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Volume 4 | Issue 6

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JUNE 2016



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Catherine Martin, Randi Cahill Office Staff

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Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Central Time
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4999 West Bellfort St., Houston, TX 77035

Visit our website at www.meyerland.net

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ON THE COVER

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Deja Vu

By Shirley Hou

On Monday, April 18, many Meyerland residents awoke to find themselves in a familiar and unwelcome situation - feeling afraid that their house would flood. . . again! A slow moving and powerful storm system moved into Harris County in the evening hours of April 17. By the early morning of April 18, torrential rainfall hit Southwest Houston. The "Tax Day" Flood had arrived.

According to the Harris County Flood Control District's second report released on May 10, rainfall over upper Brays Bayou averaged 7.5 to 9.5 inches in 12 hours and 6.0 to 6.5 inches in 2 hours. An average of 7.75 inches of rainfall occurred across Harris County equating to over 240 billion gallons of water. Eighty billion gallons more water fell across Harris County with the April 2016 event compared to the Memorial Day Flood of 2015.

For many Meyerland homeowners, this second flood in less than 12 months was devastating.

According to the MCIA office, approximately 250 previously flooded home sites in Meyerland received water during the Tax Day Flood. At least 100 homeowners had recently returned to their homes, only to get water again. Some homeowners were still putting their homes back together when the waters came in and destroyed their progress.

A mixture of despair, anger, grim resolve, and even gallows humor permeate Meyerland as affected homeowners navigate FEMA, the City of Houston, insurance companies, banks, remediation companies, and contractors to decide if they should, and how to put their homes back together. Residents are becoming more active politically as they demand solutions from the mayor, City Council, and other governmental agencies involved with Houston's development and drainage systems. Some have joined social media support groups and the nonprofit group, Residents Against Flooding, to support change.

If there is any bright spot, it appears that the City of Houston reacted more quickly this time, at least in the Meyerland area. Visible police presence was placed in the area and the Waste Management Department added additional heavy trash pick up days to collect the piles of flooded debris. The City is proactively clearing the larger city storm drains in hopes that when we have another rain event, the systems will be working more efficiently. Harris County and the state are also clearing the bayous of debris. Even though Meyerland has suffered two devastating flood events in less than 12 months, the spirit of Meyerland remains intact as neighbors reach out to affected neighbors to lend a helping hand. With grit and determination Meyerland residents have shown that it will take more than water to defeat them.



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Procedure Changes for Application Requests

by the MCIA Office

Recent events (i.e., a little rain) have impacted the MCIA's architectural and plan review processes. One-third of Meyerland homes were affected by the Memorial Day 2015 or Tax Day 2016 floods, but the three office staff and six volunteers who are tasked to move projects along swiftly has not changed. Due to the current 102 active new home projects (with many more expected on the horizon), in addition to approximately 30 new applications received monthly, the turnaround time has been impacted.

In order to accommodate the higher workflow and ensure the same quality and excellent service fairly to all residents, the MCIA office has modified some procedures. Firstly, a simple application (e.g., roof, fence, sidewalk, accessory building, paint, etc.) will now take a minimum of three days to approve. Secondly, plan review meetings with Randi Cahill, our Review and Control Committee/

Architectural Control Committee liaison, will now require a scheduled appointment. Walk-in appointments will not be accepted. It is extremely important that all application rules are followed and that your architect/builder/contractor reads the Deed Restrictions carefully. Multiple reviews of plans by the office staff before the formal presentation to the RCC or ACC is no longer possible due to the high volume of applications. Appointment scheduling has been streamlined by moving the process online. You may schedule an appointment for architectural applications by visiting the calendar found at <https://mciaplanreview.youcanbook.me/> and choosing an available date and time.

We appreciate your cooperation with these new procedures. For more information regarding what you need to present with your project plans, please visit our website at Meyerland.net.

