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Volume 4 | Issue 11

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NOVEMBER 2016



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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

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ON THE COVER

Aspiring hero Dominic Franzén met one of our real heroes, Precinct 5 Officer Charlie Escobar, at a National Night Out block party hosted by Cindy and Charley Raimond.

NOVEMBER

is TREE Waste Collection Month
Wednesday, November 9th



Lovett Elementary wins the National Blue Ribbon Award

By Pauline Mathiesen

There is a buzz on the corner of South Rice and Jason Street as Lovett Elementary is recognized for achieving high standards in education! Thanks to the hard work and dedication of students, educators, administrators, family and the whole community, Lovett Elementary has won the National Blue Ribbon Award!

This award recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The honor was bestowed upon just 329 schools nationwide and affirms the work of all involved in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. When asked about winning this award, Principal Dawn Thompson said, "Winning the National Blue Ribbon Award is a great accomplishment for our school community. We received the award in the category of Exemplary High Performing Schools. This is only achieved through the hard work of a community that comes together to support students as they work to meet high expectations. As the Principal, I am always shouting from the roof tops, how proud I am of my students and staff. I am always sharing how supportive our parents are. I am extremely humbled that others outside of Houston now get to know why I and so many others love it at Lovett!"

The whole Lovett community is proud of this achievement. A Lovett dad with 3 boys at the school added, "All we want for our kids is the best possible environment in which to learn, develop and grow, and this award is a wonderful and well-deserved testament to the excellence that is the hallmark of Lovett Elementary and everyone in it."

Representatives from Lovett Elementary will be traveling to Washington D.C. to receive the award at a ceremony hosted by the Department of Education. Congratulations Lovett Elementary on being a 2016 Blue Ribbon Award Winner!

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Cathy Craig

832.449.2320
ccraig@BernsteinRealty.com



Leora Kahn

713.826.9109
lkahn@BernsteinRealty.com



Judy Levin

713.204.8807
jlevin@BernsteinRealty.com



Elise Niefeld

713.298.1623
eniefeld@BernsteinRealty.com



Laura Perlman

281.796.1798
lperlman@BernsteinRealty.com



Sondra Rosenthal

713.870.3790
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Top Elementary Schools

By Shirley Hou

All three of Meyerland's zoned elementary schools, Herod Elementary, Kolter Elementary, and Lovett Elementary, earned the maximum number of distinction designations from the Texas Education Agency for their strong performance during the 2015-2016 school year. They were among a group of just 15 elementary schools and 28 total HISD schools who received this honor.

Distinction designations are awarded to schools based on achievement in performance indicators relative to a group of 40 campuses of similar type, size, and student demographics. Schools are eligible for distinctions if they are rated as having "Met Standard" – the highest rating under the state accountability system. Up to seven distinctions can be earned for:

- Academic Achievement in English Language Arts/Reading
- Academic Achievement in Mathematics
- Academic Achievement in Science
- Academic Achievement in Social Studies
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- Top 25 Percent: Closing Performance Gaps
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Say No to Panhandling

By Gerald Radack

As you may have noticed, there is an increased number of panhandlers in our area. In particular, there are panhandlers at the intersection of West Bellfort and South Post Oak Road, North Braeswood Blvd./Loop 610, South Braeswood Blvd./Loop 610, Beechnut/Loop 610, and Willowbend Blvd./South Post Oak Rd. In response to this growing problem, District K City Council Member Larry Green is working with numerous homeowner associations to combat aggressive panhandling. Those associations include Willow Meadows Civic Club, Willowbend Civic Club, Precinct 287 Civic Association, Westwood Civic Club, Westbury Civic Club, and the Meyerland Community Improvement Association. These associations, along with commercial businesses, have formed a grassroots initiative called the Greater South Post Oak/West Bellfort Neighborhood Coalition.

The Coalition would like to create a "civility zone" where City of Houston's civility ordinance, Article XVI, can be enforced. The civility ordinance states that no person can: sit or lie down on a sidewalk or on a blanket, stool, or any other object placed upon a sidewalk between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. (with a few exceptions) and to place or deposit any item of bedding materials or personal possessions on a sidewalk between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. (with a few exceptions).

A petition is now in circulation to include our area in the civility ordinance. For Meyerland, Sections 7 and 8 are within the geographic borders of the District "K" Civility Boundary - Zone 1. Once the process is complete, the City Council will review the request, and if adopted, the Houston Police Department will have more authority to move violators out of the area.

