

Meyerlander MONTHLY

Volume 3 | Issue 9

MEYERLAND.NET

SEPTEMBER 2015



THOROUGHLY MODERN MEYERLAND

Our *Meyerland* schools are
a great source of pride.

Wishing the teachers, students and
families of Meyerland a great year!

Johnston Middle School Herod Elementary

Bellaire High School

Kolter Elementary Lovett Elementary

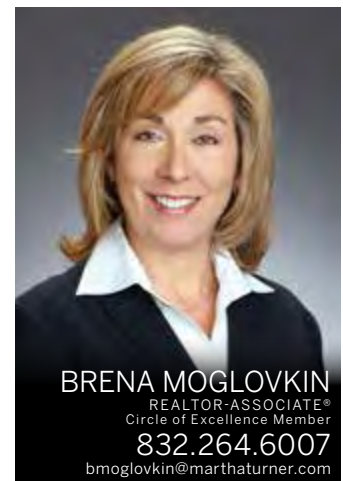


You deserve a great Realtor® who knows

Meyerland!

We have over 50 years of combined experience.

If you are thinking of buying or selling a home
in Meyerland, allow us to provide you with our
Meyerland expertise, the strength of Martha Turner
Sotheby International Realty's worldwide network
and a Relocation department coordinating moves
of buyers into Houston.



Sotheby's International Realty and the Sotheby's International Realty logo are registered (or unregistered) service marks used with permission. Operated by Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. Real estate agents affiliated with Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. are independent contractor sales associates and are not employees of Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. Equal housing opportunity.

Martha
Turner

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

MCIA OFFICE

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.

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., Houston, TX 77035

Visit our website at www.meyerland.net

SECURITY

Precinct 5 Constable (including burglar alarms) 281-463-6666

Emergency 911

Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency 713-884-3131

CITY OF HOUSTON

Houston Help & Information 311 or 713-837-0311

District C Council Member, Ellen Cohen 832-393-3004

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Elizabeth Black Berry

Vice-President Jim Walters

Treasurer Gerald Radack

Secretary Mike Jones

SECTION DIRECTORS

Charles Goforth Section 1

Bill Goforth Section 1

Jim Walters Section 2

Emilio Hisse Section 2

Open Section 3

Cary Robinson Section 4

Gary Altergott Section 5

Open Section 5

Elizabeth Black Berry Section 6

Lisa Gossett Section 6

Gerda Gomez Section 7

Dick Rentz Section 7

Marlene Rocher Section 8 North

Paul Connor Section 8 North

Jordan Longerot Section 8 South

Open Section 8 South

Larry Rose Section 8 West

Steve Fowlkes Section 8 West

Open Section 10

Mike Jones At-Large

Gerald Radack At-Large

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

MCIA Publications Committee

Gerald Radack - Editor

Shirley Hou

Elizabeth Black Berry

Marlene Rocher

Amy Hoechstetter

Joyce Young

Gerda Gomez

Send comments to meyerlander@meyerland.net

Publisher - Peel Inc. www.peelinc.com

Advertising 1-888-687-6444

Photo Opt Out - If you do not want your home's photograph featured in the newsletter, please send an e-mail to meyerlander@meyerland.net with your address and the subject line "Opt-Out."

Ad Disclaimer Statement - The Meyerland Community Improvement Association neither represents nor endorses the accuracy or reliability of any advertisement in our newsletter. We strongly encourage you to do your own due diligence before responding to any advertisement.

Meyerlander and Meyerlander Monthly are trademarks of the Meyerland Community Improvement Association (MCIA).

© Copyright MCIA 2015, All Rights Reserved

On the Cover

The stunning, modern home that graces this month's cover can be found at 4907 Imogene in Section 5.

