

Meyerlander MONTHLY



Volume 2 | Issue 6

MEYERLAND.NET

JUNE 2014



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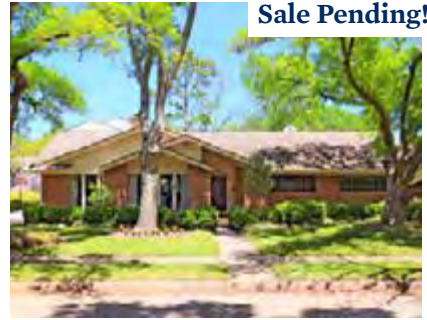
There's No Place Like Home.



JACKWOOD | 3/2



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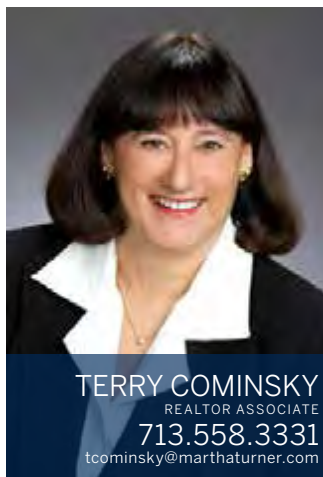


N BRAESWOOD BLVD | 4/3



CONTOUR | 5/4

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Central Time
Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

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Architectural Control randi@meyerland.net
Community Assistance catherine@meyerland.net
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Precinct 5 Constable (including burglar alarms) 281-463-6666
Emergency 911
Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency 713-884-3131

CITY OF HOUSTON

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Godwin Park Community Center 713-393-1840

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..... 713-659-2111 or 888-876-5786

For missed garbage pickup, water line break, dead animals, traffic signals,
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to dial 713-837-0311.

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SHORT WAIT TIME



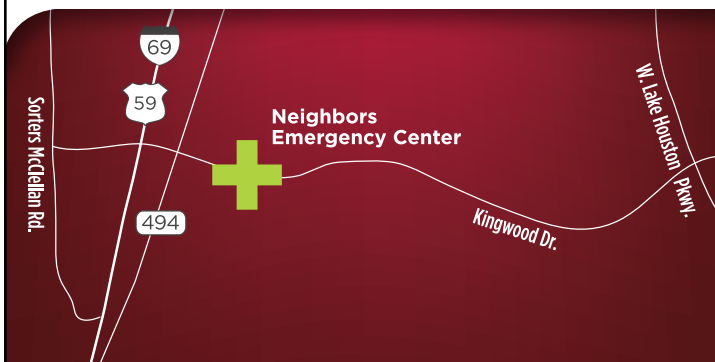
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How to Get Your Street Fixed

By Amy Hoechstetter, MCIA General Manager

The MCIA office often receives complaints from residents about the need to get the street leveled or repaired in front of homes, down the street, around the corner and so on. Residents must report these problems to the City of Houston, not MCIA. The City of Houston hotline is also known as 3-1-1. It is the most effective way to communicate issues the City needs to know about regarding City property and services.

Last year, we had one resident repeatedly call 3-1-1 to get the depression in front of her home repaired as water would stand there for a week after it rained and would puddle on a rainy day. After receiving multiple calls from her, the City came out and saw the issue. They scheduled the repair, and within weeks, the work was done. Not all issues will be resolved this quickly, but the request has to start somewhere. The old adage... "the squeaky wheel gets the grease" could not be truer in a case such as this. The non-emergency assistance line that Houston Mayor Annise Parker has championed works well.

Residents mistakenly think that the MCIA has more influence with the City than they do. The truth is residents have the power! Take a moment to call 3-1-1 or email from your smartphone or computer. You can even send a picture. Visit <http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/311/index.php> to see how it works and make Houston work for you.

On the Cover

*The featured house on the cover is
4722 Braesvalley in Section 4.*

MCIA Committees 2014-2015

A new Board of Directors was elected at the Annual Meeting in March, and the Committees have been updated with new members. For more information about a particular Committee, please contact the Chairperson or President.

** Chairperson, ** Non-Director*

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July 4th Celebrations

by the MCIA Publications Committee

There are plenty of activities planned in the Houston area for July 4th. You can start your day off with a 5k run/walk at Uptown Park at 7:30 a.m. After that there are plenty of events from which to choose.

Freedom Over Texas at Eleanor Tinsley Park - \$8 per person in advance, \$10 day of show, children 5 and under free of charge. This year's headline performer is country recording artist Jennifer Nettles. A fireworks display will follow the show.

Celebration at Bayou Bend - Free to the public and includes an afternoon of music, art activities and historical demonstrations that celebrate American freedom.

July 4th Parade & Festival - Parade begins at 9 a.m. in the Bellaire Triangle and ends with a festival celebrating Independence Day in Bellaire Town Square.

