

Meyerlander MONTHLY



Volume 2 | Issue 1

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JANUARY 2014



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Lisa Murray, Catherine Clark Office Staff

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Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Central Time
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and other city services, dial 311. Some mobile phone users may need
to dial 713-837-0311.

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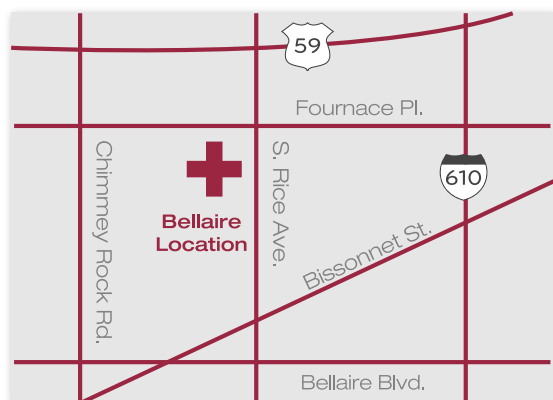


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On the Cover

The petting zoo was a popular attraction at MCIA's fall festival, Afternoon in the Park, held at Godwin Park, this past October.

PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: rebate certificate worth \$500 toward the purchase of a Honda automobile. For sale for \$250. The certificate is good for the next few months. 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 number 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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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

MEYERLAND'S 60th ANNIVERSARY

As we enter a new year, we pause and reflect on the prior year and enjoy our wonderful memories of it. For the Meyerland Community Improvement Association, it is an opportunity to look all the way back to 1954 - the year Meyerland filed for incorporation and became an association. This solidified our Meyerland neighborhood that we've come to know and love. We are now proudly entering our 60th year and we will, in subsequent issues of this newsletter, share insight into the initial planning, creation, support and future of the association.

Founded on September 16th, 1954 by T. A. Robinson, Jr., Ike P. Robinson, and R.H. Basden, our original documents are still intact spelling out the purpose of the association. We hope you look forward to our series of future articles, pictures, facts and mysteries (solved and unsolved) of the neighborhood.

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HARRIS

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THAT We, T. A. ROBINSON, JR., IKE P. ROBINSON and R. H. BASDEN, all residents of Houston, Harris County, Texas, under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Texas, do hereby voluntarily associate ourselves for the purpose of forming a private corporation under the terms and conditions set out as follows:

1.

The name of this corporation shall be MEYERLAND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION.

Approved & filed in the office
of the Secretary of State
This 16th day of September 1954
Chief Clerk

President Letter Maintenance of Property

by Jim Walters, MCIA President and Director of Section 2

My motivation for serving as a Director of the MCIA was seeing the poor condition of several properties in my area (Section 2). Unkempt yards, houses with peeling paint and in disrepair were an eyesore. This affected all property owners in the area by detracting from curb appeal and reducing the overall attractiveness of the neighborhood. I, like most homeowners in the area, was frustrated that properties in these neglected conditions were tolerated and allowed to exist without any action from our homeowners' association.

Most of Meyerland's Deed Restrictions titled "Section 10. Maintenance of Property" require residences to be kept in good repair with grass and vegetation to be maintained in a neat and attractive condition. It also empowers the MCIA with the right (but not the obligation) to enter a neglected lot after due notice for purpose of repair, maintenance and restoration, and subsequently charge the lot owner for those services. I realize residents don't like receiving a Deed Restriction violation letter about property maintenance as these letters often surprise and upset the homeowners. However, this is just the MCIA doing its job with the goal being to maintain a high level of attractiveness in our neighborhood. The violation letter is easy to rectify: simply correct the deficiency, whether it is mowing the yard, fixing the driveway or taking care of peeling paint.

My general observation is that a good portion of the problems with property maintenance involve rentals. The maintenance of the property may either be the renter's responsibility, if specified in the lease agreement, or the landlord's responsibility. Unless a lawn service company is under contract with the appropriate party, problems may arise. The MCIA is aware of these circumstances and handles them appropriately.

Homeowners can help by reporting suspected violations to the office, supporting the Directors and staff on enforcing the deed restrictions, and complying with the rules themselves.