Save the Date

Afternoon in the Park is back! Please mark the date, October 25th, on your calendars for a fun-filled day of FREE activities, entertainment and food. This spectacular event will take place at Godwin Park from 2 – 5 p.m. There will be lots of activities for both children and adults so be sure and SAVE the DATE and come join your neighbors and friends in October and partake in the festive activities!



Real Estate Rebounds After Flood Event

by Ed Wolff, Section 8 South Resident



The Memorial Day weekend flood of 2015 was the largest flood event ever experienced by Meyerland. Even though Meyerland was not the only neighborhood affected by the flood, it had the greatest number of homes that were damaged by water. Over 800 Meyerland residences experienced flood damage of some kind. During the two other significant flood events in Meyerland history, fewer than 300 homes were flooded by Hurricane Alicia in 1983, and fewer than 200 homes were affected during Tropical Storm Allison in 2001.

The real estate market trends in Houston prior to Tropical Storm Allison and the subsequent two years were analyzed by the Beth Wolff Realtors team. The analysis included lot value sales versus property sold for remodeling. The results of the analysis may indicate what may occur in the coming months in Meyerland:

After Tropical Storm Allison, there was a sharp decrease in sales price per square foot immediately following the flood. This appears to be due to longtime residents that were already thinking of selling their properties. The flood accelerated their decision and due to the high equity in their properties, they had the ability to accept a lower price per square foot. The typical buyers for these homes were investors seeking high profit margins from low cost properties.

In the subsequent nine to twelve months, there was a sharp increase in sales price per square foot in the neighborhoods most severely affected by the flooding. The sharp increase in price is attributed to investors selling their newly rehabbed investment properties.

A stabilization of values occurred 15 to 24 months after Tropical Storm Allison that resulted in an increased price per square foot of 3% to 7%. The team's opinion is that this was due to the large number of remodeled or newly constructed homes that were built within a short period of time. Generally, it takes 10 to 20 years for homes to go through a cycle of remodeling. Tropical Storm Allison accelerated

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

the period of rebuilding in Houston, which resulted in higher priced homes overall. If the real estate trends post-Tropical Storm Allison are repeated, it is the team's opinion that Meyerland, because of its strong community, will rebound. Even this writer is in the process of repairing his home for his family to enjoy for years to come.




★★★★★
Five Star Realtor

Cheryl Israel
832.459.7236
cheryl@bethwolff.com

BETH WOLFF
REALTORS®

RealLiving

Thank You, Jerry Goldman!

*by Rick Fritz, Co-coordinator of COP and Co-Chair
of the Security Committee*

More than six years ago in the spring of 2009, Jerry Goldman and a handful of other Meyerland residents started a Citizens on Patrol program. After several months of hard work, which included obtaining permits from HPD and signs from the City of Houston, many phone calls and sheer perseverance, the COP program was certified in October of that year.

Since then, Goldman has put in hundreds of hours patrolling, turning in monthly reports, coordinating training sessions with HPD and also spending much of his own money to keep this program viable.

HPD officers and Precinct 5 constables are very appreciative of the many hours that the volunteers of this program put in monthly to help keep Meyerland safe. We have Goldman to thank for his dedicated service to our community.

The floods of Memorial Day weekend severely damaged Goldman's own residence along with many other Meyerland residents. Goldman and his wife, Joan, have decided to sell their home and move closer to their relatives in California. We will miss them and we wish them the very best as they begin this new phase of their lives.

Thank you Jerry!!!





Trimming to Take-Downs
Trimming • Removal of Debris
Hedge Trimming • Stump Grinding
Professional Tree Health Care

Bonded & Insured Since 1987

Call David
Ph: 281-469-0458

BBB A+ Rating

TCA

Mention this ad for a Spring Special! Senior Citizens Receive an Additional Discount.

FREE ESTIMATES

jonesroadtreeservice.com



After School Care at Kolter and Lovett

by Joyce Young

The 2015-2016 school year has begun. Kolter Elementary School offers an Extended Day Program with two options. The first option is afternoon care from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. for Pre-K students and the second option is a combo care program from 7:00 - 7:50 a.m. and 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. for students K-5th grade. The extended day program gives students an opportunity to complete homework assignments and receive academic assistance. They may also participate in supervised indoor/outdoor activities.

