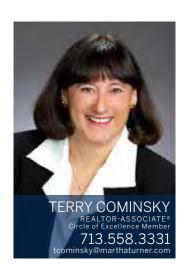


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#### **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**



#### **MCIA OFFICE**

Amy Hoechstetter	MCIA General Manager
Catherine Martin, Randi Cahill	· ·

#### **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.
Telephone	713-729-2167
Fax	713-729-0048
General Email	office@meyerland.net
Architectural Control	randi@meyerland.net
Community Assistance	. catherine@meyerland.net
4999 West Bellfort St., Hoi	uston, 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
District C Council Member, Ellen Coher	1832-393-3004
Meyer Branch Library	832-393-1840
Godwin Park Community Center	713-393-1840
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	
Electric outages or electric emergencies	

......713-207-2222 or 800-332-7143 Suspected natural gas leak ......713-659-2111 or 888-876-5786

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.

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#### TRAFFIC ALERT

# RUNNYMEADE AT WEST BELLFORT

By the MCIA Office

Effective Monday, December 8th, Runnymeade will be reduced to one-way traffic heading southbound from Dumfries to West Bellfort. Vehicles wanting to travel north from West Bellfort will need to use Balmforth.

This closure is due to the relaying of Runnymeade and will likely continue for months. Please heed the traffic signs at all times to avoid an accident and damage to your vehicle.

We know that this project will progress into the next year and will not likely be completed prior to the summer months of 2015. We greatly appreciate your cooperation and understanding as the city continues to improve our streets and drainage system.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at office@meyerland.net or call us at 713-729-2167 if you have any questions or concerns.



Runnymeade is one-way only going southbound from Dumfries to West Bellfort

# On the Cover

The doll-size gingerbread house was created by Chris Berry, an event producer from New York who was visiting his family in Meyerland. Construction assistance was provided by Colleen, Brian, and Laura Naff, residents of Section 8 South.

# UPDATE ON STORMWATER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN SECTIONS 7 & 8

By Gerda Gomez, Director of Section 7

As of December 2014, the construction company SER has completed storm water, sewer, and water line replacements and street reconstruction on Millbury and the section of Dumfries between Runnymeade and Millbury. Two way traffic is now open on Millbury and Dumfries. Sidewalk reconstruction is progressing and new grass will be laid and sprinklers repaired as the sidewalk reconstruction is completed. Work has begun to complete the project on Runnymeade, from Dumfries to Lymbar. SER plans to take advantage of the closing of Kolter for the holidays to progress as much as possible. However, it is anticipated that completion of Runnymeade will take at least three to six months. Work on Doud will follow. The Doud replacement and reconstruction work will proceed onto Braesheather, onto Endicott, and from Endicott exit into the existing South Braeswood drain, which flows into Brays Bayou. The section of Heatherglen at Doud will also experience construction work.

Loss of street lights in the Millbury area has been a major concern for months. MCIA and residents have expressed their safety concerns many times to the City of Houston representatives and CenterPoint. They have been unsuccessful in achieving positive results for their concerns. Some return of lights has taken place recently. At this time, SER is unaware if the work on Doud will also result in loss of street lights .

Jody Craze, Senior Project Manager, Public Works and Engineering, City of Houston, and Wanda Kegley, Inspector, Public Works and Engineering, City of Houston continue to carefully monitor the quality of work and compliance with city regulations. Traffic directions remain a challenge for workmen and residents. Construction work changes frequently. The flagmen have been crucial in directing traffic and preventing accidents. Call the MCIA office (713-729-2167) if you encounter a confusing traffic direction.







Amy Bernstein Leora Kah



**Leora Kahn** 713.826.9109

**Judy Levin** 713.204.8807



**Scott Minchen** 713.213.6829



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# LAWN CARE TIPS FOR THE WINTER

By Shirley Hou, Publications Committee

Wintertime is the season when most residents don't pay much attention to their lawns. Growth slows down, so the mowing frequency is scaled back. St. Augustine grass turns brown and dormant. It's easy to ignore the grass during this season, but this is actually the time to do some maintenance on our lawns in order for them to come back even greener and lusher in the spring.

