

Meyerlander MONTHLY



Volume 4 | Issue 1

MEYERLAND.NET

JANUARY 2016



A New Year, A New Start



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2016

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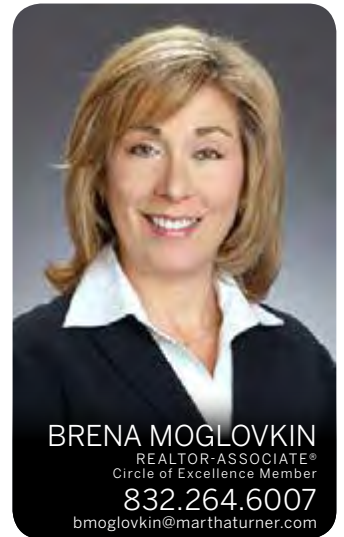
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Closed Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

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Visit our website at www.meyerland.net

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On the Cover

The Ladies of Lymbar Dr. is a group of neighbors who met during National Night Out week and have plans to advocate for their section of Meyerland.

New Year's Resolutions

by Elizabeth Black Berry

Happy 2016 fellow Meyerlanders! Like many, you may have made some resolutions or goals for the New Year. Consider adding one more goal for 2016: Contribute in some way, big or small, to your community. Consider one of the following or offer something "outside the box":

- Help host a small neighborhood get-together, at your home, or at a venue which we will help you locate
- Write a short article for the Meyerlander
- Help MCIA plan and host a 2016 Residents' Security Seminar
- Offer your expertise or connections on an as-needed basis (printing; interior design; connection with city or county officials; architecture; landscape).
- Run for MCIA Board (more in next month's issue and on meyerland.net) or offer to sit on an MCIA Committee.
- Offer to obtain residents' signatures when your Section's Deed Restrictions come up for amendment and restatement.
- Suggest other community events to get to know your neighbors.

From the 2015-2016 MCIA Board and me, we wish you a happy, healthy, successful and neighborly 2016!



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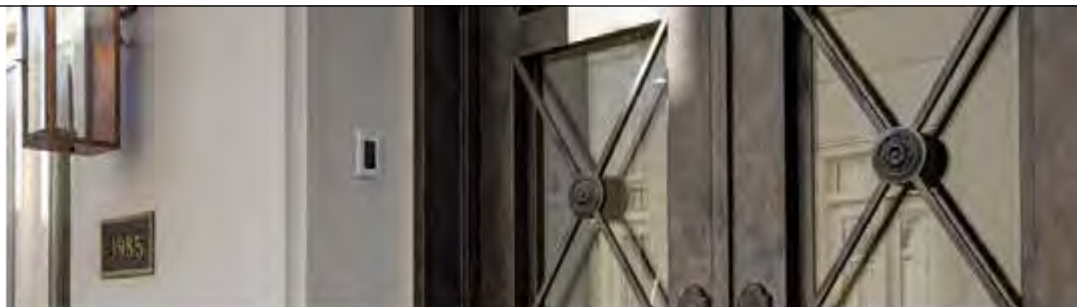
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Afternoon in the Park – A Community Celebration

by Joyce Young

On November 15, over 500 people showed up at Godwin Park to revel in the biennial Afternoon in the Park celebration. The day was perfect with sunny skies and autumnal temperatures. Visitors were greeted by MCIA directors and Meyerland residents received a “Houston Strong, Meyerland Proud” t-shirt designed by Section 8 North Director, Marlene Rocher, and her friend Brenda Groover. Along with the t-shirt, residents were given a free tote bag and coupon book, courtesy of Palais Royal.

The children were entertained by two bouncy areas, a petting zoo, face painting and balloon animals. In addition, this year there was an outdoor photo booth where individuals, families and friends were able to capture their fun day in the park while accessorizing with crazy and fun glasses, signs, boas, etc. The Houston mounted police, Precinct 5 constables and Citizens on Patrol were on hand to greet the residents. Long time Meyerland supporters, Brena Moglovkin and Terry Cominsky of Martha Turner Sotheby’s International Realty, provided cupcakes while Ed Wolff, President of Beth Wolff Realtors provided water and koozies. Belden’s Supermarket generously donated sodas, Blue Bell ice cream cups and spoons. The MCIA provided James Coney Island hotdogs, popcorn and cookies. Shred-It provided onsite shredding services during the festivities.

The beautiful weather provided a steady stream of visitors to the park who not only enjoyed the food and festivities, but were also treated to three hours of music provided by Jonathan Moody of San Antonio. His collection of Americana, Country and Acoustic Rock was the perfect repertoire that kept the crowd entertained and the little ones dancing. By afternoon’s end, the crowd was sated, happy and thankful for the experience.