Some of the after school clubs and organizations include Cougar Tech Team, Cross Country Running Club, French Club, Girls, Inc., Guitar, Gymnastics, Mad Science, Name that Book Club, Spelling Bee, Student Garden Club, Taiko Drums, UIL Academics, Zumba and VGA (Video, Graphics & Animation Club).

Lovett Elementary School also offers after school programs. Their activities include Mad Science, Contemporary Dance, Orchestra, Band Practice, Owl Chorus, Spanish, Handbells, Girls on the Run, Gymnastics, Lego Robotics, WHOS TV, Tennis and Karate.

Please contact Kolter Elementary, (713) 726-3630, or Lovett Elementary, (713) 295-5258, if you are interested in placing your child into one of these programs.

The Simplest Way to Stay on Top of Your Pet's Health

By Alanna Sinclair



Hi, I'm Champ, and my owners are Wendy & Danny Gold. I love eating carrots and Cheerios. I enjoy going on walks and snuggling on the couch.

As pet parents, we all want to make sure our pets live long, healthy lives. There are many ways to go about this, but one of the simplest ways that I've found is to check on your pet's physical health on a regular (usually monthly) basis. You can do this very easily by feeling their body during a regular petting session to make sure everything feels normal. Here are some basic directions, and what to watch for when checking the different parts of their body:

Head and Neck

Gently rub your hands along their head from the nose back, feeling for any lumps or hot spots (spots that feel hotter than the area around them). Note any runny noses or eyes, and any sensitive spots along the head. Give their breath a sniff, and pull up their lip to make sure gums are a nice pink. Sniff their ears for any strange odors and take a quick peek in both ears to make sure everything looks normal.

Back and Sides

Rub your hands down along their back and sides, feeling for lumps, hot spots, broken skin, and any sensitive areas. This should feel very nice and massage-like for your pet. They'll think they've wandered into a spa! This is also a good time to note their weight. If you press gently on the ribs and have a hard time feeling them, it may be time to fit in some extra exercise. If the ribs are clearly visible when you look at your pet, however, you may need to feed them a bit more.

Legs and Feet

Feel down the length of each leg, checking again for lumps, hot

Continued on Page 8

Save 15% until June 30, 2015!

CLOSETS | GARAGE | MURPHY BEDS | HOME OFFICE



Get Garage Storage for Father's Day!

713.688.8808 | SPACEMANAGER.COM

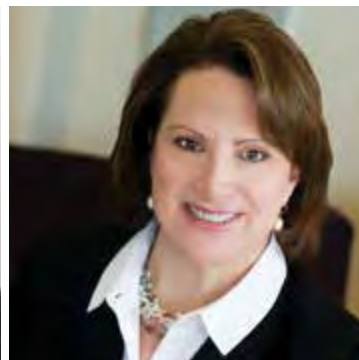
Owned by a Meyerland Resident since 1999!



Amy Bernstein
713.932.1032 x 148
abernstein@BernsteinRealty.com



Leora Kahn
713.826.9109
lkahn@BernsteinRealty.com



Judy Levin
713.204.8807
jlevin@BernsteinRealty.com



Scott Minchen
713.213.6829
sminchen@BernsteinRealty.com



Laura Perlman
281.796.1798
lperlman@BernsteinRealty.com



Sondra Rosenthal
713.870.3790
srosenthal@BernsteinRealty.com



Mindy Tribolet
713.502.5915
mtribolet@BernsteinRealty.com

**For a real estate experience that will exceed your expectations,
please contact us. We look forward to being of service to you!**

Your home. Our expertise.

