

# *Meyerlander* MONTHLY



Volume 4 | Issue 12

MEYERLAND.NET

DECEMBER 2016



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Amy Hoechstetter ..... MCIA General Manager  
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# ON THE COVER

The home of Greg and Martha Mayfield at 4806 Jason flooded 12-inches in the Memorial Day Flood in 2015 and then almost again in the Tax Day Flood in 2016. In the year's timeframe, they had to move while the house was repaired and deal with three major skin cancer surgeries for Greg. The couple is so thankful for their neighbors and Meyerland community who helped them through the bad situation. They are thrilled now to be moving back into their beautiful, remodeled home.

# DECEMBER

is Junk Waste Collection Month

Wednesday, December 14th

## Protect Yourself, A Seasonal Reminder

*By the MCIA Office*

As we move into the fall season with holidays around the corner, below are a few things to remember:

- Take advantage of the security check program through Precinct 5. A Precinct 5 Deputy will come to your home and review security measures to better secure your property. To request this service, please call Lieutenant Mitch Hutter with Precinct 5 at 281-704-6825.
- Set your home alarm when you are home as well as when you are away – even if you are going to be gone for just a few minutes.
- If you can, set up cameras. Criminals do not want their face, clothing or other distinctive markings on videotape. It makes it too easy to catch them.
- Lock your fence gates with a padlock. Criminals are looking for properties they can access easily.
- Pick up your packages at delivery company facilities. Yes, it is inconvenient, but you will receive your package safely.
- Request a vacation watch when you travel. Our Deputies will visit your home looking for signs of entry, ensuring your security. You can find the form on our website and can fax or email it directly to Precinct 5.
- Pick up your newspapers daily. Whether you want them or not, papers, notices, flyer and such end up on your door, front porch and yard. Even if you are home, a collection of these items on your property gives the appearance that you are not.
- Be aware when you are driving around the neighborhood. If you see a person or vehicle that looks suspicious, please call Pct 5 at 281-463-6666. They will investigate and might even prevent a crime before it occurs or catch a criminal in the act of one.
- If you must park your car in the driveway or on the street, remember to lock your car door and remove all visible items from it. A blanket in the back seat can be an invitation to someone who believes you are trying to hide something expensive from view.
- Do not leave your car running. If you need to go back into your home “for just a minute”, turn your car off and take the keys with you.



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## Best Wishes, Amy!

*By Shirley Hou*



Amy Hoechstetter is retiring this month. After serving eight years as the Office Manager for the Meyerland Community Improvement Association (MCIA), she is looking forward to spending more time with her family. Amy grew up in San Antonio and graduated from the University of Texas, Austin, with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and a minor in psychology. Prior to working for the MCIA, she was a

buyer for Foley's department store and a volunteer for various non-profit organizations. During Amy's tenure, she has presided over an unprecedented streak of growth and change in Meyerland. On Amy's first day as the new office manager for the over 2,300-home Association, she was greeted with a small, 12x18 square foot office with brown paneled walls covered with plaques, photos and calendars. The room had just four desks, four men, two visitor chairs, two large filing cabinets, and one busy pot of coffee. Looking back now, she fondly recalls those modest surroundings and appreciates the dedication of the former staff in that tiny office space.

Fast forward eight years and the office has modernized in both its look and technology. The office has expanded, all of the MCIA accounting and property management processes have been computerized, the landscaping service professionalized, and security management strengthened under Amy's direction. Several deed restrictions have been amended and many policies updated due to Amy's leadership and collaboration with the Board of Directors. Since 2010, over 1,400 homes (approximately 60%) have changed hands in Meyerland. The new homeowners come from different backgrounds and educational experiences, yet they all blend together into the Meyerland community.

An obvious and memorable event of her professional tenure was the Memorial Day Flood of 2015. Despite the damage and sorrow inflicted on so many homeowners, she was moved to see neighbors band together to create new neighborhood "families" to help each other weather the emotional storm of putting their lives and homes back together. Amy feels honored to have worked alongside so many residents in the process.

