board I felt I could increase participation of the Board members and the community in this program. I also wanted to get involved in other security issues of the subdivision that were being dealt with by the Board.

What Board titles or committees seats do you hold?

I am currently Vice-President of the Board, Co-chairman of the Security and Traffic committee and a member of the Nominating and Election committees.

What is your professional background?

I retired in 2009 from a 40-year career with ConocoPhillips Oil. I then joined the staff of Pilgrim Lutheran Church as Facility Manager and now serve as a volunteer on various committees of the Church.

What surprised you about being on the Board?

The complexity of the business of the Board was really a surprise. As Vice-President, I get a better feel for the vast amount of work for which the Board is responsible. The Board deals with a multitude of issues that impact our subdivision. Handling these issues in a fair and equitable manner often takes a lot of time and patience for all involved.

What advice would you give a new Director?

Being a Director is a real commitment. We are blessed to have a wide variety of backgrounds on the Board and it is great to have that mix of opinions on issues. Regardless if you are retired or still employed, your contribution to the Board is always welcome.

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR VOICE

Do you have an article or story that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue.

Email your document to meyerlander@meyerland.net.



CURB YOUR DOG!

By Amy Hoechstetter, MCIA General Manager

I repeatedly get requests from residents to remind homeowners about picking up after their dog. I understand this sentiment. Nothing is more frustrating than having to clean up your own yard after the “morning walk” of the dogs on your street – especially when you don’t even own a dog.

Unfortunately, this problem is difficult to solve. This month, there are a few opportunities to spend some time with your neighbors at a National Night Out party (Tuesday, October 1st) or at Afternoon in the Park (Sunday, October 27th). At these gatherings, you should discuss the problem if it is occurring on your street. If you and your neighbors work together, you may come up with a solution. The City of Houston does have rules about picking up after your pet. The rules are pretty simple: Pick up after your pet. A violation will bring a fine of \$75 to \$500 for each offense from the City of Houston.

Take steps to clean up after your pets so we can all take clean steps!



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Kolter Outdoor Classrooms

by Pilar Hernandez, parent at Kolter Elementary School

Kolter Elementary School is very proud of its habitats and the opportunities for outdoor learning. The Kolter Pond was developed in 2003. The Kolter Pond habitat is an imitation of what may be found in nature and is a balanced ecosystem with Texas trees and plants that provide food, shelter, water and space to wildlife such as caterpillars, butterflies, tadpoles and toads, and nesting songbirds.

The Kolter vegetable, herb and flower garden, along with the small orchard, was founded in 2004 with direction from Urban Harvest. The garden provides the students with hands-on experience growing vegetables and makes the “Sweet Potato Festival” possible. The Sweet Potato Festival, now in its 7th year, allows fourth graders to plant sweet potatoes during spring that are then harvested at the end of summer. The students take some of the sweet potatoes home to be cooked and are later shared in their classrooms. The rest are donated to a food pantry. There is also a Texas native garden and Butterfly station, which will be revamped in the coming months.

The latest addition to the school’s habitats is the Kolter Prairie. Once a dream of the science teacher, Ms. Shong, it is now an exciting reality. This habitat provides an opportunity for people to experience how Houston looked before the current neighborhood was established.

There is an active Garden Club for students in 3rd, 4rd and 5th grades who meet after school on Tuesdays and with the help of volunteer parents tend to the garden. The leaders are Ms. Wood, Kolter science lab teacher, Ms. Shong, past-science lab teacher, and Pilar Hernandez, parent, and Hazel Potvin, volunteer. Last year, the crop included root vegetables like sweet potatoes, various greens, watermelons, peas, tomatoes and flowers.

Do you want to grow your own veggies at home? Every Saturday starting in September, from 8:30 am to 10:30 am, the gates are open and a group of parents, teachers and students will be working and learning at the Kolter Garden. Please join us! You do NOT need to have a student at Kolter Elementary to participate. The entrance is through the pond gate on Runnymede. Wear hats, closed shoes and bring water. Kids are welcome with adult supervision. Come and garden with us!



Kolter vegetable garden



Kolter Prairie

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