713.932.1032
www.BernsteinRealty.com



**Bernstein
Realty**

Continued from Page 6

spots, and sensitive areas. Lift each of their feet and check the paw pads for wear and in between the paw pads for debris. Getting your pet used to the foot lift may take some training! Start with lifting each foot just a little off the ground and then lifting a bit more each time you do your monthly check. This could also be a good time to trim their nails if you choose to do so.

Rear and Tail

Run your hands along the length of their tail to check for hot spots and sensitive areas. Lift it gently to take a quick look at their rear end and watch for any swelling, broken skin, or left-behind feces. Congratulations! You've just given your pet a thorough once-over, and hopefully they'll just think it was a nice massage!

After going through this routine a few times, you will begin to see what is "normal" for your pet. Then, as you continue doing it you'll notice any changes and be able to act on them. Going to your vet for a checkup each year is great, but keeping an eye on how your pet's body is functioning in between vet visits is key. Remembering to do it consistently may be the hardest part. Lucky for us, we have cell phones! Try adding a phone calendar reminder to give them a good once-over on a monthly basis.

New Pastor and Principal at Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School

by Shirley Hou



Pastor Joshua Duffy, wife Mallory, and daughter Emersyn

The original developers of Meyerland designed the neighborhood to feature distinguished, single family homes surrounded by schools, parks, and houses of worship. One such house of worship is Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School, located at 8601 Chimney Rock, which anchors the northwest corner of Section 3. On July 12, Joshua Duffy was installed as the church's pastor. As a youngster, Duffy attended Pilgrim Lutheran School. He finished his high school education at Trinity Lutheran School in Klein and graduated from Concordia University in Austin. He served Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball as Director of Christian Education for a number of years under the leadership of Senior Pastor Wayne Graumann. Duffy then ventured to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to study for his role as pastor. Duffy brings with him an understanding of how to inspire and engage young people of all ages, and he looks forward to further activating the church's ministry to youth, young adults, and families. Duffy's wife, Mallory, and their toddler, Emersyn Rose, share his love for ministry.



Principal David Topp

Just one day after Pastor Duffy was installed at the church, Pilgrim Lutheran School welcomed David Topp as its new principal. Topp replaces Herb Mock, who served as interim principal in the 2014-2015 school year. Topp comes to Pilgrim with a stellar reputation as both a teacher and principal, having earned a Masters of Arts degree in Curriculum and Evaluation. Prior to receiving his call to Pilgrim, Topp was principal for four years at Trinity Lutheran School in Kalispell, Montana. At Trinity, he identified individual strengths of staff members and built a team to help turn the school into one of greater growth and stability. Over his 20-year teaching career, he has taught third grade in Utah and fourth through eighth grades in Montana. He has also coached softball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, and basketball off and on for 35 years. Topp and his wife of 30 years, Denise, have four adult children. Topp is excited to lead the school into its 61st anniversary year.



Compassionate Care by MED Relief STAFFING

In-Home Personal Care Services for Those in Need



713.270.4836

www.medreliefcaregivers.com

"The care you deserve from the people you can trust..."

Trash/Recycling Schedule - September - October, 2015

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

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

**WE PROTECT
THE POCKET**

SELL US YOUR CAR!

TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

by Amy Hoechstetter

Since the Memorial Day floods, it has been a hard road for many Meyerland homeowners to walk. Some residents still do not have insurance funds, a good contractor, or a nearby home to live in while repairs take place, but there are positive signs that things are returning to pre-flood conditions. Streets are bustling with activity, new materials are being trucked into the neighborhood daily, and the MCIA office has seen more residents in the last three months than we have seen collectively in the last year.

