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Monday - Thursday	9:00 a.m 2:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m 1	2:00 p.m. Central Time
Closed Saturday, Sunday, ar	nd holidays.
Telephone	713-729-2167
Fax	713-729-0048
General Email	office@meyerland.net
Architectural Control Committee	macc@meyerland.net
4999 West Bellfort St., Housto	on, TX 77035

Visit our website at www.meyerland.net

### **SECURITY**

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Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency	713-884-3131

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Meyer Branch Library	832-393-1840
Godwin Park Community Center	713-393-1840

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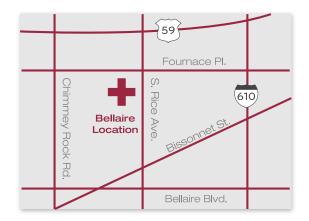


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### On the Cover

The adorable dogs on the cover belong to Bob and Rhonda Sampiere and their daughter, Halie, who live on Ferris Street in Section 6. Daisy Mae is a female Golden Retriever and 4 months old in the picture.

Rosie is also a female Golden Retriever and 14 years old.

### **PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS**

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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.

## Holiday Office Hours

by the MCIA Office

Due to the holidays, the MCIA office on 4999 West Bellfort will observe the following schedule:

### November

27th - early closure at 12 noon in observance of Chanukah 28th - closed Thanksgiving/Chanukah 29th - closed Day after Thanksgiving

### December

24th - early closure at 12 noon for Christmas Eve 25th - closed Christmas

31st - early closure at 12 noon for New Year's Eve

January 1st - closed New Year's Day



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## Meyerlander MONTHLY



## Veterans Day Salute

by Joyce Young, Director of Section 3

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11, 1919 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. The cessation of hostilities between the Allied Nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The Treaty of Versailles which officially ended World War I was signed on June 28, 1919.

On May 13, 1938 the 11th of November was officially declared a legal holiday. It was a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I. The name change to Veterans Day from Armistice Day occurred on October 8, 1954 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" honoring American veterans of all wars.

The Uniform Holiday Bill signed in 1968 was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Columbus Day. The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion. It was apparent that this holiday was a matter of great historic and patriotic significance to a large population. Therefore, on September 20, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11.

Veterans Day is a day to celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

The City of Houston will observe a moment of silence at 11 a.m. on November 11, 2013 in memory of the proclamation of Armistice Day. A ceremony and parade will follow.

# THANKSGIVING DAY TRADITIONS

by Joyce Young, Director of Section 3

New traditions may be forming this year as Thanksgiving and the start of Hanukkah converge on the same day, November 28. The last time these two events happened on the same day was in 1888. It is predicted that the next convergence will occur in 79,043 years.

So, while turkeys are being pardoned by the President, a 9 year-old boy invented the "Menurkey", a trademarked turkey-shaped menorah. Other creative endeavors include T-shirts with "8 Days of Light, Liberty & Latkes" along with the



trademarked "Thanksgivukkah, aka Turkukkah".

This year the traditional Thanksgiving day meal complete with turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie may be replaced with Manischewitz-braised turkey, challah-apple stuffing and pecan pie rugelach. No matter the meal, the day would not be complete without the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and football, lots of football.

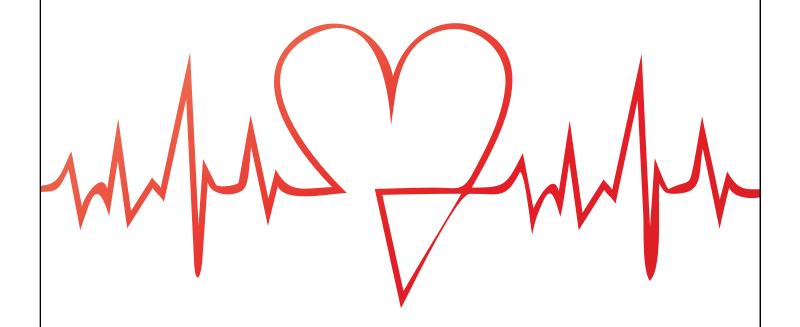
For anyone who wants to stave off the day's gluttony, the 2013 TXU Energy Turkey Trot that benefits the Sheltering Arms senior services will kick the day off with a 5k and 10k run along with a kids 1k walk. Last year there were more than 13,700 runners. Later in the evening The Uptown Houston Holiday Lighting will take place on Post Oak Blvd. The event is free and features more than 500,000 twinkling lights on 80 trees along with music, Santa and fireworks.

