

Meyerlander MONTHLY

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Seasons Greetings!

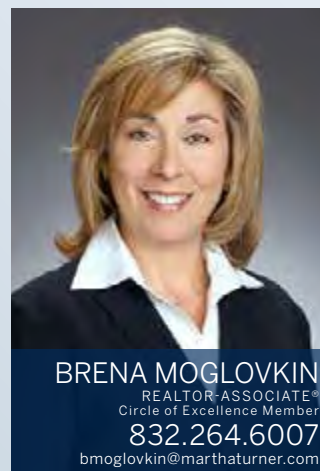


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Bellaire High School Plans to Rebuild Building

By Amy Hoechstetter, MCIA General Manager

Some of you may have heard about the pending reconstruction of Bellaire High School as it affects parents with students currently attending or planning to attend the school in the near future. While there are many resources out there to update you, and you have probably read all that you need to, some of you are still unaware. Perhaps you no longer have high school students in your home. Perhaps your children are too young to be directly affected by the changes. Whatever the reason, you may not know about the changes, so here is a simple synopsis of the recent news surrounding the future home of the Bellaire Cardinals.

In 2012, voters elected to issue a bond worth almost \$107 million that included plans to rebuild Bellaire High School. That was the easy part. A team of very intelligent, well-respected and experienced people jumped into action to review plans for the school, including the location of the buildings to be built. One option that was considered was to move the location of the school to another site, but ultimately the consensus was to keep the school in its current location. With that the next few, and apparently most sensitive issues, came about. The plans to relocate the students to different campuses during construction were released. This idea was very troubling to almost every parent and student. The meetings HISD held were very well attended by parents and community leaders expressing great concern over the relocation of students during the reconstruction. Who would be teaching the kids? What campus would they attend? How would they get a “Bellaire” education at a school without any of the Bellaire staff? What about the before and after school activities and clubs? The list goes on. After much public discussion, it became clear that there was a need to review options that would enable the school to remain open and operative while portions of the buildings were being replaced. This would not only greatly extend the construction time but would also leave the school in a constant state of change. Nonetheless, this was the preferred path to take.

At the most recent meeting with HISD, the relocation idea was dropped and the next set of problems, waiting in the wings, took center stage. The conceptual building location and plans for garage placement on the grounds was met with strong opposition

from Bellaire neighbors, parents, and students. Most did not see the need for the garage (minimum required parking by the City of Houston forced the existence of the garage), especially the height and location of it. Homeowners living along Ferris were accustomed to the students parking along the streets during school hours and felt this was an acceptable tradeoff to having the main entrance of the school facing their homes. The prospect of losing the buffer of the fields was unacceptable. This, coupled with the reasoning for the garage further fueled requests by the residents, parents and students to rethink the plans for both.



Currently, HISD is reviewing the options for a shorter garage (acceptable to residents), the use of temporary buildings on the campus during construction, and a plan for the phasing of construction of the new buildings set to remain in the current building location directly off of South Rice Avenue. Another consideration includes placing incoming ninth-graders in the building formerly populated by the Mandarin Chinese Language Immersion Magnet School. The one constant is that no matter which way the project proceeds, it will happen and Bellaire High School will continue to thrive as one of Houston's highly rated schools. For more information, visit the Bellaire website at www.houstonisd.org/bellairehigh.

Happy Holidays

From the MCIA Directors and Staff



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.



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Office Holiday Hours

By Amy Hoechstetter, General Manager

The Meyerland office is open Monday through Friday to assist you with your Association business needs. The normal office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Please take notice of the following changes to the office hours this holiday season:

Thanksgiving – The office will be closed Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th. The office will reopen on Monday, December 1st.

Christmas – The office will be closed Wednesday, December 24th and Thursday, December 25th. The office will reopen on Friday, December 26th.

New Year – The office will be closed Thursday, January 1st. The office will reopen Friday, January 2nd.

We advise all of our homeowners to make an appointment for your visit to ensure the person you need assistance from is in the office at the time of your arrival.



*Traveling this
Holiday season?*

Order a Vacation Watch (no shipping charge).

Simply call 281.463.6666 to order a
vacation watch or report suspicious activity.

Emergency call 911.

Holiday Safety Reminders

We are all excited about the upcoming holiday season. Looking around the community one can already see the holiday decorating. As the season quickly approaches, here are a few safety reminders.

First, please remember to turn on your exterior lights at night. This is for your safety and for the safety of your neighbors. Not only do you light the pathway to your house, you deter crime by lighting up darker parts of your home that may provide cover for criminals.

Second, remember that this is a very busy time for criminals who watch for delivery trucks. If you purchase items online, consider having the delivery companies hold your packages at their facilities until you are able to retrieve them, or track your shipment to know when the package will arrive so you can be home to receive it. You

might also consider shipping it to a location (such as your work address) to ensure that your delivery is made.