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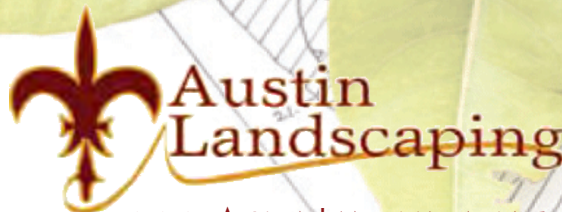
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Trash/Recycling Schedule

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

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

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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Deed Restrictions Are Ready for Your Signature

by the Deed Restriction Renewal Committee

After nine months of hard work and dedication by Section Directors, Deed Restriction Renewal Committee members and the homeowners of the 7-C and 8-I sections, revised Deed Restrictions are ready for approval by homeowners. The new Deed Restrictions have been mailed via USPS to homeowners in Sections 7-C and 8-I. They have also been emailed to those residents whose contact information is on file.

Within one week of mailing, notification to the residents of the request for re-statement of the Restrictions, 27 homeowners in Section 7-C and 14 homeowners in Section 8-I have signed the new Deed Restrictions. The Association anticipates that by the time this article is published, the required number of signatures necessary to pass the new sets of deed restrictions will be met. For both Sections, 50% plus 1 of the homeowners' signatures is required for the new Deed Restrictions to be active.

If you are not sure whether you live in one of these two sections, please use our "Find Your Section" tool found on our website at <http://www.meyerland.net/en/tx/index.php/general-information/find-your-section>.

The new Deed Restrictions contain a signature page in the back

which must be signed in front of a notary by all legal owners of a property and returned to the MCIA office. If you prefer to have your document notarized elsewhere and mail the signature page to the office, please note that the original document must be returned. Photocopied, faxed or emailed signature pages will not be valid. You can take advantage of free notary services at the MCIA office during regular office hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, or 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Friday.

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SUMMER TIME ACTIVITIES

by Joyce Young

School is out and the kids are getting restless. What is a parent to do? As it turns out, Houston has many activities to keep children entertained this summer no matter their ages.

The Nature Discovery Center at 7112 Newcastle in Bellaire, TX has Nature Story Time on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Each week a book on different nature topics will be read. There will be live animal demonstrations, specimens to observe and touch, nature walks and crafts. This activity is free to the public. Visit naturediscoverycenter.org for more information.

The Little Gym of Houston – Bellaire at 8415 Stella Link, will host a Parents' Survival Night event on Friday, June 3. For a fee, parents can drop off their kids ages 3-12 for an evening of games, gymnastics, pizza and crafts while the parents are free to enjoy a night out sans children. More information can be found at thelittlegym.com/houstonbellairetx.

The Museum of Fine Arts at 1001 Bissonnet will have an MFAH teaching artist on hand with paper, pencils and clipboards to get you started on your sketching journey. Everyone is invited to sharpen his or her observation skills and have fun while sketching works of art in the galleries. This informal program is free with museum admission and takes place on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. See mfah.org for more information.

For the budding culinary kiddos, the Urban Chef at 3651 Wesleyan is offering classes in various savory and sweet categories. Kitchen basics and safety will be taught. Upon completion of the weeklong class your child will receive a Certificate of Completion, T-shirt and recipes. For more information, please visit urbanchefhouston.com.

On June 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Meyer Neighborhood Library at 5005 West Bellfort, Houston, TX will host a free Hula Hoop Building Craft Workshop for Kids. This project will have your kids spinning with delight all summer as they make a hula hoop from start to finish that is the perfect size for their height. The workshop also includes decorating the hula hoops. Visit popshopamerica.com for more information.

Vault Houston located at 1824 Spring Street, is offering a Vault Summer Aerial Camp. Kids ages 7 – 18 can learn aerial fabric, trapeze, hoop, hammock and harness in a fun, safe environment taught by professional aerialists. Students will build strength and self-esteem while learning proper technique and skills. For more information please visit vaulthouston.com.