Traditions abound for each family and while some are busy cooking spectacular meals, others are volunteering to feed the less fortunate. This year the food may be a little different, but the sharing of a meal and giving thanks continue to be celebrated.

So get going now and chow down on your turkey, be it traditional, deep fried, or tofu.

Menurkey photo provided menurkey.com. Used with permission.





## WE'RE FEELING GOOD.

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Since opening in April, we've enjoyed a warm welcome from our Meyerland neighbors and have been honored to serve more of you than ever before in our spacious new facility. You've embraced being **KelseyConnected**<sup>SM</sup> through a secure and confidential Electronic Medical Record, our 24/7 Kelsey Nurse Hotline and our convenient onsite Kelsey Pharmacy. If you've not met us yet, schedule an appointment. We make that easy, too.

We're feeling good and we want you to feel the same.





Meyerland Plaza

560 Meyerland Plaza Mall | Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.





The mission of Meyerland Soccer at the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center (ERJCC, also known affectionately as the "J") is for kids to have a good time playing soccer. This club started in the Spring of 2012 with the first season consisting of 120 kids to the current Fall 2013 season consisting of 700 kids. Teams are co-ed and range from 3 years of age to 13 years of age. Every child plays at least one half, and kids are encouraged to play all positions. Our goal is for kids to enjoy being part of a team, get good exercise and enjoy playing soccer. The league stresses sportsmanship, and positive competitive games.

Teams practice one night during the week at several of the Meyerland area elementary and middle schools and the Merfish Center on S. Rice. Games are on Sunday afternoons at Shearn Elementary School and Westwood Park. Children that have never played soccer before will have a good time playing in this club. The parent volunteer coaches strive to make sure the kids have a great time. Children from all over Houston are welcome to play! If your child would like to play in the Spring 2014 Season please contact Ken Leventhal at the ERJCC 713-729-3200.



Meyerland Soccer at the J, Silver Dragons vs. Blue Sharks game

## 1950 Events Important to Meyerland's Development

by Jim Walters, MCIA President and Director of Section 2

We take for granted some of the amenities in our area that contributed to the growth of Meyerland from a remote "new-concept" development in 1955 to the close-in, upscale community we are now. Meyerland opened as a model single-family dwelling community that would include parks, schools, churches and a strong set of Deed Restrictions. It eventually blossomed into a 2,300 home neighborhood. Some outside events affected our growth. I'll cover three in this article.

### **MEYERLAND PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER**

Meyerland Plaza Shopping Center opened on Oct. 1, 1957 with a celebration of "Around the World in 80 Acres," which was a takeoff on the 1956 motion movie "Around the World in 80 Days" starring David Niven (the film won five Academy awards, including Best Picture that year). Of course, hot air balloon rides were the feature attraction in the grand opening. It was a good marketing ploy, and it succeeded in garnering attention for the newly opened shopping center. It was the first of the "mall" concepts, in which all of the stores opened onto a common area. However, unlike today's malls, the common area at that time was not air conditioned and was exposed to the outside elements. The common area was later renovated to enclose the open space. The Plaza was not only a successful merchandising venture, but also contributed to the attractiveness and suburban atmosphere of its namesake neighbor.

