

Meyerlander MONTHLY



Volume 4 | Issue 10

MEYERLAND.NET

OCTOBER 2016



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MEYERLAND | 5114 Braesheather Drive
Offered at \$420,000
±3,243 SQ.FT. | ±11,570 SQ.FT. LOT

Sale Pending!



MEYERLAND | 5230 Ariel Street
Offered at \$599,000 | 4-5 BEDROOMS | 3 BATHS | ±2,995 SQ. FT.
Never flooded. Home offers large formals and game room. Pool.

SOLD!



MEYERLAND | 5022 Beechnut Street
Last list price \$339,000
3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHS | ±1,560 SQ. FT

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Visit our website at www.meyerland.net

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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

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Meyer Branch Library 832-393-1840

Godwin Park Community Center 713-393-1840

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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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ON THE COVER

"Meow've" over! Kirby and Millie Mayfield love to "cat nap" together. The owners are Greg & Martha Mayfield.

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Wednesday, October 12th

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Great Things are Happening at Herod Elementary

by Amy Hoechstetter



Gary Herod Elementary has a new Principal. Michelle Turek joined the Herod team in her role as principal beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. Her career in education began as a high school English teacher where she taught English in both middle and high schools. Ms. Turek was an instructional specialist and then served as an assistant principal at Deady Middle School. Prior to her new role as Herod's principal, she served as assistant principal

at Roberts Elementary. She received her Bachelor's Degree in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Houston-Downtown and her Master's Degree in academic leadership and supervision from the University of Texas at Arlington. Ms. Turek looks forward to bringing her knowledge and expertise in working with students and professional staff to Herod.

Herod's active Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) was extremely successful last year and raised more money than it had ever raised in the past. This year, the PTO has set even higher goals. Last year's successful fundraisers included the Fun Run which encouraged parents and friends to sponsor students who run laps around the track. The activity promotes physical health and welfare as well as benefitting the school financially. The PTO also held a Silent Auction in the spring and it was the most successful school auction to date. Both events are used to secure funds for school programs in addition to the funding they receive from HISD. The PTO plans to host both of these fundraisers in the 2016 - 2017 school term.

Last year Herod Elementary implemented a teacher blog whereby teachers could communicate with parents by posting weekly updates. The idea behind the blog was that the more information a parent receives about his child's school, the more involved the parent will become in his child's education. This in turn would bolster the student's academic and social success. The school would likewise benefit from more parental involvement and support.

In July 2016, Herod's Plant Manager, Ms. Janice Gordon, received the honor of Employee of the Month by HISD. Gordon is tasked with keeping the school's grounds safe, clean and attractive. She was chosen from all HISD employees and recognized for her well-manicured lawns at Herod Elementary. Congratulations to Ms. Gordon!

Meyerland

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National Night Out October 4th

By Catherine Martin

Tuesday, October 4th is National Night Out. National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. Many homeowners host NNO parties in order to meet and develop relationships with their neighbors as they watch out for each other on their street.

Please also visit the Precinct 5 website to take advantage of several valuable free programs that are offered to help keep you and your community safe. For example:

Home Safety Inspections:

To schedule an inspection at your home, please contact Deputy Kovar at (281) 642-8814, or john.kovar@cn5.hctx.net

Operation ID:

A Precinct 5 Officer will bring an engraver to your residence for you to use. You engrave your items with an identifier of your choice (driver's license number, initials, a logo or a keyword). If an item is stolen, it is easier to identify and return to the original owner as well as prosecute the violator. To request an engraver send an email to pct5webadmin@cn5.hctx.net. Please include a contact phone number.

If you host a block party, please forward photographs of your best party moments that can be shared on the Meyerland website and in the Meyerlander Monthly. We look forward to hearing from you and sharing the pride our homeowners take in protecting their Meyerland homes.

Meyerland FARMERS MARKET

Local Farmers Market Set To Open November 19

by Shirley Hou

Shopping for farm fresh vegetables, fruits and dairy products directly from local growers and farmers right in our neighborhood will become a reality this fall when the Meyerland Farmers Market opens Saturday, November 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the southeast corner of Beechnut and Chimney Rock, in the parking lot of Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School.

