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## **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**



## **MCIA OFFICE**

Amy Hoechstetter	MCIA General Manager
Catherine Martin, Randi Cahill	Office Staff

## **OFFICE HOURS:**

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Monday - Thursday	y9:00 a.m 2:30 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m 12:00 p.m. Central Time
Close	d Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.
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Fax	713-729-0048
General Email	office@meyerland.net
Architectural Cont	rol Committee macc@meyerland.net
4999 W	Vest Bellfort St., Houston, TX 77035

## Visit our website at www.meyerland.net

## **SECURITY**

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

## **CITY OF HOUSTON**

Houston Help & Information	311 or 713-837-0311
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Suspected natural gas leak

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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.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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## **MCIA Publications Committee**

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

## Send comments to meyerlander@meyerland.net

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## On the Cover

The featured house on the cover is 4806 Braesvalley in Section 4.

## **Recent Board Business**

by Shirley Hou, Publications Committee

If you have ever been to one of MCIA's monthly meetings of the Board of Directors, you know that they can be spirited, raucous, and sometimes long events. There is a lot of business to discuss and debate, and Directors are passionate about keeping Meyerland beautiful and safe. They don't always agree on how to do that, but that is what democracy is all about.

So what has been recent Board Business?

The Board approved a revision of the Section 1 Deed Restrictions in March. The revision is part of the overall effort to streamline and modernize all of Meyerland's 22 sets of Deed Restrictions. Effort is now underway to get the revised Section 1 Deed Restrictions signed by Homeowners.

The By-Laws were amended to clarify the eligibility of Directors to run for the Executive Board, and removed "Assistant" officer positions.

There is on-going discussion about crime statistics and how to make Meyerland safer in partnership with Precinct 5.

The Directors voted to write a letter of support to city and county officials to renovate the South Rice "ditch" from Beechnut to S. Braeswood to become more attractive green space.

Residents near Johnston Middle School have expressed concerns about pedestrian and car traffic at the start and end of school hours. These Residents and some Directors are working with Johnston, HISD police, HPD and Precinct 5 Deputies to improve the traffic control.

You can read minutes from past Board meetings on Meyerland's website, www.meyerland.net under the tab "About MCIA".



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.

## Meet Randi Cahill

by Amy Hoechstetter, MCIA General Manager

Please join us as we welcome Randi Cahill to our staff of the Meyerland Community Improvement Association. Randi comes with a corporate background of working closely with clients in the property management industry, supporting their needs throughout their entire residential experience. She has a sharp eye for detail, a good grasp of concepts, designs and construction, and is very friendly and approachable.

Randi has the title of Resident Relations, Meyerland Architectural Control and will be responsible for the communication between the residents and the Architectural Control Committee. She will be happy to assist you with the process of your home improvement. She will also work with Catherine Martin, Resident Relations, Customer Service, to monitor activity in the Association that is not compliant with the Deed Restrictions.





# **Looking for Discount Gas?**

by Gerald Radack, Director At-Large

The Kroger Signature Store on West Bellfort at South Post Oak Road has recently opened a Kroger Gas Station behind the store on the West Bellfort side. Now you can actually use your "Fuel Points" at an actual Kroger Gas Station without having to drive for miles.

At press time, we did a survey of how Kroger's gas prices compared with other stations in the area, and we were pleasantly surprised. The posted price at other local stations was \$0.10 to \$0.20 more per gallon versus the posted price at Kroger. We even drove a little further to Sam's Club on South

Rice to see if there was any savings. Kroger still beats Sam's Club by a nickel based on the posted price. These differences do not even take into account the minimum \$0.03 per gallon (maximum \$1.00 per gallon) discount that one gets for using a Kroger Plus Card.

Whether the very low price is an introductory teaser or a permanent price is anyone's guess.

CONSUMER TIP: Kroger "Fuel Points" don't accumulate from month-to-month. When the calendar month is over, you start over in your accumulation.



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- · Bridgeland
- · Chelsea Harbour
- Coles Crossing
- Copperfield
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- · Cypress Mill
- Eagle Springs
- Fairfield
- · Kleinwood
- Lakemont
- · Lakes of Fairhaven
- Lakes of Rosehill
- · Lakes on Eldridge
- · Lakes on Eldridge North
- Lakewood Grove
- Legends Ranch
- Longwood
- · Meyerland
- Normandy Forest
- North Lake Forest

- Park Lakes
- · Riata Ranch
- · Shadow Creek Ranch
- Silverlake
- Steeplechase
- Sterling Lakes
- Stone Forest
- Stone Gate
- Storie Gate
- Summerwood
- · Sydney Harbour
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## **CITIZENS ON PATROL**

by Rick Fritz, Director of Section 10

Spring is finally here! It is time for outdoor activities and what better way to check out what your neighbors are doing than to join Citizens on Patrol? We have about 75 members and we patrol about 135 hours per month.