### **LOOP 610**

Next was Loop 610, which originally was known as Loop 137 (originally conceived in the 1930s as a military transport road around Houston). It wasn't approved by voters until 1954, and it required a wide swath of homes in Bellaire (in some cases, six across) to be condemned and demolished to make way for the new freeway. Previously, Post Oak Blvd., a two lane road, which ran from approximately Interstate 10 today due south to across Braes Bayou, occupied the site of the new loop. The new freeway was fully opened in 1958. It provided important access to the Meyerland area from West Houston, which continued to spur development.

### **BRAES BAYOU STRAIGHTENING**

Finally, one that may not seem significant to some: the straightening and upgrade of Braes Bayou from 1954 through the early 1960s. Braes Bayou (also spelled "Brays" but it's difficult to trace the origins) was a meandering, overgrown, mosquito and snake-infested tributary prone to frequent overflowing, flooding the local areas. The Army Corps of Engineers undertook the project to "straighten" the bayou into its present form as part a larger flood control project. Its scope was huge, requiring massive earth moving. It reached its present form in the Meyerland area in the late 1950s, replacing the ugly, unkempt bayou with a modern, efficient floodway that was successful in reducing the constant overflows. It added to the attraction of the new Meyerland development, encouraging development to the south of the bayou. It remains a major thoroughfare today.









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### **GODWIN PARK ACTIVITIES**

by Joyce Young, Director of Section 3

Godwin Park is alive and bustling with the sounds of energetic kids each afternoon from 3-6 p.m. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department provides an afterschool program Monday through Friday for kids from ages 6 through 13. Godwin Park currently hosts 50 kids who are supervised by Hugo Garcia, the Recreation Supervisor and his staff, Kyon Simmon.

Mr. Garcia has been employed by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department for 12.5 years. He began his career part time on the Southeast side of Houston where he eventually became a Rec Specialist. When the former Godwin Park

supervisor, Gary Boyd, retired, Garcia interviewed for the position and successfully secured it. Godwin Park has been his home for the past nine years.

His enthusiasm for his job is evident as he is outside supervising the rambunctious basketball game. The whistle he wears around his neck remained silent while the active youngsters ran up and down the basketball court with wild abandon. Everyone was enjoying the afternoon playtime. Inside his coworker, Simmon, was supervising the arts and crafts instruction along with the students who were doing homework. A makeshift soccer game was also being played inside the "cage" as it is lovingly called. One



little girl finished her arts and crafts project and promptly ran to Mr. Garcia and presented it to him with a big grin. It was a handmade card with a heart cutout that read "Mr. Hugo You're Awesome".

The afterschool program is limited to 50 students (1 teacher per 25 students) who attend either Kolter Elementary School or Johnston Middle School. There is also a 10 week summer program for kids aged 6-13 that provides supervision, structured activities, lunch and snacks from 8 a.m. -6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Both the afterschool program and the summer program fill up quickly and there is normally a wait list.

The activity center also has free Tai Chi classes from 6:30-7:30 each Wednesday evening. Karate classes are held from 6-8 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday. The first hour is for kids and the second hour is for adults. In addition, the Godwin Park facility can be rented by contacting the Houston Parks and Recreation Department at www.houstontx.gov/parks.

Mr. Garcia is actively involved in his students' lives. Each year he watches them grow and advance. One of his former charges who is now at Sam Houston State University comes back in the summer and works part time for him. He is proud of his accomplishments and proud of his role in keeping Godwin Park a clean and safe place for all of the kids to play.







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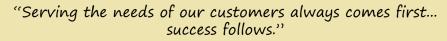
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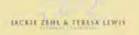
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### Trash/Recycling Schedule - November - December, 2013

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

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

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.



### **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

Something to Talk About!



Block party at 5207 Contour Place in Section 8 North

It was a beautiful evening for National Night Out on October 1st. Meyerland had 15 publicized block parties, the most we've had in recent history. Sign-up sheets and information cards were available on the Meyerland website for hosts to distribute to their guests. Residents enjoyed good food while meeting their neighbors on the street. We hope we have even more block parties next year.