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In memory of **DON W. CARTER** 1944-2013



Don W. Carter passed away unexpectedly on October 10, 2013. He is survived by his wife Louise Nicholson Carter, daughter Heather Carter Gitterle, son Dustin Nicholson, grandchildren Aidan & Gabel Gitterle, Ella & Thomas Nicholson, daughter-in-law Brandi, son-in-law Marc, and his national award winning 1974 Triumph TR-6.

Born on January 4, 1944 in Corsicana, Texas, a town that always held a special place in his heart, Don is preceded in death by his parents, Vivian and Frank Carter and his brother Ed. He is survived by his three sisters Vivian Elle Greene and her husband Darwin Greene, Frankie June Bressie, and Margie Hill and her husband Bill Hill, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins whom he loved dearly.

An award winning healthcare architect, who received his Masters in Architecture from the University of Texas at Austin, Don was a founder and principal of many prominent architecture firms in Houston, and was responsible for healthcare projects nationwide. He donated his time and professional services generously to countless organizations over the years including the Meyerland Community Improvement Association.

REMEMBERING DON

At the time of his passing, Don Carter was an active member with over 15 years on the Meyerland Architectural Control Committee (MACC). He served as the Director of Section 5 from 2007 to 2011. During his time on the Meyerland Board of Directors and the MACC, he propelled Meyerland's image into the 21st century with his forward-thinking designs for new subdivision markers, landscaping and branding. He was a staunch guardian and champion of Meyerland's architecture and green spaces. Don was meticulous and a perfectionist while serving on the Board and MACC, and we are all better for it.

Christmas Tree RECYCLING

by the MCIA Office

The City of Houston is encouraging residents to recycle their Christmas trees which saves landfill space and disposal costs. Residents can recycle their trees by dropping them off at one of eighteen (18) free, drop-off, recycling sites located throughout Houston. Please note that the centers will not accept flocked or tinsel trees. The closest center to Meyerland is the Westpark Consumer Recycling Center at 5900 Westpark Road. The program runs from December 27th, 2013 to January 8th, 2014. All facilities are closed January 1, 2014. In addition to the drop-off locations, residents with City of Houston collection may place their tree curbside on their scheduled tree waste day and it will be recycled. Meyerland's tree waste day is January 8th.

Dropoff at Westpark Recycling Center: December 27th to January 8th

Residential Curbside Pick Up: January 8th



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Storm Water/Waste Water Repairs to Start in February

by the MCIA Office

The City of Houston is planning a large project, funded by Rebuild Houston, to take place in February, 2014. The project is a storm water and sewer repair project designed to alleviate flooding, and support or replace existing waste water lines on Millbury, Doud and Runnymede. Generally the city will be working on small sections of the streets. When they are finished, the newly overlaid streets will include repaired sidewalks, additional ramp entrances at street corners that do not currently have them, new or upgraded light poles, and a new, brighter and more energy efficient traffic light at the junction of Runnymede and West Bellfort. Approaches to these streets will also be addressed.

A second project for street repair is scheduled for Yarwell, which will receive a new asphalt overlay. Expect travel delays and congestion in these areas during the construction period. It is important to note that Runnymede (which intersects Yarwell) runs directly in front of Kolter Elementary. This will be an inconvenience to those whose children attend the school, as well as those who use this route to get around Meyerland. Please visit with the school to learn how these road closures will affect you and your children.

This much needed construction is expected to last approximately 10 months. It will appear to be slow and at times, frustrating, but when the projects are complete the water flow will be better and the streets will be new. We will monitor these projects and continue to update our readers with their progression.

The MCIA office has no further information about the status of these projects. If you have additional questions, please call the City of Houston hotline, 311, and reference these project numbers: Runnymede/Millbury/Doud Storm Water and Sewage Repair: #1185263. Yarwell Street Repair: #1171345.



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January, 2014						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Trash	8 Tree!	9	10	11
12	13	14 T/R	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Trash	23	24	25
26	27	28 T/R	29	30	31	

February, 2014						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3	4 Trash	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 T/R	12 Junk!	13	14	15
16	17	18 Trash	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 T/R	26	27	28	

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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JANUARY IS TREE WASTE COLLECTION MONTH

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8TH

Same Web Address New Design

by Lisa Murray, MCIA Office

MCIA is very excited to launch our brand new website after almost a full year in development! The new website is a fresh, new version that was created to improve your experience and to provide the information you need and want the most.