We have stopped to check on people who have left car doors or garage doors open and have received very appreciative comments from the residents. Also, we have called Constables about door-to-door solicitors who have turned out to be legitimate after investigation, but the Constables still appreciate those calls. It shows that someone is at least watching for suspicious activity.

Why not consider donating an hour per month by adding your eyes and ears to the effort to make our community a safer place to live? With the spring weather, it is more pleasant to go out and visit with your neighbors while patrolling. Please consider volunteering – it is a small commitment with just a short training session and a one hour per month patrol. Call Rick Fritz – 713-628-0207 or Jerry Goldman – 713-253-3006.

## **STOP CRIME!**

if you SEE something

**SAY** something

Precinct 5 Constable 281.463.6666 Emergency 911

## Trash/Recycling Schedule - April - May, 2014

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

	May, 2014							
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.		
				1	2	3		
4	5	6 T/R	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13 <b>Trash</b>	9 Tree!	15	16	17		
18	19	20 <b>T/R</b>	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28 Trash	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. the evening before pickup. Remove containers no later than 10 p.m. on trash pickup day. Monthly - Put heavy junk/tree waste at the curb no earlier than Friday 6 p.m. before the 2nd Wednesday heavy junk/tree waste collection.

About the second week of each month, a member of the Publications Committee goes on a mission to take a photo of that perfect house to grace the front cover of the Meyerlander Monthly newsletter. We seek well-maintained homes with great landscaping, and we try to alternate between different

architectural styles. So that no one gets jealous, we try to rotate houses from different Sections. We don't take photos of homes on our "opt-out" list or homes for sale. The whole process requires a lot more work and discussion than a general reader might expect.

When homeowners see their houses featured on the front page of the newsletter, they are usually thrilled and request an additional 20 copies from the office. A few owners, however, wonder why they were not

asked permission before we printed the cover. According to The Legal Handbook for Photographers by lawyer Bert Kragas, photographing private property from within the public domain (like the sidewalk) is legal where there is not a reasonable expectation of privacy. Also, property owners generally cannot

restrict the photographing of the property by individuals who are not located within the bounds of the property. These are the same rules that the tax assessor can take photos your house, and how Google can take a photo of your house for their Google Maps, Street View application.



by Shirley Hou, MCIA Publications Committee

While there is no legal obligation for us to notify homeowners that their house will be pictured in the newsletter cover, we respect our residents' requests to opt out. If you do not want your home's photograph ever featured in the newsletter, please send an email to meyerlander@meyerland.net with your address and the subject line "Opt-Out."

If you are like most homeowners and think your house would look fantastic

on the Meyerlander Monthly, you don't have to wait for our roving photographer to come to you. Just send in a photo to meyerlander@meyerland.net and ask that it be considered for the cover. If you don't provide owner information, we will just list the street address and section number.

# What is Being Done to Prevent Houston from Flooding?

by Gerda Gomez, Director of Section 7

Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) celebrated its 75th anniversary on May 15, 2012. Pioneers who settled in Harris County accepted flood damage as one of the risks associated with life in a promising land. The County had experienced great floods and rainstorms over the years, but two floods, one in 1929 and particularly the flood on December 6, 1935, which inundated 100 blocks of Houston's business and residential

districts with floodwater, resulted in public officials, business leaders and residents taking action. Combined with others across the U.S., they urged the federal government to finance and implement flood damage reduction projects. In response, the U.S. Congress passed the Flood Control Act of 1936, which assigned oversight for flood damage reduction to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Subsequently the Texas legislature, as a result of a campaign by Houston Mayor R.H. Fonville and Harris County Judge Roy M. Hofheinz, passed a statute which led to the creation of the HCFCD, a single local entity that partners with the federal government on flood damage reduction projects and qualifies for federal financial assistance. (1)

The Brays Bayou Flood Damage Reduction Project (Project Brays) is the largest project of HCFCD. Meyerland is included in Project Brays, which starts at the Houston Ship Channel and extends to Highway 6. Project Brays has several components which have worked to reduce flooding: detention ponds; widening of Brays Bayou, and bridge modification. The following detention ponds are included in Project Brays: Arthur Storey Park Basin and Mike Driscoll Park (Old Westheimer Basin), both of which are completed; the Eldridge Stormwater Detention Pond, to be completed this year; and the Willow Waterhole Basin, which is 60% complete. The widening of Brays Bayou is being done to increase the amount of stormwater the Bayou carries. The widening has started at the eastern end and is proceeding west and will end at Fondren Street. The continued scheduling depends on funding. The widening will be 60 feet divided between the banks or on one side depending upon HCFCD's right-of-way and availability of land. Seven of the 12 segments of channel modification are complete. Bridge

modification or replacement has started and will continue to accommodate the widening of the Bayou. Bridges will be raised that are too low which will decrease obstruction and permit additional flow. Of the 32 bridges that will be modified or replaced, nine bridge projects are complete and one is underway. The prototype bridge is the new OST bridge.(1)(2)(3)