During the summer months the Jewish Community Center of Houston located at 5601 S. Braeswood is offering various activities for all age groups. These activities include indoor tennis, gymnastics, art, dance, aquatics, theater, sports, preschool and more. Additional information can be found at erjchouston.org.

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Places to Swim Near Meyerland

by Shirley Hou

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 Town Square Family Aquatic Center

7001 5th Street
Bellaire, TX 77401
(713) 662-8280

Weekley Family YMCA

7101 Stella Link Blvd.
Houston, TX 77025
(713) 664-9622



Bring the World into Your Home

Ayusa International, a non-profit organization that has promoted global learning and leadership through high school student cultural exchanges for more than 35 years, is launching its annual search for families in Houston and the surrounding area interested in hosting international students for the 2016-2017 school year.

Ayusa host families who volunteer to open their home to exchange students contribute to the global community as public diplomats for greater international understanding. Each host family and student creates a lasting relationship that spans the cultural differences between their two nations.

The Bray Family from Houston has been hosting two students this year, Mahau from France and Genzo from Japan. Both students have been attending Mayde Creek High School this year. The Brays have six children of their own but feel that hosting exchange students is "probably one of the best decisions our family has ever made," according to host mom April Bray. "[The students] quickly become a part of your family and it's always a great feeling to see their eyes light up when they experience something for the first time or hear the excitement in their voices when they tell you about a new friend they made at school. Your children also get to gain another brother


or sister and it's always fun to see them trying to learn your exchange student's language or customs. For us, there is no greater feeling than watching our exchange students succeed and grow and being able to share our culture and learn more about theirs."

The students have also been having a wonderful experience with the Bray family. Genzo shares, "My host family is so nice to me and I feel like this family is the home I can go back to. They make me feel like I'm loved by them. Of course you can share your culture and learn the language but more importantly, you can experience the other family that you love." His exchange "sister" Mahau says, "It's crazy how much you can love people you didn't know 10 months before. Every day they make my exchange year super great. I consider them like a member of my family. They are the reason why I enjoyed every single day of my new life."

Ayusa works with diverse families who are interested in hosting an international student of high school age. Families without children, empty nesters, military families, retirees, and single people are all welcome. Ayusa families come from all over the country and reside

(Continued on Page 14)

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(Continued from Page 12)

in rural, suburban and urban communities.

"Houston is a popular destination for Ayusa exchange students in the U.S.," says Heather Wells, Ayusa Regional Manager for the Southwest. "Host families love to share the diversity and history of Houston. It's such a fun area to live in, with activities and things for students to experience, from music and sports to outdoor activities and delicious Tex-Mex!" She continues, "If you have ever wanted to learn about a new culture while sharing life in America, I encourage you to give us a call or check out our website to learn more about how you can create an international friendship that lasts a lifetime!"

Host families provide the exchange student with three meals a day and a bedroom (private or shared). A professionally trained Ayusa representative supports each host family, student, and local school throughout the program year. Ayusa's exchange students are 15-18 years old and come from more than 60 countries around the world. Students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English.

How to Host an International Student

Interested families can learn more about the program and available exchange students and request additional information by visiting <http://www.ayusa.org> or calling 1-888-552-9872.

The process to apply is simple. Families complete the online application, which includes questions about themselves and local high school, references, and a background check. The local Ayusa Community Representative conducts an in-home interview. They can also help each family with any questions they may have about the application or process.

After families are fully approved, they can select the Ayusa student they would like to host.

About Ayusa

Ayusa International (<http://www.ayusa.org>) is a 501(c)3 non-profit student exchange organization founded in 1981 and an official U.S. Department of State designated Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor. In addition, Ayusa administers high profile grant programs funded by the U.S. Department of State and other organizations. Ayusa is a sister company of Intrax, a family of organizations that provides a lifetime of high-quality educational, work and volunteer programs that connect people and cultures. Intrax is headquartered in San Francisco with offices on four continents.

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