Red, Hot & Blue Fireworks Extravaganza - the fireworks show begins at dusk (approximately 9:10 p.m.) at Town Green Park in The Woodlands.

175th City of Galveston Celebration Independence Day Parade and Fireworks - the patriotic fun begins at 7:30 p.m. with a parade on Seawall Boulevard followed by the biggest fireworks display in the city's history to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Galveston's establishment. The show is free and will take place at 9:15 p.m. over the Gulf of Mexico near 37th Street and Seawall Boulevard.

And if staying at home is more to your liking, there is also the backyard barbecue option that can be celebrated all day long. Make your own fun and celebrate your patriotism!



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Flag Day

by Joyce Young, Director of Section 3

Have you noticed the displays of American flags each June and wondered why they are proudly displayed on June 14th of each year?

Flag Day is believed to have originated in 1885 by BJ Cigrand, a school teacher in Fredonia, Wisconsin, who chose June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of the Stars and Stripes) as "Flag Birthday". His idea was to have an annual day specifically for celebrating the flag.

The celebration of Flag Day continued throughout the years with various communities participating in Flag Day festivities. Flag Day was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916, but it was not until President Truman on August 3, 1949 signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

Many communities celebrate the Flag Day tradition by not only displaying their flags, but also holding parades and other commemorative events.



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Home Security Inspection

by Shirley Hou, MCIA Publications Committee

I had the privilege of receiving a free, home security inspection by our very own Sergeant Mitch Hutter of Precinct 5, and it is a service that I recommend for all Meyerland residents. I was curious about what Sgt. Hutter would find since I felt I had already secured my house fairly well. After experiencing a home burglary a few years ago, I felt wiser and implemented all the typical advice in our current house: install extra deadbolts, get an alarm system, reinforce doors and door jams, install a driveway gate, and keep landscaping away from the windows. I wondered skeptically, "What more is there to do?"

Sgt. Hutter arrived on time and spent 20 minutes inspecting every door, window, and ground floor room in my house. He also walked the perimeter outside my house. What he uncovered in my house and recommended (after all my supposed reinforcements) shocked me:

1. Ensure that minimum 3-inch wood screws are used for all deadbolt strike plates. I had paid a "fancy locksmith" to install secondary, double keyed deadbolts into all my doors, but the screws he used were only 0.5 to 2.0 inches. Each strike plate requires at least 4 screws. Make sure each one is at least 3-inch long, and check for yourself - don't trust the words of a locksmith!

2. Ensure deadbolt wells are deep enough. On one of my doors, the hole in which the deadbolt sat was not deep enough, so when Sgt. Hutter turned the key, the bolt could not fully extend to the maximum length for the "lock" position. If the well is deep enough, you should hear a click, not a bang against the wood back stop. Again, this was the work of that "fancy locksmith" I had hired! The solution is simple - chisel the well deeper, or better yet, buy a metal plate to reinforce the well.

3. Install secondary window locks. My windows are new, so I thought the locks were good enough, but Sgt. Hutter recommended that I install a secondary lock on each window so that if the first lock gets broken, the secondary lock will prevent the window from being opened "no wider than a skinny fourteen year-old," in his words. These secondary locks cost less than \$1 each at Home Depot or Lowe's.

4. Make sure glass breakers are installed in the right rooms. Sgt. Hutter suggested that I install one glass breaker in one room but felt my security setup was sufficient. He said he often sees the case where alarm companies upsell to homeowners who then buy too many sensors and glass breakers. So install the right equipment, but more isn't always better.

5. Reinforce exterior French doors. Sgt. Hutter said my French doors were already reinforced, but if I wanted to go the next step, I should look into a product called "Strikemaster II French Door" reinforcer kit. This is available for under \$100 at Home Depot.

6. Back up valuable computer data. Sgt. Hutter walked into our home office, pointed to our computers and other electronic gadgets, and said, "This is the mother lode right here. A thief would start here and not even get to the rest of the house." Now, it's not practical to tie down laptops and tablets, but his comment made me think about computer back-up services. Are my priceless photos saved somewhere else other than the computer? Do I have strong passwords? Did I write down the serial numbers of these electronics? It was a good reminder to keep my electronic data saved securely.

7. This was not suggested by Sgt. Hutter, but I know many neighbors who have bought home security cameras through DropCam.com. Dropcam monitors driveways, walkways, and streets from the inside of your house and records everything in the Internet Cloud for later viewing. These recordings can be useful to police officers if a crime happens around your house.

Before the inspection, I felt skeptical that I would learn anything new. After the inspection, I learned that even after having spent a good deal of money making my home safe, there were still vulnerabilities that could be resolved for free or at a very low cost. Your house is only as safe as your weakest link.