There are no gates except for one in Clear Creek, which is

meant to prevent water entering the area if tide water rises. In the Medical Center, the buildings have special doors to prevent flooding of basements and garages. There is a flap at Rice and South Braeswood, which lowers to prevent water from Brays Bayou entering the Rice ditch to the South if the water level rises too high in the Bayou. (2)

The detention pond south of



Meyer Detention Basin. Photo provided by Lisa Gossett.

North Braeswood and next to Cliffwood Drive, visible from South 610 and the Braeswood exit, is the Meyer Detention Basin and is owned by the City of Houston. It is not part of Project Brays. It serves to mitigate flooding in the Texas Medical Center by storing stormwater during heavy rains and releasing the stormwater slowly into Brays Bayou when the stormwater level subsides. The HCFCD does not own or maintain this basin.(1)(3)

Since its inception in 1983, Brays Bayou Association (BBA), a nonprofit activist organization of concerned citizens, has taken a successful role influencing flood control outcomes on behalf of various communities including Meyerland. Bob Marshall of MCIA was responsible for getting BBA launched and raising \$60,000 principally from Meyerland residents and enabling the BBA to help fund a flood risk study which was used to launch Project Brays. Meyerland has been an active supporter of the BBA from the beginning and has benefited from the relationship. The BBA meets monthly on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at The Gathering Place on South Willow. (3)

#### Sources

- (1) Kimberlye Jackson, Manager, Communications Department, Harris County Flood Control District
- (2) Raouf Farid, Project Brays, Program Manager, Harris County Flood Control District
  - (3) Robert J. Schwartz, President, Brays Bayou Association

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## Meyerlander MONTHLY



## APRIL

# IS JUNK WASTE COLLECTION

# MONTH

Wednesday, April 9th

## Sugar, Heart & Life

A program called Sugar, Heart and Life: A Guide to Living with Diabetes is available for people dealing with the disease. The interactive and fun program developed by Baylor College of Medicine's department of family and community medicine offers information on how individuals with type 2 diabetes can manage their diabetes. The SHL program includes recipes, practical tips and games on diet, exercise, and medication. The program allows users to follow a year in the life of the Gonzalez family as they learn more about managing diabetes and help them make decisions that will keep their family healthy.

All diabetes management recommendations contained in this program are consistent with clinical practice recommendations of the American Diabetes Association and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Recipe Box was adapted from heart healthy recipes from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Sugar, Heart and Life can be found at www.bcm.edu/shl.

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## SEND US YOUR

Event

Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue.

Email the picture to meyerlander@ meyerland.net Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption.

Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.





# YOU CAN COUNT ON US





Please remember to pick up after your pets and "scoop the poop"

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				7		6			5	

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.



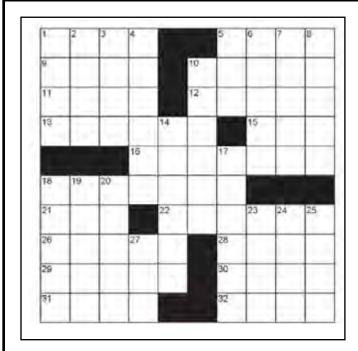
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## **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



## **ACROSS**

- 1. Grabs
- 5. Capital of Western Samoa
- 9. Healing plant
- 10. Canned chili brand
- 11. Baby powder
- 12. Howdy
- 13. Mexican food brand
- 15. Billion years
- 16. Smash
- 18. In abundance
- 21. Scarf
- 22. Prejudice
- 26. Living
- 28. National capital
- 29. Fathers
- 30. Margarine
- 31. Entertainer
- 32. Nightly tv show

## DOWN

- 1. North Atlantic Treaty
  - Organization
- 2. Winged
- 3. Fastening device
- 4. What the confederates tried to do
- 5. Dined
- 6. Whiter
- 7. Ice house
- 8. Hurting
- 10. Brand of soda
- 14. Literature
- 17. Baron
- 18. Embarrass
- 19. Crippling disease
- 20. Dens
- 23. Island
- 24. Killed
- 25. Cow noises
- 27. Animal doctor

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