Farmers and local producers will be offering a host of high quality produce, specialty foods and organic dairy products and fine meats. Communities like Meyerland that support farmers markets help sustain local family farms and growers while providing residents in the area with access to healthy foods and products.

The family style market will be supervised by a professional market manager and a security officer every Saturday when the market is open - rain or shine. Parking will be available at Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School, in addition to Moonlight Street and adjacent streets. We urge residents to walk or ride bikes to the market in order to reduce traffic congestion. Don't forget to bring reusable shopping bags.

For additional information, please visit the Meyerland Farmers Market Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/meyerlandfm>.



Parking Woes around Johnston Middle School (now MMPVA)

by Amy Hoechstetter

Homeowners who live around Meyerland Middle School for the Performing and Visual Arts (MMPVA), formerly Johnston Middle School, attended the MCIA Board of Directors meeting on September 12th to express their frustrations regarding the deteriorating parking situation near the school. MMPVA is located in Section 8 South at 10410 Manhattan Drive. Numerous parking violations at drop off and pickup times affect residents who live in the 5200 and 5300 blocks of Lymbar, Cheena, Wigton, Yarwell and Dumfries. The problems include blocked driveways, parking on “no parking” sides of the street during drop off and pick up, littering of neighborhood homes, etc. Of utmost concern is the potential for first response vehicles to be unable to navigate the affected streets in the event of an emergency. These issues have plagued the area and worsened over the last two school years.

In an effort to alleviate the parking violations, the Board of Directors voted to designate funds for off-duty police officers to execute an appropriate enforcement plan. In addition, homeowners

living on or near the affected streets will be receiving a reminder from the MCIA Office regarding the parking rules governed by the City of Houston and the Meyerland MPVA.



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

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

By Joyce Young

The Meyer Neighborhood Library located at 5005 West Belfort has various programs available in addition to its regular lending of books, videos and audio tapes. The following activities will be held at the Meyer library in October:

Baby Playtime for babies aged 0 – 18 months will take place on October 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. This activity provides networking opportunities for parents and caregivers.

Toddler Storytime for children aged 18 – 36 months will be held on October 5 and 12 from 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. Activities including stories and songs will be geared toward developing a toddler's social, motor and literacy skills.

Preschool Playtime will be held on October 5, 12 and 19 from 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. This time will be used to help prepare a child for school using creative and collaborative play experiences.

Mystery Book Club will take place on October 10 from 1 – 2 p.m. for adults.

Teen Craft will take place on October 20 from 6 – 7 p.m. This session is geared toward teenagers aged 13 – 18.

Additional information for these activities can be found at houstonlibrary.org.



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Light the Night

by Amy Hoechstetter

The image of a well-lit street brings to mind a vibrancy and joie de vivre. Whereas, by contrast, darkness brings to mind images of depression and gloom. The streets of Meyerland are varied in their degrees of light and darkness. Due to the recent flood events, some homes show no signs of life as the electricity is still disconnected. Other homes are in the process of being rebuilt and no light fixtures have been installed. Some areas are empty lots with no means for lighting. But, for most of Meyerland, the reason for dark streets is simply because the homeowner has not turned on his porch light.

In addition, to the warm and inviting feeling one gets from a well-lit street, the light also provides security to our homes. Security experts state that turning lights on at night is a deterrent to crime. Gone are the days of a single porch light. Today a homeowner can choose from many and varied landscape lighting options that not only add to the design aesthetic of the home, but also provides a

sense of security. Prospective home buyers are more likely to have their interest piqued when driving through a neighborhood that is well lit. As the daylight hours of summer wane, it is even more imperative that the outdoor lighting is increased.

For homeowners affected by the flood and are temporarily displaced from their Meyerland residences but still have power, please consider turning on your porch light at night for security reasons. For the approximately 1,400 homes that were not impacted by the floods, please consider turning on your porch light also. The well-lit streets of Meyerland will appear inviting to all and yet function as a deterrent to the criminals driving the streets. If the City of Houston light is out on your street, or is dimmed because of overhanging tree branches, please call 311 with the specific pole number to report the problem.