# Claire Brand of Austin Landscaping provides these top 5 winter tips:

- 1. Keep leaves and thatch off the grass to keep fungus to a minimum. Sweep leaves out of the road to keep them out of the street drains.
  - 2. Treat lawn at least once with a slow release fungicide, but

subsequent applications may be required for wetter fall periods

- 3. Treat lawn with a slow release winterizer
- 4. Treat lawn at least once with a herbicidal pre-emergent to keep spring weeds to a minimum, but twice is optimal, once in November and once in January.
- 5. In late winter you should have a core aeration service performed. Also, Claire advises that homeowners should not make the mistake of turning off their irrigation systems, which will cause further compaction of the already clay, gumbo soil in Houston. Homeowners should merely minimize the watering schedule during heavy rain weeks. This is a good time to thin the oak trees and raise the canopies so that come spring/summer there is more sufficient light for more optimum growth.

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#### Trash/Recycling Schedule - January - February, 2015

January, 2015						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6 <b>Trash</b>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 <b>T/R</b>	14 Tree	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 <b>Trash</b>	22	23	24
25	26	27 <b>T/R</b>	28	29	30	31

	February, 2015						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	
1	2	3 Trash	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10 <b>T/R</b>	11 Junk!	12	13	14	
15	16	17 <b>Trash</b>	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24 <b>T/R</b>	25	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. 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.



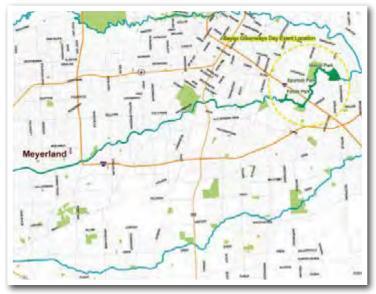
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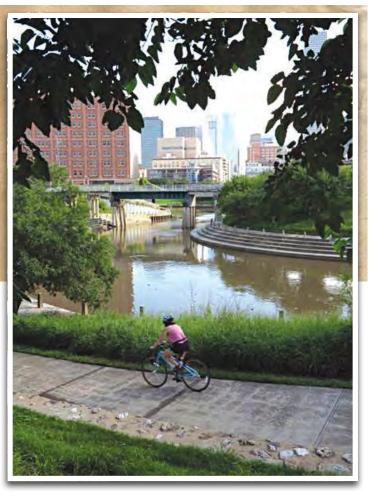
# April 4, 2015

By Gerda Gomez, Director of Section 7

The Houston Parks Board, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office and multiple organizations, will have an all day event, entitled Bayou Greenways Day 2015. The event will focus on the eastern section of Brays Bayou and Mason, Spurlock, and Fonde parks (see map). It will be a free, day long event providing the opportunity to get to know these parks, and walk, bike, jog, and paddle between the parks and along Brays Bayou. \*



The Houston Parks Board is a nonprofit organization that advocates for parkland in Greater Houston. One of its projects is maintenance of Houston's bayous under contract with the City of Houston. The increased mowing of Brays Bayou and adjacent grass, that Meyerlanders have been enjoying, is being done by the Houston Parks Board. The Houston Parks Board also saw to the removal of mounds of trash in Brays Bayou, trash which had collected over many years. This is land which until recently was cared for by the Meyerland Association.



Bayou Greenways 2020 is a long range initiative of the Houston Parks Board to be done in stages for development of parks and trail ways along the major bayous within Houston city limits. Bayou Greenways 2020 will significantly enhance and expand Houston's parks system and create a continuous network of walkable parks and trails along nine of Houston's bayous. The uninterrupted multiuse trails will be on at least one side of the bayous, including Brays Bayou. The Brays Bayou trail will extend from the Ship Channel to Beltway 8. The project will be done at a cost of \$220 million. \$100 million is coming from the \$160 million of the 2012 bond approved by Houston voters for park funding. The Houston Parks Board is responsible for raising the remainder of the \$220 million from donors. Bayou Greenway 2020 will result in 1,500 acres of new parkland.

\*An update on plans for Bayous Greenway Day 2015 will be presented in the March issue of the Meyerlander.