If you are a property owner or resident in Section 7 or Section 8 and would like to sign the petition, please download the petition form from the Meyerland website (meyerland.net) and return the original form to the MCIA office at 4999 West Bellfort. The City will only accept original signatures (no scans or faxes). The deadline to return the signed petition to the MCIA office is Friday, December 2.



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>.



2017 Art Car Entry

by Joyce Young

Lovett Elementary's 2016 – 2017 school term has begun. For the fourth year running, Mr. Rickey Polidore's art classes will be designing and creating their 2017 art car entry into the Orange Show Art Car Parade. This year's theme is based around keys, all shapes and sizes. Polidore is requesting donations of keys and "if you see any lying around, please pick them up for us and definitely don't hesitate to tell a friend". All keys will be accepted and "we can't have too many", states Polidore. Keys can be dropped off at the school located at 8814 S. Rice Avenue.

Lovett Elementary School, under the guidance of Mr. Polidore, won First Place in the Best Art Car division in 2016.

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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			

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

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Salem Lutheran Annual Day of Community Service

by Bill Burhans

On Sunday, September 11th, thirty-five members of the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church spent their afternoon performing community service at the Willow Waterhole Greenway. They put thirty-four plants in the ground at the Rafferty Memorial Wetlands (Blue Flag Iris, Dwarf Palmetto, and Bald Cypress), picked up litter, moved mulched, and pruned trees. Members also took canoes recently purchased by the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy out on Westbury Lake for their inaugural voyage!

George Zemanek, Bob Ellet, and Randy Ditmore organized and led the community service project for the Church congregation. Bill Burhans, Ralph Rieger, and Valerie and Ray Runge from the WWGC planned and supervised the tasks.

Ralph Rieger, President of the WWGC, said "I would like to thank Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church members for their continued support in the development and maintenance of the Greenway. They come out each year in the heat and perform much needed work, we depend on volunteers like them to improve this wonderful community asset."

George Zemanek remarked "Working together at Willow

Waterhole was a great way to build community. Until we began planning this project, some of us had no idea that Houston even had such a treasure! I'm glad that the members of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church were able to come together and help out. Some of us drive by here often and it will be great to see things like the blue flag irises growing and know that we helped make it happen."



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MCIA 2016-2017 Committees

Meyerland Community Improvement Association uses committees to accomplish much of the work that is done in Meyerland. Many committees are standing committees that are established in the By-Laws, but ad hoc committees can be established by the Board President when a special project or need arises. Members of these committees are primarily Directors, but residents can serve on any committee when there is interest and need.

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Mike Djokic
Clive Hess
Ron Meyers

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Austin Knight (Co-Chair)
Rhett Davis
John Rissotto
Glen Rosenbaum

Ad Hoc Grounds and Landscape

Gerald Radack (Co-Chair)
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Chris Bisel

Ad Hoc Recording of Meetings

Ross Cunningham (Chair)
Cary Robinson
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Mike Jones

Ad Hoc Conflict of Interest

Lisa Gossett (Chair)
Austin Knight
Ross Cunningham

Ad Hoc Hillcroft Expansion

Ross Cunningham
Dan Feldman



Cigarette & Drugstore Beetles

Cigarette and drugstore beetles are pests of stored products and can become a pest in the home. These beetles are small, around 1/8" long, reddish-brown with an oval shape. If you disturb the beetles, they often will tuck in their legs and lay motionless.

Adults enjoy dark cracks and crevices, but will fly in brightly lit areas to locate a place to hide. The beetles are most active at dusk and continue activity through the night. Adults do not eat solid food, but will drink liquids. Larvae are small, grub-like and creamy white.

Cigarette and drugstore beetle larvae infest a variety of products such as tobacco, flour, dried fruit, herbs and spices, nuts, rice and pet food. These pests may also infest non-food items such as potpourri, dried flower arrangements, papier-mâché, prescription drugs, cosmetics and bookbinding paste.

The life cycle is dependent upon temperature and availability of resources- with warmer temperatures and adequate resources the life cycle will be faster. Mated females lay eggs in food sources. After hatching from the egg, larvae begin to feed on the food and grow. Eventually, larvae pupate and form a protective cocoon in the food item. Adults live from 1-4 weeks.

To manage these beetles, you must find the source, double bag it and throw it away. All stored food items should be inspected, even those that have not been previously opened. If you do not want to throw away infested food items it can either be heated or cooled to kill any insects and then sifted to remove any insects. To freeze, put the items in a sealed plastic bag and place in the freezer for about a week. To heat the items, spread on a large cookie sheet and place in a 200 oF oven for 1-2 hours.