Afternoon in the Park began in the early 2000’s as an event to encourage neighborly interaction and kinship. It is a biennial event that takes months of planning and hard work by a volunteer committee comprised of Shirley Hou, Amy Hoechstetter, Gerald Radack, Marlene Rocher, Elizabeth Black Berry and Joyce Young. The event is sponsored by the Meyerland Community Improvement Association (MCIA) who appreciate the residents who timely pay their assessment dues.

Afternoon in the Park’s 2015 event was another rewarding community inspired celebration and MCIA would like to thank all residents and directors who made this event so successful.



Afternoon in the Park Concert

by Joyce Young

This year's Afternoon in the Park brought something new. Instead of coordinating various musical and entertainment acts, Shirley Hou, event coordinator, booked a three hour concert by Jonathan Moody. Moody's brand of Americana, Country and Acoustic Rock provided the crowds with a wonderful mix of various cover songs. Interspersed with the music were some of Moody's original songs. Requests were made by the crowd, songs were played and feet were tapping. There was James Taylor, The Wallflowers, Tim McGraw, Leonard Cohen and much more.

Moody is a native Texan who graduated from A&M College Station where he played baseball. After college he got a "real" job using his agricultural degree. In his mid-20's he started performing at open mic nights and the passion grew from there. Today he writes his own music along with performing favorite popular music. He has performed on both the Grand Ole Opry and House of Blues stages. He was also the opening act in one of Robert Earl Keene's concert tours. Moody makes his home in the Hill Country. In April 2013 he released his first 6-song CD that includes all original songs.



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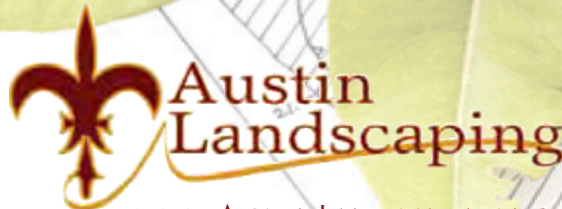
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Why Is Water Coming Out of the Sewer?

by Charles Goforth

Meyerland residents along with residents from Willow Meadows, Willowbend, Westbury, Bellaire, Maplewood, etc. have concerns regarding the sewage overflow that has been seen coming from some of the sanitary manhole openings during and after the recent heavy rains.

Houston is experiencing one of the wettest years on record and this is contributing to the inundation of water to the sanitary lines. When the sanitary lines are overcharged the release comes in the form of overflow at the low spots. If the overflow is obstructed and not allowed to exit at the low spots, then there is the possibility of spillage into homes. The release from the manholes is typically 80% or greater non-sanitary discharge, i.e., storm water (rain).

Jason Iken, Senior Assistant Director of Public Works Engineering confirmed the following information.

The main sources of sanitary line discharge include rainwater, which is by far the largest contributor. It can enter the system from multiple spots, including the breather holes in the manhole covers themselves. Once a street or backyard is flooded the water gushes into the system almost immediately and inundates the relatively small sanitary lines (as compared to the larger storm water drain lines).

Another contributor to the discharge is older, concrete slip joint pipes that drain from the house to the city line in the backyard. These old non-sealed lines along with missing or damaged (usually from lawnmowers) cleanout caps allow for the rainwater that pools in your backyard to enter the system.

There are also numerous sanitary manholes within a city block including backyards. Since these manholes are at ground level or below, rainwater will enter the sewer system when flooding occurs.

Pools that are not drained to the street contribute to the initial overflow and extend the duration of the overflow release. Homes that have installed backyard drains and/or have their gutter downspouts connected to the sanitary drain system are contributing to the problem. Even though the city does not allow this, many homeowners/contractors do this to avoid lengthy and expensive drain lines to the street that require permitting.

According to Iken there are steps that can be taken in order to lessen the overflow events.

Make sure any openings in your sanitary line from the house to the city line is sealed. Make sure you don't have anything openly draining into the sanitary line other than sanitary wastewater from

your home, i.e., backyard drains and gutter downspouts. Wait until well after the rain event to drain your pool down to normal levels. To avoid excess ponding in your backyard, install yard drains and gutter downspouts that empty to the front of your home (not to the sewer drain line). Make sure fence lines are clear of debris and water can easily pass through or under pickets. Properly grade your yard especially if you have a sanitary manhole cover in your backyard. Make sure the water flows away from it and not toward it.

In addition, there are steps the City of Houston can take. These include improving street drainage, which in large part means improving bayou drainage (county responsibility), so street manholes are not covered over with storm water during average rain events. The City can continue to replace failing sections of the system to ensure the most adequate flow possible, and in doing so replace the connections from the homes. The City can also spend more infrastructure dollars on the entire system including entry point, transportation lines, lift stations and treatment plant facilities with the understanding that there is a point of diminishing returns.