Third, as soon as all of the holidays are over, please remember to promptly and completely remove all of your holiday decorations. Your decorated house is very attractive to a criminal who thinks you are out of town since you have delayed the removal of your holiday decorations.

Lastly, especially at this time of the year, any unusual or suspicious person, people or vehicles are worth that phone call to Precinct 5. The old saying of “better safe than sorry” could not be truer in this case. Contact the Precinct 5 Deputies by calling the dispatch number at 281-463-6666. Have a very happy and safe holiday season.

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mindy Rosenthal

by Lisa Gregory, Resident Contributor

Every now and then a parent needs a break from the daily chores of raising children, and many times family, friends or sitters are not available to help. My husband and I recently discovered an hourly child care program that is run by a fellow Meyerlander. All we had to do was look to our own community and in doing so we discovered the history and experience of this one person.

Mindy Rosenthal has many years of experience working with children and recently found a way to continue to enjoy her passion. Many of you may know this Meyerlander as the former Principal at Beth Yeshurun School, but what you may not know is that Mindy grew up in Meyerland and attended Lovett Elementary.

"I can remember riding our bikes over the bridge and playing in the fields," says Mindy. She remembers her fourth grade teacher, Arlyne Blaugrund Epstein, who inspired her so much that at the age of ten, she decided to follow in her footsteps and become a teacher herself. Mindy Rosenthal was a teacher, a principal and is now the new owner of Let Us Play on Bissonnet Street.

"We are a community and should know our neighbors and reach out to each other," says Mindy. Her favorite thing about Meyerland is being "a small town amongst the big city." Meyerland has been her whole life. She walked to school and grew up here. "If it really does take a village to raise a child, then Meyerland is the ultimate village." Mindy's children live in Meyerland and someday she hopes her grandchildren will be raised here.

"What I love the most is that our community of people really take care of each other." That is exactly what Mindy is wanting to do – help families who don't have adequate resources for childcare. Mindy is a Meyerlander who is here to stay and here to help.



*Above: Mindy Rosenthal at Let Us Play on Bissonnet St.
Below: Mindy in 4th grade at Lovett Elementary*

Please email Lisa Gregory at Lisa@kissidry.com if you would like to nominate someone for the Resident Spotlight.

Curious About a Home's Price?

by Gerald Radack, Director At-Large

Have you ever driven down the street and saw a house for sale and wondered about the price? There is a very well designed website, har.com, presented by the Houston Association of Realtors® that will quickly answer your query.

For Meyerland properties, simply type www.har.com into your browser, click Find a Home and move down to All Property Types. At the next screen, enter Zip Code: 77096 and Subdivision: Meyerland (there apparently is another subdivision called Meyerland in Alvin, so that is why you need to add the Zip Code).

From there you will see a listing of all available properties. Of course, one of the numerous real estate agents that work the Meyerland area (many of whom are our loyal advertisers) will be more than happy to assist you with a serious home search.

At press time, there were 26 open listings and nearly half of them had options pending. The market is hot, and inventory is limited.



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Reminders from a Citizen Patroller

by Rick Fritz, Meyerland Citizens on Patrol

While patrolling the neighborhood I am always amazed at the number of open, unattended garage doors. This is an open invitation to thieves walking by. Always secure your property. If you have been burglarized, you may ask yourself why you were hit instead of a neighbor? Make your home a less attractive target by adding lighting, leaving a radio on, getting a dog (or even a Beware of Dog sign!), having security signs and surveillance cameras.

Another invitation for thieves to target your home is packages that are left at your door. If you can't be home when you expect a package, ask a neighbor to watch for the delivery and hold it for you until you return. As we approach the holidays, the weather is better for outside activity – make a point to keep your eyes open for suspicious activity and call the constable if warranted. They would much rather respond to an unnecessary call than hear that you saw something but didn't think it important enough to call.

As always, stay safe out there and let us know if you are interested in joining your neighbors in patrolling as a part of Citizens on Patrol! Contact Rick Fritz 713-628-0207 or Jerry Goldman 713-253-3006 for information.



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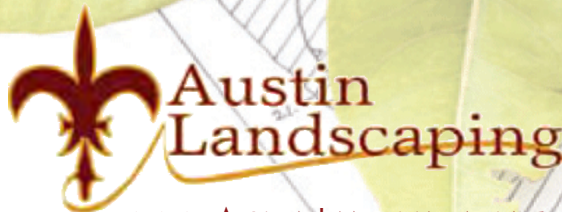
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December, 2014						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2 T/R	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Trash	10 Junk	11	12	13
14	15	16 T/R	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Trash	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 T/R	31			

January, 2015						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Trash	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 T/R	14 Tree	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Trash	22	23	24
25	26	27 T/R	28	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.

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Wednesday, December 10th

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What's in your Garbage?

by the MCIA Office

The City of Houston garbage collection only accepts household garbage. Items that are defined as Tree Waste, Junk Waste, Yard Waste/Trimming, Household Hazardous Waste and Dead Animals should not be placed in your garbage can for disposal.