What Amy will miss most are the people - homeowners; board members, past and present; and the staff, Randi Cahill and Catherine Martin. The people made the organization a great place to spend her many work hours each day. She is most proud of the level of

professionalism, respect, integrity, and communication she provided to help improve the Association and change Meyerland for the better.

Amy looks forward to spending more time with her husband, Andy, daughters, Rachel and Jessica, and extended family and friends. She plans to take a much-needed family vacation before her oldest daughter goes off to college. She also intends to focus more of her attention on the various organizations that she has been involved with over the past decade and on utilizing her skills in new ways with those causes. The Board of Directors has an active committee searching for a new General Manager, but Amy is irreplaceable in so many ways. The entire Board and neighborhood would like to thank Amy Hoechstetter for her dedication and energy, and above all, her dear friendship. Happy retirement, Amy!

## Beware of Package Thieves

*By Shirley Hou*

It's that time of year again when many people are receiving packages in the mail for the holidays. Unfortunately, thieves have already been spotted in the neighborhood tailing USPS and UPS trucks to steal packages off doorsteps. And at least one USPS mail carrier's truck has been reported to have been broken into by thieves looking for valuables. Take these precautions to avoid getting your packages stolen:

1. Answer the doorbell right away after a delivery. Many homeowners avoid answering the doorbell for security purposes, but the chance of package theft is highest immediately after the delivery is made. Respond right away by opening the door and picking up your mail.
2. Track your package via text or email. Try to time your presence at home to receive the package.
3. If you are not going to be home to receive a package, talk to your mail carrier about putting the package in a safer place instead of the front door, for example, behind a locked driveway gate or side yard fence.
4. Invest in a locking security mailbox. Some are made large enough to fit packages.
5. Send packages to your workplace or another manned-location instead of your house.
6. If your mail is stolen, notify the sending company by email and file the proper loss claims with the sender, USPS, UPS or Fedex. If you see a mail thief actively at work, call the Precinct 5 Constables right away at 281-463-6666.



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## Bob Harvey Marshall 1921-2016



Col. Robert H. (Bob) Marshall, USAR Ret., age 95, beloved husband to Edie Marshall, passed away on Nov. 3 after a brief illness. He was extremely active and outgoing until the recent illness.

A World War II Army Combat Officer, he was the Commanding Officer of Battery A and Exec. Officer of the 293rd Field Artillery Sound and Flash (Target Acquisition) Battalion that saw heavy action on the

Brittany coast in Northwestern France. He was a recipient of the American Campaign Medal; The European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Bronze Star; The World War II Victory Medal; and the Meritorious Service Medal. After 3 years of Active Duty, Captain Marshall went on to serve 35 years in the Army Reserve reaching the rank of Colonel, with primary duties instructing Field Artillery and Air Defense Missile Units. He was a Graduate and Instructor at the Command and General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, KS. He was called back to Active Duty in both the Korean War and the Cuban Missile Crisis, however never deployed.

In civilian life, Bob had both Chemical and Mechanical Engineering degrees from LSU. He was a devoted Alumnus throughout his life and never missed watching a Tigers football game. He was a Life Loyal member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and was elected a Significant Sig in 1983. He worked as a Process Engineer for Ethyl Corporation and managed the Technical Services section of the Houston R&D Department for 35 years. He was a Licensed Engineer in both Louisiana and Texas and was elected in 1983 as National President of American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE).

In 1982 Bob started his next career, working 30 years as the Security Manager and Civic Association General Manager for the Meyerland community (MCIA). Bob was one of four individuals who started the Brays Bayou Association, the entity primarily responsible for obtaining the half-billion dollar funding for the Project Brays Flood Control project currently underway. Bob served over 30 years on the Harris County Flood Control Task Force and participated through last month.

Bob loved volunteering. He was President, VP and Player Agent of Meyerland Little League. For 25 years Bob was Head Usher at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, where he was still a Parishioner. Bob was Precinct 281 Election Judge for over 40 years and a Life Member of the Republican National Committee.