A few of our goals with the new website was to make it faster, easier to navigate for users, and to create a more personal experience for residents. Most of all, we wanted to help our residents find information when they need it. The new Meyerland homepage features a clean design with moving images of highlighted content. The site is also mobile device friendly for your tablets and smartphones. It will be easy to connect with your neighbors through social media using Facebook.com and Nextdoor.com. Eventually we will launch a form for residents to submit architectural applications online!

The website will be updated with current and upcoming events, and information regarding the neighborhood and the City of Houston. We encourage residents to contact us through the website and to sign up for our email news blast. You can find our new website at the same web address:

www.meyerland.net



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A Social Network for the Neighborhood

by Lisa Murray, MCIA Office

Have you ever wanted to reach out to other Meyerland residents and get a contractor referral? Did your dog get loose and you need some help finding him? Meyerland has just joined a new program called Nextdoor.

Nextdoor is a website that allows neighbors to talk online. You must reside in Meyerland in order to join our group, and once there, you have the option to share information with other nearby neighborhoods. And it's free.

Nextdoor members can share recommendations, sell or give away household items (like Craigslist), publicize local events and ask other neighbors for advice. Like Facebook, Nextdoor allows members to post a message that is broadcast to all the other neighbors in that network. Members can view conversations online or receive messages through email.

When you sign up for Meyerland, you can choose to receive news from surrounding neighborhoods, like Westbury and Marilyn Estates. City of Houston officials and Houston Police Department also use the network to share important information. Here are some recent topics in our area:

- Recommendation for hair stylist needed
- Summary of Mosquito Control meeting from Harris County
- Foster puppies need homes
- Lost cat found

The online conversations are only as good as the number of neighbors who join and participate. Meyerland has 47 neighbors and counting. Visit the Meyerland website to get more information about this great new tool for Meyerland or visit meyerland.nextdoor.com to join now.

LEASH YOUR DOG IT'S THE LAW!

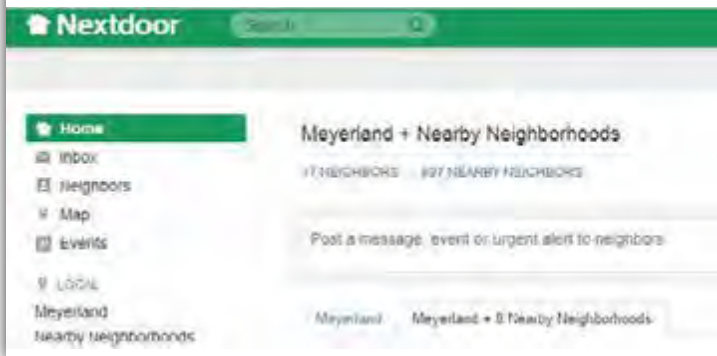
by Amy Hoechstetter, MCIA General Manager

There have been a few situations where unleashed dogs have caused problems. Periodically, we have stray dogs running through the neighborhood. Many of you have been kind enough to help these dogs reunite with their owners. A more common problem, however, is with dog owners who walk their dogs unleashed. The City of Houston has a leash law and the mere fact that you may be holding a leash in your hand, unattached to your dog, is a violation of the City of Houston Ordinance. The Association supports these Ordinances, and therefore, it is also a Deed Restriction violation as well.

Laws aside, this is a potentially dangerous practice for both you and your dog. While your dog may be a docile and friendly animal, other dogs may not be as friendly. Dogs that are unleashed have an opportunity to roam freely and they may find themselves in situations that are life threatening, e.g., crossing busy streets or encountering other unleashed animals. Should another dog attack, both you and your dog can be seriously injured or even killed. In addition, it is a concern for others who are out walking when they are approached by your dog unexpectedly. This can be unsettling to adults and especially frightening to young children who do not know if your dog will harm them. Although your intent is not to scare anyone with your dog, an unleashed animal is frightening to some people.