While we know people are still very frustrated over the seemingly unanswered question about the cause of the flooding, we hope that a friendly smile and assistance from the MCIA office will help all affected residents get back on their feet and into their homes. The Meyerland Board of Directors took steps to ease the difficult path by eliminating all repair and reconstruction fees through the end of the year, allowing trailers and PODS to remain on the property through the end of the year, and working expeditiously with homeowners to approve all plans to repair and reconstruct their properties. It is important that all homeowners get the proper permits. Permits not only need to be obtained from the City of Houston, but also must be obtained from the MCIA as well. While the Deed Restrictions do not govern interior construction, they do require approval for all exterior changes. If you are not sure if you need an approval, ask the office. We would rather tell you that an approval is not needed than have to halt your construction while it is in progress.

The silver lining out of this experience is that the residential landscape will change for the better, and a positive can-do spirit was evidenced during this event. The MCIA office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to assist you.

SEPTEMBER

is **FREE** Waste Collection Month

Wednesday, September 9th

SUDOKU

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

						7	5	
		4	6	2				8
		7		1				
	9				6	5	1	
	3				8	4		
	2				5		4	
	5	3				6		
		8		4	2			

© 2006, Feature Exchange

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.



Locally Owned & Operated Since 2006!!

5645 Beechnut St.

On the corner of Beechnut & Hillcroft in the
Maplewood Mall Shopping center

713-981-9191

Our facility offers the following:

- Month to Month Memberships
- 2 Workouts to get you started & Free Monthly Workouts
- Variety of Cardiovascular Equipment
- Circuit Training Equipment
- Complete Free Weight Area
- Core and Stretching area
- Lockerooms with Lockers & Showers
- Kids Club*

• **SENIOR PROGRAM AVAILABLE!!!**

Our web site- Soundfitnesshou.com

Free One Week Guest Pass

Guest passes for 1st time visitors. Must be 18 years or older and have local ID.

*additional fees apply. See club for details.

State ID #20060111

Discount with this ad: Summer Student Pass- 3 months for only \$99.00!!



Back To School

School starts in August, so now is the time for drivers to pay closer attention to the school zones in the neighborhood. We want to remind you that the speed limit in a school zone is 20mph and traffic fines double!

Other changes to be aware of include;

- Children behaving unpredictably
- School Bus Stops
- Crossing Guards – please obey the guards! Remember, they are there for the safety of you and your children
- New areas of traffic congestion
- Be prepared for delays
- Use of cell phones in schools zones is prohibited!

Please give yourself extra time in the mornings and mid-afternoons and remember if you are traveling in a school zone to slow down.

Time To Slow Down!

DO YOU HAVE FLOOD DAMAGE?



Build New or Renovate
Let Us Help You!



Call Incredible Renovations for a
FREE ESTIMATE Today
(713) 532-2526 or (281) 702-3188
www.incrediblerenovations.com



"It's refreshing to know there are professionals with this degree of integrity." Incredible Renovations made our complete home remodel an easy painless process! This is definitely no ordinary builder/remodeler."

Since 1979, Incredible Renovations— one of the most accredited builders in the building Industry

"On Time. On Budget...Guaranteed!"



TAWNY CRAZY ANTS

The Tawny crazy ant, formerly known as the Raspberry crazy ant, was originally found in Harris County in 2002. It is currently confirmed in 27 Texas counties.

Tawny crazy ants have a cyclical population level throughout the year with populations peaking in late summer, decreasing in the fall and then beginning to build again in the spring. Tawny crazy ants are capable of biting, but do NOT sting like fire ants. They are mostly nuisance pests, but can reach extraordinary population levels (in the millions) and can become a problem when getting into electrical equipment. Tawny crazy ants do not have nests or mounds like fire ants; they tend to nest under things- rocks, landscape timbers, flowerpots, etc.

For more information on this particular ant species go to <http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/raspberry.html>

Treatment Options

Removing harborage areas- fallen limbs, rocks, leaf litter, etc. These ants will nest under pretty much anything on the ground, so you may want to remove anything that is not necessary.