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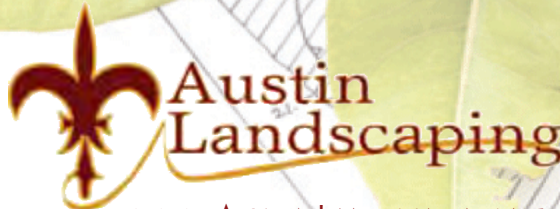
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Museum of Fine Arts

By Joyce Young



The Museum of Fine Arts, located in close proximity to Meyerland at 1001 Bissonnet, was established in 1900 and houses a collection of more than 65,000 pieces of artwork dating from antiquity to the present. The main campus is comprised of the Audrey Jones Beck Building, Caroline Wiess Law Building, and the Lillie

and Hugh Roy Cullen Sculpture Garden. In addition, there are two house museums: Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, and Rienzi.

Although the museum depends on admissions revenue, there are a number of opportunities to visit the museum for free. The Lillie and Roy Cullen Sculpture Garden is always free. Children ages 12 and under are always granted free admission. Most school tours are free and provide access to the museum for approximately 40,000 students each year. General admission to the museum is free to everyone on Thursdays. A Texas library card presented by visitors 18 and under allows free admission on the weekends. Approximately 40 percent of the visitors to the museum are admitted for free.

There are two new exhibitions at the museum that are being showcased: "Julian Onderdonk and the Texan Landscape" which includes more than 25 of the American Impressionist's signature paintings, and "A Texas Legacy: Selections from the William J. Hill Collection". This collection features more than 65 works that include furniture, drawings, paintings, pottery and silver. The exhibits will run concurrently from October 2, 2016, through January 2, 2017.



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Inspecting For Bed Bugs



insect is engorged with blood. Immatures, or nymphs, resemble the adults but are smaller and lighter in color. Usually adults are about the size of a watermelon seed.

Most feeding occurs at night when bed bugs pierce skin while people sleep. The bugs inject a fluid while feeding that can cause some people (about 50%) to have an allergic response. The allergic

Before the holiday travel season begins, it is wise to know what to look for when traveling so you do not bring home unwanted guests. Bed bugs are small, dark brown to reddish colored insects with no wings. Their bodies are oval and the color and size often depends on if the

response causes the skin to become irritated and itchy at the bite location.

After feeding (it takes about 12-15 minutes for a bed bug to become fully engorged), bed bugs crawl away into hidden areas- mattress seams, headboards, nightstands, behind baseboards as well as other locations. They

prefer to hide in locations that are close to where they feed, but they will crawl several feet to get to a meal. Bed bugs hide in their chosen location for about 3 days while they digest the blood meal. Over time, congregation areas become marked with blood, fecal material, hatched eggs and cast skins of molted bugs.

When travelling, always inspect rooms thoroughly for bed bugs before moving luggage into the room. Luggage should be placed into the bathtub until the room has been inspected. Make sure to carry a small flashlight to help with the inspection. When you return home, place clothing in the dryer (before washing) on high heat for about an hour to kill any bed bugs.

Tips on inspection:

- Look in sleeping areas (bed, pull-out couches)
- Inspect linens as they are removed from the bed
- Check mattress and box spring seams, bottom of the box spring and near the mattress tag
- Inspect the dust ruffle
- If possible, lift the boxspring and inspect the bed frame
- If possible, pull out or remove the headboard to inspect behind it

- Check bedside tables and everything on them, including opening all drawers

If you find bed bugs, go to the front desk to inform them of what you found and request a different room. Do not get a room that is adjacent, above, below or across from the infested room (bed bugs can travel through wall voids to adjacent areas).

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

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4 Spices with Surprising Health Benefits

When it comes to adding flavor to your favorite meals, there's more to seasoning than salt and pepper alone. There's a whole world of spices out there that can take your cooking game to the next level and offer some surprising health benefits along the way.

Spice up your meals with these top picks that are as healthy as they are versatile.

1) Oregano

Fun fact: One teaspoon of oregano has the same amount of antioxidants as three cups of spinach. This healthy herb also contains potassium, zinc, iron, protein, calcium, magnesium, and fiber.

Try it: Add a few pinches of oregano to a dish of melted butter. Brush it on fresh-baked dinner rolls for a flavorful finish.

2) Cinnamon

Sure, it's a tasty addition to all-things sugary and sweet, but did you know that cinnamon can help reduce blood sugar levels? Plus, it's been shown to help improve brain function, promote better heart health, and even protect against diabetes.