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is TREE Waste Collection Month
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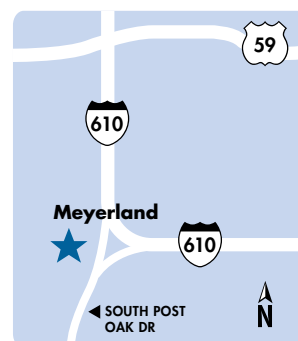
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Future Landscaping on Beechnut

by Charles Goforth

Installation of irrigation and landscaping along the Beechnut esplanades from Endicott to Chimney Rock is underway. With this latest phase, the areas surrounding the Meyerland monument signs will be irrigated and landscaped. The delays have been plentiful, but the end result will be well worth the wait. As with our other irrigation/planting areas, this is part of the City of Houston's Adopt-An-Esplanade program whereby Meyerland installs the irrigation system and maintains the landscaping, and the City of Houston provides the water.

Meyerland was the original participant in the Adopt-An-Esplanade program which began in 1979. Unfortunately, due to the high costs of maintaining and repairing old, corrosive steel pipes, the irrigation system was abandoned. With new products, such as plastic (PVC) pipes and flexible sprinkler heads, the Association found it feasible to renew the irrigation system.



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New Landscaping at W. Bellfort Sign

by Charles Goforth

Meyerland Community Improvement Association took advantage of a matching grant program offered by the City of Houston to improve the W. Bellfort esplanades. A special thanks to Council Members David Robinson for initiating the program, Ellen Cohen for assistance in procuring the funds and Larry Green. Also thanks to our W. Bellfort neighbors Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cabana Car Wash and Gabbanelli Accordions for their letters of support.



Proposed Deed Restriction Changes in Sections 7-C and 8-I

by the MCIA Office

The MCIA Board of Directors is releasing proposed changes to the Sections 7-C and 8-I deed restrictions which may be found on our website, www.meyerland.net. The Board solicited feedback from residents through December 31st. The next step is for the committee to review the suggestions and make a final recommendation. A final version for signature may be presented to residents as early as mid-January.

The Board feels that the proposed amendments are necessary to allow property owners to optimize the use of their lots while maintaining the quality of care and construction in Meyerland.

We are requesting that all homeowners carefully review this proposed deed restriction set as the documents contained therein will be presented to the board for approval and adoption. Even if you do not live in Sections 7-C and 8-I, future revisions will be based on a similar framework of deed restrictions. The proposed changes are available at www.meyerland.net.

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| January, 2016 | | | | | | |
|---------------|------|------------|-------------|--------|------|------|
| Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Trash | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 T/R | 13 Tree! | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Trash | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 31 | 25 | 26 T/R | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

| February, 2016 | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|-------------|-------------|--------|------|------|
| Sun. | Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. |
| | 1 | 2 Trash | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 T/R | 10 Junk! | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 Trash | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 T/R | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | | | | | |

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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Annual Assessment Letter

Editor's Note: The following letter was enclosed with each homeowner's 2016 annual assessment. The letter is re-printed here to ensure all homeowners receive this important information.

Dear MCIA Member,

Your 2016 invoice for the annual Meyerland Community Improvement Association (MCIA) Maintenance Fee and Security Assessment was mailed in December. If appropriate, past due assessments, legal fees and other amounts due to the MCIA are also shown. The total amount is due and payable January 1, 2016. Unpaid amounts will be considered delinquent after February 1, 2016. Property owners will be charged on April 1, 2016, a 10% interest fee per annum for unpaid maintenance fees.

2016 Maintenance Assessment

The maintenance fee for 2016 remains at 2.1123 cents per square foot of lot area for all Meyerland properties for yet another year. This rate has not changed since it was first assessed in 2007. The MCIA volunteer Board of Directors and the professional staff work hard to keep costs low by searching for ways to bring value to the neighborhood on a cost effective basis.

2016 Security Assessment

Meyerland will maintain seven (7) Harris County Precinct 5 deputies on patrol for 2016. The Security Assessment remains a flat rate of \$237.17 per property and fully covers the cost of this contract. This cost is a function of the number of deputies that patrol under our contract and is set by Harris County. All city neighborhoods pay the same rate per deputy. The County requires that each property within the contract be charged an equal amount. The rate charged by the County is currently unchanged from 2015.

Save the Date

The MCIA Annual Meeting will be held in March 2016. The Annual Meeting is YOUR forum for official MCIA business. We will announce the exact date and venue in a future issue of the Meyerlander newsletter and it will be posted on our website found at www.meyerland.net. The meeting is normally held in one of the elementary schools within Meyerland. Please plan to attend.

Financial Condition

Your Association will finish 2015 in solid financial condition. Each year an independent CPA firm audits the MCIA financial records. Annual audit reports are posted on the web site.