Alter moisture conditions (crazy ants prefer moist, humid conditions)- reduce watering, repair any leaks, improve drainage

Eliminate honeydew producers from area. Crazy ants tend honeydew producers such as aphids, whiteflies, hoppers, mealybugs and scale insects.

Use pesticide sprays to treat infested areas- under rocks, along landscape edging, etc. Pesticide sprays can also be used to create a barrier around the outside of the home. Piles of dead ants may build up in treated areas, so they must be removed to keep the barrier maintained.

Hire a pest management professional (PMP). PMPs have access to pesticides that are unavailable to homeowners and they also have experience dealing with pest problems regularly.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

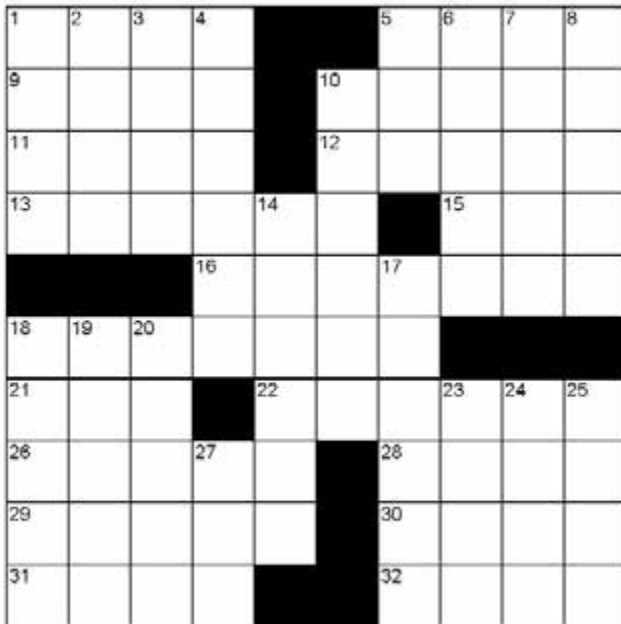
OUR PASSION IS GETTING YOU BACK TO YOURS.

At Houston Methodist, we know that with so much to enjoy in life, you can't afford to waste time suffering through joint pain. That's why we build your treatment around the latest minimally invasive techniques. Our joint replacement specialists have the knowledge and expertise to enable a faster, less painful recovery that helps you get back to doing what you love.

Schedule an appointment with one of our joint specialists at houstonmethodist.org/orthopedics or call **713.790.3333** for a physician referral.

HOUSTON
Methodist
ORTHOPEDICS & SPORTS MEDICINE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Canned meat brand
5. Recommend
9. Volcanic rock
10. Strength
11. Consumer
12. Refastens
13. Mire
15. Flurry
16. Remove a light bulb
18. Easier to get at
21. Frosty
22. Pretended
26. Spring flower
28. Basic's opposite
29. Buddy
30. Sliding toy
31. Ball player ___ Aaron
32. Food

DOWN

1. Ghetto
2. El ___ (Texas city)
3. Maintain
4. Plunder
5. Vase
6. Measuring instrument
7. Point
8. Render capable
10. Public transportation vehicles
14. Short-tempered
17. Put a fold in
18. Catch a ride
19. Sporty car brand
20. Synthetic fiber
23. Ca. University
24. Abstain from certain foods
25. Chances of winning
27. Writing liquid

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

© 2006. Feature Exchange

WHY CHOOSE OUR SERVICES?

We offer online billing and accept all credit cards

We have balanced billing maintenance plans for carefree automated service

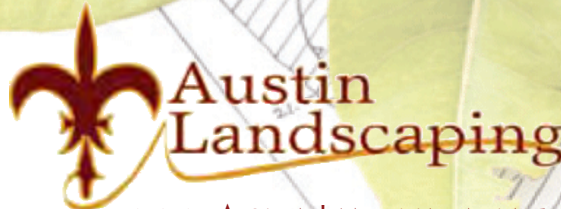
We customize each maintenance plan to match the clients budget and goals

Our landscape designs are hardy, lush, and professional and our pricing is competitive

Our managers are native, degreed & experienced with local landscapes

Lawn Care ~ Maintenance ~ Tree Care ~ Design & Installation ~ Turf Care ~ Hardscaping

713.778.1476



WWW.AUSTINLANDSCAPING.NET

Average mow price in your area is only \$30.00 for weekly and \$35.00 for biweekly service!