A home security inspection is FREE to all Meyerland residents. It is a service that you have already paid for with your annual, mandatory security fee. If you are interested, call Sgt. Mitch Hutter directly at 281-704-6825. Expect a wait though - the service is so popular that the wait list is over a month long, but it is definitely worth the wait!



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Tips on Protecting Your Home from Being a Target for Crime

*By Rick Fritz – Security Committee Co-Chair
and Director of Section 10*

Summer is rapidly approaching. It's time to go on vacation or just take a weekend trip. Make sure you take precautions to secure your home while you are away. Here are some reminders:

- Garage doors should be kept closed
- Lock cars and park them in the driveway or in the garage, not on the street
- Pick up newspapers daily
- Add exterior lighting to illuminate the outside of the home at night
- Add a security camera to the exterior of your home – especially if you live at an entrance to the subdivision
- Add the Pct 5 Constable phone number, 281-463-6666, to the speed dial on your phones
- Get a Vacation Watch. Call the Pct 5 Constable and have them put your house on the vacation watch while you are away - call 281-463-6666 to order a vacation watch
- Save on homeowners insurance by getting a free home security inspection. You can contact Sergeant Mitch Hutter directly at 281-704-6825 to make an appointment.
- Let your insurance company know if you have a monitored alarm system because you may qualify for a discount
- Join Citizens On Patrol. Contact Jerry Goldman at 713-253-3006 or email jerryg112@aol.com, or call Rick Fritz at 713-628-0207 or rfritz@plchouston.org



June is Junk Waste Collection Month



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Trash/Recycling Schedule - June - July, 2014

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

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

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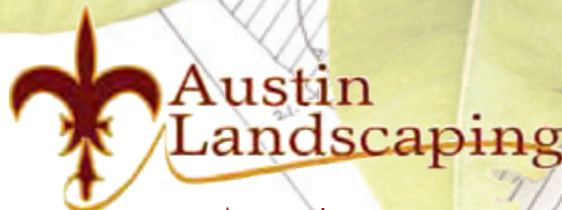
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Meet Your New Director Elizabeth Black Berry



Elizabeth is one of the Directors for Section 6. This is her first year serving on the Board of Directors.

I have lived in Meyerland and/or the adjacent neighborhoods for my entire life! I have owned a home in Section 6 since 1991. I have a law degree, a Masters in library and information science and I am a licensed real estate agent. Currently, I am pursuing my real estate profession with a focus on listing fine Houston

homes, including but not limited to Meyerland, Bellaire and Memorial. I am also an Executive Director for the Eastern District of Texas Bar Association.

I am married to Dolph Simon, and we have four children: Aaron Simon, Joel Simon, married to Chrissy Scott Simon, who has Connor Simon; Claire Berry and Nora Berry.

A month before the MCIA Annual Meeting in March, I read in our Meyerlander magazine that there were no directors running for the Section 6 position, my section. Since I have a more flexible work schedule for the first time in almost 30 years, I decided it was my time to serve. I want to meet as many of my Meyerland neighbors as possible during my tenure on the Board and be the voice for Section 6. I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the MCIA Board.



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](https://www.facebook.com/meyerlandtx).

Places to Swim Near Meyerland

by the MCIA Publications Committee

Summer is here, and that means swimming! While Meyerland doesn't have a community swimming pool, there are different options nearby from which to choose. Each pool has its own membership rules, hours, and fees. Call for specific information before going.

Maplewood South/North Community Pool

10425 Rampart Street
Houston, TX 77096
(713) 721-4185

Willow Pool

10500 1/2 Cliffwood
Houston, TX
(713) 723-7669

Westbury Swimming Pool

10605 Mullins Drive (@ Willowbend Blvd.)
Houston, TX 77096
(713) 723-2192

Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center

5601 S Braeswood Blvd.
Houston, TX 77096
(713) 729-3200

Evergreen Swimming Pool

4500 Evergreen Street
Bellaire, TX 77401
(713) 662-8284

Bellaire Swimming Pool

5100 Laurel Street (@ Rice Ave.)
Bellaire, TX 77401
(713) 662-8280

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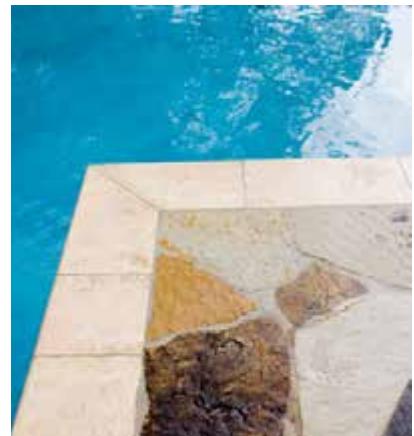
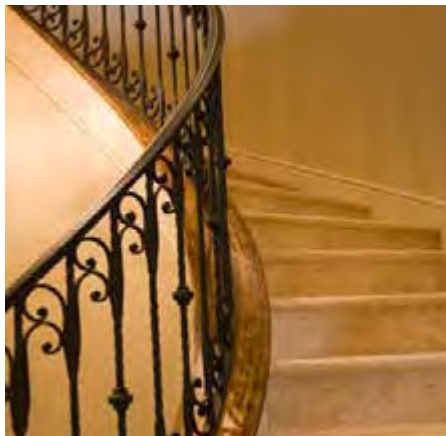