Unacceptable garbage items include:

- Aerosol Cans
- Ammonia
- Bleach
- Cleaners
- Computer equipment
- Construction/Remodeling debris
- Dead Animals
- Fertilizers

- Fluorescent Lights
- Herbicides
- Household Chemicals
- Mirrors
- Motor oil and other automotive fluids
- Non-alkaline Batteries
- Paint Thinners
- Paint
- Pesticides
- Photographic Chemicals
- Pool Chemicals
- Sheet Glass

You may bring approved items to the Westpark Consumer Recycling Center for proper handling and/or disposal. Visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/westpark.html> for specific details.



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National Night Out was Tuesday, October 7th

We appreciate all the Meyerland residents who hosted a block party!



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Next-door Dish

By Lisa Gregory, Resident Contributor

Pumpkin Bread

*From the kitchen of:
Natalie Lamont*



As the season starts to change and the weather turns colder, we turn to the kitchen for heartier recipes to warm the house and feed the soul. Nothing is more

inviting or welcoming than when a neighbor drops off a homemade dish or dessert to kick the season off.

One of our neighbors is ready to dish out her favorite seasonal recipe. We have lived in the neighborhood for six years and every season, Natalie Lamont, Section 3 resident, makes Pumpkin Bread and delivers a fresh loaf to our family. Natalie moved to Meyerland in 1991 with her husband, Bill, and her two boys, both of whom attended Lovett Elementary. She loves making Pumpkin Bread for her family, friends and neighbors.

"This recipe reminds me of my mom who was a fabulous baker. It's my favorite memory of her. She made this many years when I was little and I love carrying on this tradition for my family," says Natalie. She recommends this bread because it is very easy to make, freezable and – of course - delicious.

Natalie has agreed to share some of her cooking secrets with fellow Meyerlanders who might be wanting to try something new or share with someone on their street. We encourage you to step out this season and share a favorite recipe with your neighbor.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 3 tsp cinnamon
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups pumpkin puree
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ cups oil
- 1 cup nuts (optional)

Directions:

Mix dry ingredients in a bowl. Blend in sugar, oil, eggs, and pumpkin puree. Stir in nuts.

Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees (for big loaves) or 40-55 minutes at 325 degrees (6 small loaves)

Please email Lisa Gregory at Lisa@kissidry.com if you would like to be considered for the Next-door Dish.

ART IS HEART

By Joyce Young, Director of Section 3



It's not every day that a school is lucky enough to watch one of its own return and teach where the learning began. Lovett Elementary is one of those lucky schools. Mr. Rickey Polidore, Jr. attended Lovett Elementary, grew up, graduated from California State University, Northridge and returned to Houston in time to teach art to the very first students of the new Lovett Elementary school that reopened in 2011.

The Visual Arts Curriculum was developed by a former parent, Mrs. Beatrice Graham. The lesson plans for the art program are structured such that each grade level builds upon the lessons learned in the previous year. Mr. Polidore has a special bond with his third grade class. They are growing up together. These students were his first year kindergartners who drew the owls that became the Mrs. Graham's Kinder Owl Tree that is proudly displayed at the front of the school. By the time these students reach the fifth grade, "they have learned some techniques that are taught at the collegiate level". As Polidore informs "the rest of their lives, the students have a nice, artistic base". It is apparent there is talent in his classrooms.

It is also evident from observing two hours of classroom teaching that Polidore loves what he does and the students enjoy his class. The students meet one day a week for 50 minutes. During the art lesson (this week it was all about clay), the students were taught not only about the intricacies of clay, but also about the three "R's", Ready, Responsible and Respectful. There is an order to Polidore's classroom and his teaching is effortlessly adapted to the students' grade levels. The third grade lesson was more structured than the fifth grade lesson. Both classes were engaged and the students truly enjoyed the hands on molding and creating. At the end of each class, masterpieces were left to dry on the windowsill. The project will continue next week with the next phase: painting the ceramic piece.

In the 2013/2014 school year, Polidore orchestrated the "Disc is OWL we do it!!!" for the art car exhibit. Every single one of his students from kindergarten through 5th grade worked on the project. The art car project



took approximately three months and it won 2nd place in the youth group category in the 2014 art car parade.

The art car will be undergoing a transformation soon. The van will be stripped of the CD's which now cover it and will be replaced with timepieces. The theme of the new art car is "Owlways a Good Time" and it will consist of donated clocks, watches, timepieces, etc. The student body will once again work their magic and prep the car for the April 11, 2015 contest.

While Mr. Polidore's time is filled with his teaching duties, along with mentoring students in video technology, he seldom finds time to do his own art. But when he does, he is a found 3D objects artist. Some of his art pieces are on display at his alma mater, Cal State Northridge. The dynamic Houston art community lured Polidore to return home and luckily his other alma mater, Lovett Elementary, welcomed him with open arms.



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