2007 Recipient of Mayoral Honorable Mention Award, Keep Houston Beautiful

TEXAS SPINY LIZARD

NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

One of the most common lizards in the Austin area is the Texas Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus olivaceus*). It is also one of the largest, averaging 7.5 to 11 inches in length, with the females being larger than the males.

A Texas spiny lizard is often hard to spot, as its dorsal pattern can vary by locality, serving as adequate camouflage in its chosen habitat. Typically grey in color with black, white, or reddish-brown blotches or crossbands down its back, it blends in perfectly against the bark of resident trees. Its underside is usually uniformly light grey, and males commonly have bright blue patches on either side of the belly. The scales appear particularly pointed and spiny, and it has long toes and sharp claws suitable for climbing.

All of these features serve this lizard well, as it is diurnal and arboreal, spending much of its time in trees. While it prefers larger tree species with a significant amount of leaf litter below, such as live oaks, post oaks, red oaks, pecans, hackberries, and elms, it may also be found in brushy trees such as mesquites and junipers. This lizard can also be seen climbing on man-made structures such as fence posts, walls, and telephone poles, especially when the base of these objects is covered in brush.

Typically shy and wary, this lizard quickly retreats to the opposite side of a tree trunk in the presence of a predator or human observer. If startled when approached closely, it will suddenly jump from a tree trunk and flee noisily into the leaf litter below, making it almost impossible to locate. Trees not only provide protection for this lizard, but they also provide for its food. Being insectivorous, it can find cicadas, crickets, grasshoppers, beetles, ants, butterflies, and caterpillars in the leafy canopy.

Male Texas spiny lizards are territorial, often defending a single tree from encroachment by other males. When challenged, the two males will have what appears to be a push up contest, until one is

intimidated enough to give up and scurry away. Active on the surface from March to November, these lizards are reproductively active throughout the warmer months of the year. Females lay up to four clutches of eggs in a shallow depression in leaf litter, with hatchlings emerging 45-60 days later. In the cooler months of the year, they take cover for weeks at a time under rocks, logs, and in deep leaf litter, and are occasionally seen basking in the sun on warmer, sunnier days.

So when you're out and about in your yard or at a park, and you hear something skittering in the leaf litter or retreating up a tree, it most likely is a Texas Spiny Lizard!

Send your nature-related questions to [HYPERLINK "mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com"](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



Make a *colorful* impact.

Call today to reserve this space.



PEEL, INC.
community newsletters

512-263-9181





Switch Your Home's Electricity Today!

Visit SparkEnergy.com/Meyerland

Or call 800.684.2043 and use Promo Code: MEYERLAND

For Your Special Community Discount



PEEL, INC.

308 Meadowlark St. South
Lakeway, TX 78734

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

MEY



BETH WOLFF
CHAIRMAN/CEO

BETH WOLFF
REALTORS®

RealLiving®



ED WOLFF
PRESIDENT



WHAT DOES COMING HOME MEAN TO YOU?

Dear Neighbor,

Recently “home” has meant many different things to me and my family, from friends helping Tenley and Jake pack up belongings in our flooded home, to staying at Grandma Beth’s and celebrating my birthday in Galveston. Recovery is a process and a journey. As a community we can work together. Presently, “home” is an apartment near Kolter. We look forward to getting back into *our* home and back to the neighbors we cherish.

Best Regards,
Ed Wolff

We Understand. Let Us Help.
Your Trusted Partner.

(713) 622-9339 · WWW.BETHWOLFF.COM