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Happy 5 Years!

by the MCIA Board of Directors

Congratulations to our wonderful general manager, Amy Hoechstetter, who celebrated her fifth anniversary with MCIA back in January. President Jim Walters, the current Board of Directors, and four previous MCIA Presidents surprised Amy with an anniversary plaque, gift, and balloons. Amy's husband, Andy, and her two daughters, Rachel and Jessica, were in on the surprise. We thank Amy for her tireless efforts and boundless energy in keeping our management office running smoothly. Happy five years, and we hope many more years to come!



Amy at Afternoon in the Park



Amy being surprised at the Board of Directors meeting in January



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Old Meyerland Photos

Meyerland is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year. Our goal is to create an historical archive for the neighborhood and possibly use it in a future publication. We are looking for old photos showing the development of the neighborhood, e.g., houses under construction, a Brays Bayou without its concrete banks, etc.

Perhaps you or a neighbor have some pictures you could share with us. We'll carefully scan them and return them back to you. Please contact us at meyerlander@meyerland.net for more information and help preserve the history of Meyerland.



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Meyerland Community Garden

by MCIA Publications Committee

Are you interested in planning, building and or nurturing a community garden in our community? A group of Meyerland residents are in the planning stages for a Community Garden. If you are interested in participating or just want more information, please email Suzy Shapiro at hssh@pdq.net or contact her by telephone at 713-417-3535.

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TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco



The Modern Game: The Top Spin Backhand

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute the basic strokes for players who are just beginning to play tennis or who want to resume playing.

I am now offering suggestions on how to play the “modern” game mostly geared towards players who are happy with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may be already playing for leagues or tournaments and are looking for more “weapons” on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute the Top Spin Backhand. This shot is used when a player is presently hitting the ball long and out. The ball will be aimed high over the net and hit with power. The ball will have a “top spin” so that when the ball hits the court, it will take a big hop, forcing the opponent to fall back close to the fence, or to hit the ball on the rise.

In the illustrations, Tyler Duncum, one of the top players of the Grey Rock Tennis Academy, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Tyler is coached by the Director of the Tennis Academy, Darin Pleasant. This shot can also be executed from the service line as an “approach shot” to the net.

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Tyler is pulled wide to her backhand, she makes a quick turn of her upper body and takes her racket back. The head of the racket is now at waist height, her shoulders are turned, the left hand holding the racket, and her right hand changing to the “continental grip”. She has loaded her left

hip to help her drive her weight forward. Her left grip is relaxed and her wrist is “laid back” to allow maximum point of contact.

Step 2: The Point of Contact: The success of a top spin shot is keeping the ball on the strings going from low to high in a 30 degree angle and accelerating the racket head around the outside of the ball. Tyler started the swing high and “looped” it to allow the head of the racket to drop down. She will be brushing around the outside of the ball as she makes contact with it. Her right shoulder is almost opening and her weight has now been shifted toward the front.

Step 3: The Follow Through: In order to get maximum control and power, Tyler is keeping her left arm almost straight as she extends through the shot. She has “snapped” her left wrist and her right hand helps with the stability and power. She has now allows her left side to transfer forward towards the net.

Step 4: The Finish: Tyler’s upper body acceleration is creating a high finish over her right shoulder. Her legs are already in position to recover back towards the middle of the court.

Step 5: The Ready Position: Once Tyler returns the ball to her opponent, she goes back home (towards the center of the court), to be ready for the next shot. Her knees are slightly flexed, she is in a good athletic stance and her eyes are focused on the oncoming ball.

Look in the next Newsletter for: “The Modern Game: The Forehand Approach Forehand Volley”

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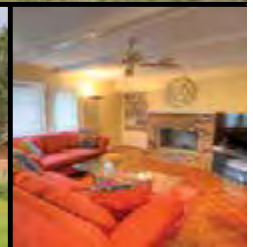
Meyerland is a great place to raise a family! It has excellent schools, wonderful parks, and the Bayou Hike and Bike Trail nearby. My family loved the large lots, quiet tree-lined streets, ample shopping all around with easy access to 610, The Galleria and The Texas Medical Center!

HOW DO YOU SEE THE AREA CHANGING?

The original vision defining Meyerland is still meaningful today, and I'm excited about the neighborhood's future! The schools in the area continue to be highly ranked and the neighborhood association remains active. I see development in the community in conjunction with the great community atmosphere continuing to drive demand in the area.

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