#### Sources:

Catherine Butsch, Communications Manager, catherine@ houstonparksboard.org

Amy Hoechstetter, MCIA General Manager, amy@meyerland.net Richard McNamara, Bayou Greenways Program Manager, richard@ houstonparksboard.org

Bayou Greenways 2020 website, http://houstonparksboard.org/ bgi/2020/

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## **Christmas Tree Recycling**

By the MCIA Office

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) is encouraging residents to recycle their Christmas trees which saves landfill space and disposal costs. The trees must have all decorations, ornaments, tinsel, lights and stands removed. Flocked trees cannot be recycled. Residents can recycle their trees from December 26th - January 7th by dropping them off at one of seventeen (17) free, drop-off, recycling sites located throughout Houston. The closest site to Meyerland is the Westpark Recycling Center at 5900 Westpark Drive. 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 collected. Trees that are collected for recycling will be ground into mulch that is available in bulk directly from Living Earth or available in bags at Houston retailers. Tree waste day in Meyerland is January 14th.



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# Houston Tree Protection Ordinance What You Need to Know

By Randi Cahill, MCIA Architectural Coordinator

Much of Meyerland's beauty lies in our green and lush surroundings. As the homes in Meyerland were being constructed, many trees were planted in the City of Houston utility easement located between the sidewalk and the street. These trees require care and in rare circumstances may need to be removed. Please do not attempt to remove City trees on your own. The City of Houston must approve the removal of any tree in the city easement. Removal without approval can result in very steep fines: \$90 per diameter inch and may include a fine of \$500 per day. More information on fines, and the Houston Tree Protection Ordinance can be found here: http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/docs\_pdfs/ tree\_shrub.pdf.

If any tree in the City's right-of-way needs care, such as removal of falling branches or removal of sick or dying trees, please contact the City by calling 3-1-1. Make sure to note the address where the tree is located and advise the City if the tree is a safety hazard. Please do not hesitate to call our office and provide the 3-1-1 confirmation number as well as other pertinent information about the report. We will be happy to assist you in following up on the matter.

#### JANUARY IS TREE WASTE COLLECTION MONTH WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH



### **Mothers' Groups in the Neighborhood**

By Shirley Hou, Publications Committee

Calling out to moms - do you have children age 5 and under and want to meet up with other moms for play groups, book clubs, and more? Check out these options. Go to the group's website for more information and to sign up.



MMOYC-sponsored craft table at Afternoon in the Park, 2011

### Meyerland Mothers of Young Children (MMOYC)

www.meyerlandmoms.org

Meyerland Mothers of Young Children is a parenting resource, networking and social group for Moms (and Dads) of preschool aged children (0 to 5 years) in the greater Meyerland area. MMOYC graciously hosts many activities with the the Association, including the 60th Anniversary Celebration held last October, and the biennial festival, Afternoon in the Park.

#### **Bellaire Young Mothers (BYM)**

http://www.bellaireyoungmothers.org/

We are a group of moms who live in Bellaire and the surrounding area. We have children of all ages, and include moms of all kinds. Whether you are a new, an experienced, or expecting mom, you are welcome to join us!

(Continued on next page)







BAMOM Garage Sale, September 2014

#### **Bellaire Area Moms of Multiples (BAMOM)**

www.bellairemoms.org

Our mission is to provide a support and social network for mothers and parents with twins and higher order multiples. BAMOM hosts a twice yearly garage sale at the Westbury Methodist Church in Meyerland and has over 250 members across the city of Houston. Every member has either twins, triplets, or quads!









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Most Houstonians are aware of Memorial Park with its 1,466 acres of land that is used by approximately three million visitors annually. The park boasts a 2.93 mile jogging path loop consisting of crushed granite that is used daily by thousands of runners and walkers. The park is a huge attraction because of its "wilderness in the city" aesthetic. Numerous running clubs use it as their base for weekly group runs. Because of its popularity, however, there are also traffic and parking problems that are abundant during marathon training season. For marathoners, the season usually begins in August and half marathoners start training in October for the Houston races held in January of each year.

It's not Memorial Park, but Meyerland residents are lucky to have the Brays Bayou Trail in their own backyards. No one can argue that the scenery is lacking on the Brays Bayou Trail in comparison to Memorial Park, but the convenience is unbeatable, bar none. Most Meyerland residents can walk out their front doors and within minutes be on the trail. The trail is not without its views which include copses of trees, herons and fish in the bayou and occasional wildflowers along the banks.