What the Future Holds

In this upcoming year, we intend to focus on updating the restrictions and policies and completing the scheduled improvements to the grounds MCIA works diligently to maintain. The demographic and lifestyle changes, as seen in the new Meyerland construction over the last decade, will further improve Meyerland. If you want to be a part of the decisions made for this outstanding neighborhood, let us know. The board needs dedicated, decisive people who have a strong desire to see the growth and success of our neighborhood. We can be contacted via email at office@meyerland.net or by phone at 713-729-

2167. Another way to get involved is to volunteer on a committee. If you are interested, you may phone your section Director (contact information on our web site, www.meyerland.net) and tell us what is on your mind or where you can help.

Yours for a better Meyerland,

Elizabeth Black Berry

2015-2016 President

Note: Payments to MCIA for assessment dues are not tax deductible.



Christmas Tree Recycling

by the MCIA Office

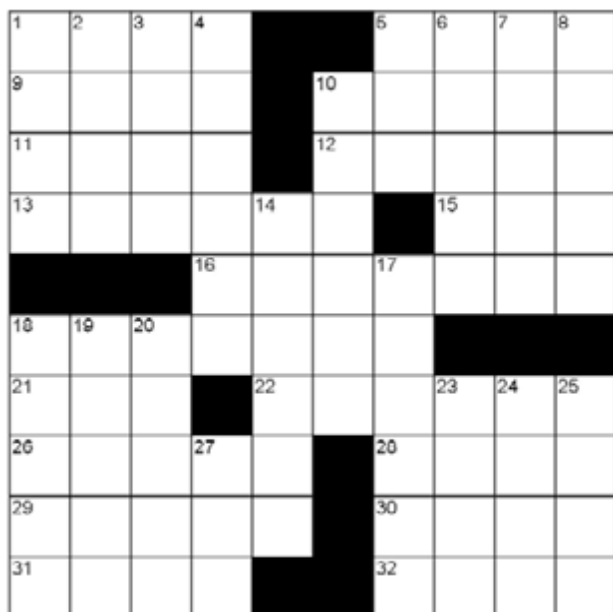
The Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) is encouraging residents to recycle their Christmas trees in order to save landfill space and disposal costs. Residents can recycle their trees by dropping them off at one of eighteen (18) free, drop-off, recycling sites located throughout Houston. The program runs from December 26, 2015 to January 7, 2016. All facilities are closed January 1, 2016. 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 recycled. Trees that are collected for recycling will be ground into mulch.

NOTE: The trees must have all decorations, ornaments, tinsel, lights and stands removed. Flocked trees cannot be recycled.

The closest center to Meyerland is the Westpark Consumer Recycling Center at 5900 Westpark Road.

Residential Curbside Pick Up: January 13th

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Charge
5. Syrian bishop
9. Against
10. Landing
11. Leaves
12. Boom box
13. Allure
15. African antelope
16. Polite
18. Leafy green
21. Marry
22. Esophagus
26. Woken
28. Goad
29. Type of tooth
30. Refer
31. Posttraumatic stress disorder
32. Sieve

DOWN

1. Nativity scene piece
2. Competition at the Greek games
3. Capital of the Ukraine
4. Symbol
5. Expression of surprise
6. Emblem
7. Pickle juice
8. A ball out of bounds (2 wds.)
10. Twist violently
14. Ripper
17. Strums
18. Slough
19. Ross ____, philanthropist
20. Gods
23. Brand of sandwich cookie
24. Seaweed substance
25. Cabana
27. Blue

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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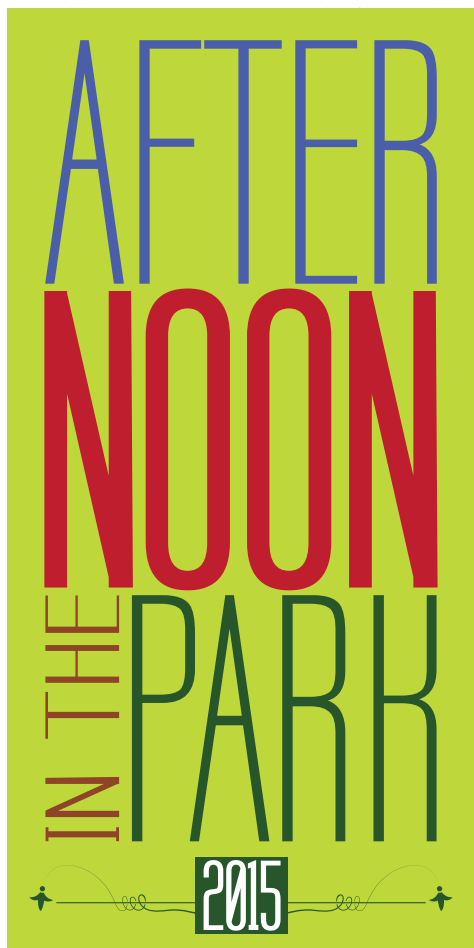


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