To prevent infestations, inspect all food items before buying; do not buy damaged food products. Dried goods can be stored in sealed, air-tight containers. If leaving the home for extended periods store items in the freezer or refrigerator. While inspecting stored food items for infestation, clean the pantry as you go. Vacuum or sweep up any spilled food items. Wipe down shelving with a cleaning product and use caulk to seal any shelf areas where small bits of food may collect.

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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Be sure to have their crate or carrying case ready along with extra bedding and toys. Bring along at least four days worth of food with dishes and one week of medications. Investigate pet friendly hotels or motels ahead of time to be sure they allow pets and do not have a number limit.

In addition, if you are not planning to leave your home and have the space, you might consider fostering one or two animals that may have nowhere to go during the storm period. After all, they ARE a part of the family.







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Down the Drain



Washing your car may seem like a great way to beat the heat this summer while accomplishing something constructive on your to-do list. But you might want to think twice about the environmental impact before you park your car in the driveway and pull out your bucket, hose and old towels.

Even if you use a biodegradable cleaner, the soapy water that runs off your car when you hose it down not only contains detergent, but residue from automobile fluids like oil, gasoline and antifreeze. Each time you rinse your car, the contaminated water flows untreated directly into the stormwater system and eventually makes its way into streams and rivers. And, as the water runs out of your driveway and down the street toward the storm sewer, it also picks up other toxic

substances, like fertilizers, petroleum deposits and surface paint from the pavement. Parking your car on a grassy area while you wash it may help some, but the toxins will end up in the groundwater eventually.

As an alternative, consider using a commercial carwash facility. Whether a conveyor type, self-service, in-bay automatic or custom hand-wash business, these establishments are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to capture and route their wastewater to a treatment facility before the water can be discharged into the sanitary sewer.

Toxic residues aren't the only reason to take your car to a commercial car wash. Rinsing your car at home with a garden hose can use as much as 10 to 15 gallons of water per minute, while professional car wash facilities can limit the water flow to as little as three to five gallons per minute. If you spend an hour in your driveway washing your car, you may have sent as much as 150 gallons of contaminated water directly down the drain. This is especially important in long summer dry spells.

So help the environment and save time this summer: leave car washing to the professionals.



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Social Media Safety

Social media has many benefits—it allows you to maintain connections with friends, make new contacts, build support networks, express yourself and share your interests. However, information should be shared with caution to protect yourself and your family. Here are seven top tips for social media safety:

1. Your personal information should be just that—personal. As hackers become more and more sophisticated, identity theft becomes a greater risk. And while it may be tempting to post pictures of your fabulous vacation, bear in mind that you're also letting others know you're away from home—making you vulnerable to a break in.

2. Use privacy and security settings to limit who can see what you share online. You wouldn't give details of your private life to complete strangers in person, so don't do it online either.

3. Remember that what you post online will stay online, so consider the long-term consequences. Could your social media presence prevent you from securing a job in the future? Would you want your coworkers to see this side of you?

4. Let your social network know your boundaries. For example, if you don't want images of yourself or your children posted online, let your friends and family members know.

5. Know what to do if someone is making you feel unsafe online. Some steps you can take include blocking the offender, reporting the person to the site administrator and removing him or her from your friends list.

6. Social media doesn't just spread information, it can also spread viruses and other risks to your computer. Defend your system by using the latest security software and web browser and installing updates regularly.

7. Protect your social media accounts by using password best practices. Long combinations of letters, numbers and symbols are the most secure, and separate passwords should be used for each account.



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Overnight Coffee Cake



Recipe provided by Sherry Watson. The original source is unknown (cut from an old magazine many years ago). This recipe is unbelievably simple, but it makes a beautiful presentation at the table.

- 1 pkg. frozen cloverleaf roll dough (about 25 rolls)
- 1 pkg. (four-serving size) vanilla pudding mix (not instant)
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup pecans, chopped
- 1 stick butter, melted

Separate frozen roll dough into pieces (each cloverleaf makes three pieces). Other rolls will work, but with larger pieces of dough, use only 20; more may be too many for your pan.

Combine dry pudding mix with brown sugar and pecans.

Melt butter.

Place pieces of frozen roll dough in a well-buttered Bundt pan. (Do not use angel food pan; butter leaks out!) Pour melted butter over frozen dough and sprinkle with pudding mixture.

Leave cake pan out overnight; the dough rises beautifully by morning. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Invert on serving plate to serve. Sticky – but good!

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