No one knows exactly how Brays Bayou came to be named, but Houston, known as Bayou City, is home to over 2,500 miles of waterways. Included in this are three primary streams: Brays Bayou, Keegans Bayou and Willow Waterhole Bayou. Together they encompass 127 square miles of drainage and 121 open stream miles. Brays Bayou is approximately 31 miles long and begins west of Highway 6 and flows east. It joins Buffalo Bayou at the Houston Ship Channel. Approximately three miles of this bayou runs through Meyerland between North and South Braeswood.

Prior to the 1950's, Brays Bayou was similar in appearance to Buffalo Bayou with trees, vegetation and natural habitats. The Houston floods of 1929 and 1935 resulted in the formation of the Harris County Flood

Control District in 1937. Its purpose was to prevent public calamity caused by flooding and to control the flood waters. In the 1950's the Army Corp of Engineers, in an effort to control flooding, changed the landscape of Brays Bayou. This included the realignment, dredging and concreting of the bayou.

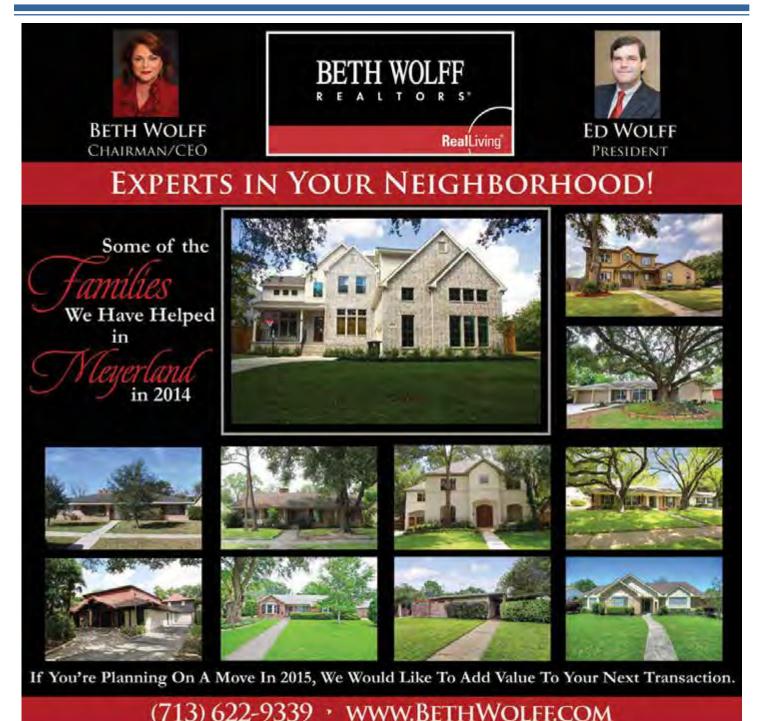
The Brays Bayou Trail adjacent to the bayou is approximately 12 miles long and was built by Harris County. The trail meanders along the bayou from Gessner to MacGregor Park and is open to walkers, joggers and bicyclists. The asphalt trail is used by many people whose destination is the Medical Center.

Currently it is training season for both the Houston Marathon in January 2015 and the MS 150 bike ride in April 2015. Therefore, on any given weekend, the trail is busy with runners and bikers training for their respective events. In addition, there are many walkers enjoying the convenience of the trail, as well as families toting their children in bike carriers and dogs taken on walks by their owners. A father and his young son were seen on the trail with a metal detector looking for the weekend's loot.

Justyna and Piotr Paczkowski have lived in Meyerland for 18 years. They can be found running on the Brays Bayou trail frequently as they are training for the 2015 Houston marathon. After the marathon is over they have plans to shave one minute off of their half marathon time in order to automatically qualify for entrance into 2016's race. This means there will be many more steps taken on the trail in their futures. Although the scenery may be lacking in comparison to Memorial Park, the weather is almost perfect this time of year and many residents are out enjoying their walks, runs and bike rides on the path conveniently located in their own "backyard". No commute is necessary!



MEY



Beth Wolff Realtors represented the buyer or seller of these listings in the greater Meyerland area