Another concern of residents is that your dog, while enjoying his freedom, may be irritating the neighbors by running into their yards and gardens. There is also a concern that your unleashed dog is at or near school entrances, playgrounds and parks. Dogs have been known to enjoy a car ride and sometimes unleashed dogs will jump into open vehicles. Although this may be fun for the dog, it is not so much fun for the surprised and perplexed humans!

We are reminding residents to obey the leash law and place the leash on your dog every day, at all times while you are walking your dog. Be aware of your surroundings such as schools and parks and know that law enforcement officers will cite you if they witness you breaking the law. For more information regarding the Ordinance, please visit the City of Houston website at www.houstontx.gov/barc/index.php.



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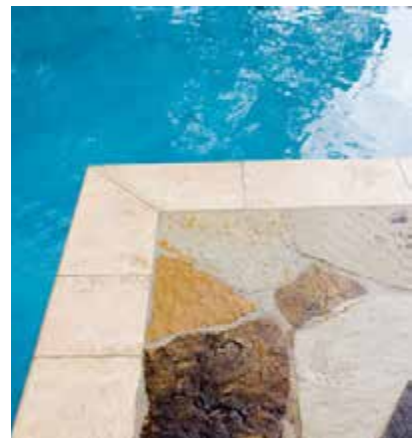
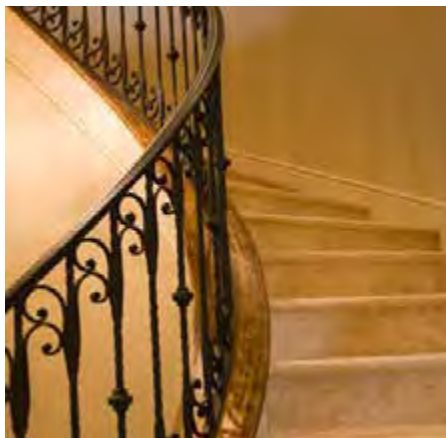


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A FOCUS ON RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVE TO BE A BETTER YOU

By: Concentra Urgent Care

The New Year is a great time to make healthy lifestyle changes. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, the most common resolutions focus on losing weight, getting fit, quitting smoking, and reducing stress. These are important themes that can reduce your risk of disease. Here are ways you can achieve your goals this year.

LOSING WEIGHT

A weight loss of five to seven percent of your body weight can improve your health and quality of life. It can also help prevent weight-related health problems, like diabetes.

Changing your eating habits and increasing your physical activity are keys to successful weight loss and help to maintain optimal weight for the rest of your life.

Create a plan for healthy eating and increased physical activity, while taking in fewer calories than you use. Your healthy eating plan should include:

- Taking into account foods you like and dislike

- A focus on fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains

- Consuming fat-free or low-fat dairy products such as yogurt, cheese, and milk

- Protein sources such as lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs, and nuts

- Avoiding saturated and trans fats such as animal fat, butter, and hydrogenated oils

- Staying away from foods high in sodium and added sugars

For more information on weight management and improving nutritional practices, visit the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at www.win.niddk.nih.gov/publications/for_life.htm.

GETTING FIT

Regular physical activity for at least 30 minutes each day, or broken up into several shorter periods of 20, 15, or 10 minutes, can help you lose weight, keep it off, and stay fit. It can also improve your energy and mood and lower your risk for heart disease, diabetes, and some cancers. Try some of these physical activities:

- Walking (15-minute miles or 4 miles per hour)

- Biking

- Tennis

- Aerobic exercise classes (step aerobics, kickboxing, dancing)

- Yard work or house cleaning (gardening, raking, mopping, vacuuming)

Taking the first step can be the hardest part. Start slowly, at a level that is comfortable for you and add activity as you go along. Sometimes, it helps to have a friend or activity buddy when you start out. It is recommended that adults get at least two and a half hours of moderate physical activity each week. Strengthening activities, such as pushups, sit-ups, or lifting weights, at least two days per week are also encouraged.

For more information on getting fit, visit the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports at <http://fitness.gov/>.

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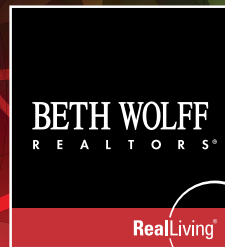


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