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### TREE TRIVIA

The MCIA Office receives many questions about trees by Meyerland residents. These are the most common questions.

- 1. If a tree (or a branch) falls into the street, whose responsibility is it to remove it? What if the branch was overhanging the street and a large truck knocked it down? It is important to establish the owner of the tree first. If the tree is located between the sidewalk and the street, it is the property of the City of Houston and therefore calling 311 to report the damage would be the answer. If the tree is on the property between the sidewalk and the home, it is the homeowner's responsibility to remove the branch or branches promptly, regardless of how they ended up in the street, blocking the street, or blocking the sidewalk.
- 2. What are the options if a tree is growing in such a fashion that the trunk is pushing the neighbor's fence over, but the owner, on whose property the tree sits, doesn't want to remove the tree? MCIA can facilitate communication between homeowners, but that is a homeowner-tohomeowner situation. MCIA is not involved in these civil matters.
- 3. What responsibility do we have with regards to trees growing on the lawn between the sidewalk and the street? Trees between the sidewalk and the street belong to the City of Houston.
- 4. Can we cut the trees down without the City's permission? Is it our responsibility to prune these trees? This is a gray area. The trees were planted by the City of Houston and belong to the City. The care of them, however, largely falls on the homeowner. A diseased tree can be removed by the City or by the homeowner with the permission of the City of Houston. The homeowner needs to initiate the request and persistently ask for action, and then be patient while waiting for the city to follow through.



**November is Tree Waste Collection Month** Wednesday, November 13th

## KOLTER KIDS LOVE TO READ!

by Courtney Cernosek, Kolter parent Photo taken by Addie Delahoussaye, Kolter parent

On Monday, September 17th, a special program was held at Kolter Elementary to celebrate over 180 students who participated in HISD Millionaire's Club. The Millionaire's Club is an HISD program whose goal is to keep students reading over the summer months. Kolter students could win prizes by reading a certain number of books and completing projects based on those books. Kolter is so proud of its students for continuing to show a love of reading, even during the summer!



First grader Andrew Sazykin won the top prize - a Kindle Fire. Andrew is pictured here with Kolter librarian, Cynthia Oubre.

# KOLTER KIDS TOOK THE CARDBOARD CHALLENGE AND ENJOYED A DAY OF PLAY

by Cyndi Ruiz, Kolter Parent

On Saturday, October 5th, Kolter students joined other kids and parents to build something awesome out of cardboard, recycled materials and imagination. Students in all grade levels were invited to design, assemble and decorate their own cardboard game, toy, robot, or whatever their creative minds could come up with. This hands-on experience was inspired by the short popular YouTube film, "Caine's Arcade." The Global Cardboard Challenge is a worldwide celebration of child creativity and the role communities can play in fostering it. Abbie Chuo, Kolter mom and Meyerland resident, organized the event after watching Caine's Arcade because she really wanted to see Kolter kids enjoy a Saturday morning outside being creative and not spend it watching TV or playing video games. Imaginations went to work and students created pinball machines, basketball games, robots, fish toss and much more, all with cardboard and creativity. The Kolter families hope to see the cardboard challenge continue every year!

Lovett Elementary Fine Arts Magnet School presents a

## Veteran's Day Musical Program



Monday, November 11, 2013 at 6:00 pm. Lovett Elementary School 8814 S Rice Avenue, Houston, Texas 77096

Lovett Elementary extends a sincere invitation to the community to celebrate Veteran's Day with a musical program by our Band, Choir, and Strings honoring the nation's individual heroes, past and present, including members of our military service organizations, firefighters, and police officers. Come in uniform if you desire.

If you or a family member is a current or former member of one of our five service branches, a firefighter, or police, we would especially appreciate your presence on this evening. Lovett is handicap accessible.





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