Try it: Top baked sweet potatoes with a dash of cinnamon and nutmeg. These two spices pair well together and their woody aromas make them top picks for holiday dishes.

3) Nutmeg

Speaking of nutmeg, did you know that this spice can help prevent cavities? It can also naturally detox the body, improve digestive health, and reduce inflammation and pain.

Try it: Sprinkle a pinch of nutmeg onto your morning bowl of oatmeal and pair it with your favorite fresh fruits.

4) Cumin

One tablespoon of this spice contains 20% of your daily iron, which plays a big role in carrying oxygen to all of your cells. It can also boost your brainpower and keep your immune system in tip-top shape.

Try it: Add a dash of cumin to your next batch of chili. It will add a hint of spice without turning up the heat.

Donna Kelly-Konopka

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Most of us already know that a teaspoon of baking soda in the batter will make the muffins rise, but who knew that a pinch of it mixed with scrambled eggs will make them fluffier or added to water will make steamed vegetables stay green?

Aside from cooking, however, everyone knows that an open box of baking soda in the fridge will absorb strong odors. But did you also know that baking soda in the bath water can relieve itchy skin caused by bug bites or poison ivy? And that pouring a cup of baking soda followed by a cup of hot vinegar down a stopped up drain will unclog it? Baking soda also can be used to polish tarnished silver, remove rust stains, extinguish a grease fire, freshen toothbrushes and clean dishwashers and coffee makers. Add it to kitty litter and the laundry to help freshen and deodorize. Sprinkle baking soda on a wet sponge to scrub residue off a cast-iron skillet. Or use it on sidewalk and driveway cracks as a non-toxic weed killer. A dusting of it around pet food bowls will keep ants away too.

A couple of cautions about baking soda, though: Its magic powers fade with time, so check the expiration date on the box. Most important, don't mix it with other cleaning products. The chemical reaction could be toxic.



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INGREDIENTS

LemonThymeSauce

¼ cup rice vinegar
¼ cup white wine
4 thyme sprigs
1 teaspoon heavy cream
8 tablespoons (1 stick) plus 2 tablespoons cold unsalted butter, divided
1 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
Kosher salt

Herb Reduction

1 cup chicken stock
1 tomato, peeled, seeded, and finely chopped
1 tablespoon minced chives
2 tablespoons Italian parsley leaves, julienned
1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
Freshly ground white pepper
8 ounces garganelli pasta, or another tubular pasta such as penne or cavatappi
Olive oil
12 medium Gulf shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
¼ teaspoon minced garlic
1 small shallot, minced

(Continued on Page 18)



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A two-story brick house with a stone-veneer garage and a covered front porch. The house features a gabled roof, a dormer window, and a large multi-paned window on the second floor. The exterior is primarily red brick with stone accents. The house is surrounded by a green lawn and trees.

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(Continued from Page 16)

DIRECTIONS

Heat the vinegar, wine, and the thyme sprigs in a small saucepan over medium-low heat until the mixture is reduced to a syrupy consistency. Remove the thyme sprigs and set them aside, and then whisk in the cream. Cut the stick of butter into cubes and then gradually whisk them into the sauce. When the butter is incorporated, stir in the lemon juice and zest. Strip the thyme leaves from the sprigs and stir them into the sauce; season with salt and keep warm.

In a separate skillet, simmer the chicken stock over medium heat until reduced by half. Whisk in the remaining two tablespoons of butter. Add the tomato, chives, parsley and lemon zest, and season to taste with salt and white ground pepper. Set aside.

Bring a large pot of water to a boil, add a generous pinch of salt and cook the pasta according to package

directions until al dente. Drain the pasta but do not rinse, transfer to a bowl and then toss them with a drizzle of olive oil.

Season the shrimp with salt. Heat the olive oil in a medium skillet over medium-high heat. When the oil is very hot (but not smoking), add shrimp and cook, stirring, until they turn pink (about 1 minute). Add the butter, garlic, and shallot cook for an additional 2 minutes. Remove from heat and keep warm.

To assemble the dish, toss the pasta with the warm Herb reduction. Divide the pasta among four serving plates, top with equal portions of shrimp and Lemon-Thyme Sauce and serve immediately. Enjoy!

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