He was a member of the VFW, American Legion, USO and other groups that assist our young men and women of the Armed Forces. He was a Charter member of the National World War II Museum and the National Museum of the US Army.

Bob met the love of his life, Edie Hammond while stationed at Ft. Sill, OK and married at the Old Post Chapel on July 1, 1944. Bob and Edie had 5 children and are survived by daughter Jane Evans (Michael), daughter Cille Crago, daughter Kathy Card (Shannon), and son Bobby Marshall (Vanessa). He is preceded in death by daughter Debbie Harris (Saul) and his wife Edie, who passed away in 2001. Bob and Edie have 14 Grand and 18 Great-Grandchildren.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Nov. 9, 5pm-7pm at Earthman Bellaire, 6700 Ferris. Funeral Service will be Thursday, Nov. 10, 10am at St Thomas More Catholic Church, 10330 Hillcroft. followed by military honor burial at Houston National Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr.

In lieu of flowers, Bob and his family would appreciate a donation made to any Veterans group or the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, LA.

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## Herod Knows How to Have Fun

By Natalie Johnston

On Saturday, November 5th, over 500 people attended the Herod Fall Festival and Holiday Market. Families gathered to play, eat, shop and take advantage of the fantastic weather. The Herod Fall Fest began five years ago and has been growing every year since. It was a wonderful opportunity for Herod families and the community to come together. There was a rock climbing wall, a petting zoo, train rides, a dunking booth, and plenty of games to play. Every year, Herod students look forward to 2nd grade teacher, David Tesch's, soda bottle explosions. This year it was coordinated by Herod mom and PTO member, Zobeida Sanchez. "I loved doing the Fall Fest and I was so excited and nervous that this year I was going to do it all by myself. I had so many ideas and really wanted everyone to like the changes. I am so happy that everything worked out very well and can't wait to start planning next year's Fall Fest."

Just a few of the local vendors for the fest and holiday market included Mam's Snowballs, Usborne Books and More, Mary Kay, Scentsy, Sam and Maisie, Tacos El Jaibo, and Betty's Craft Creations and Entertainment. Cecilia Freedman, PTO Executive Vice-President and mother of two Herod students, said, "This Fall Fun Fest is a community event that the Herod PTO sponsors for the good of

our community and the student body. Every year we seem to be improving and growing. Our chair, Zobeida Sanchez, has brought great ideas every year. This year's Fall Fun Fest had record attendance and such good feedback. We can't wait for next year!"



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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

January, 2017						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4 Trash	5	6	7
8	9	10 T/R	11 Tree!	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Trash	19	20	21
22	23	24 T/R	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Trash				

**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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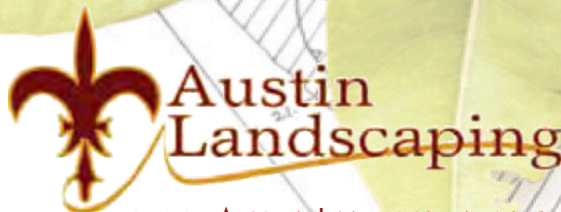
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## Lovett Loves Community Events

*By Pauline Mathiesen, photo courtesy of Christi Megow*



Part of what makes a strong school campus are successful family and community events. Lovett Elementary is not short on those! Two recent examples are the Family Movie Night and the Fall Carnival.

Clear skies and warm weather was the background for this year's Family Night movie, "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs". Movie Night is a community event meant to bring together Lovett Families and the surrounding Meyerland Neighborhood. It is put together by the Working Mom's group. Boasting the tagline, "Every Mom Works", these dedicated ladies, who may not be able to get together during the day, gather for evening PTO meetings in order to stay involved with the school. The co-chairs for the working mom's group, Shea Precht and Anne Warner worked hard at organizing the event. "We could not do this without the help of volunteers who shop for the food, prepare advertising and run the booths at the event. Our Dad's Club, another important part of the Lovett community, prepares all the food we

seek. It is truly a team effort, and it results in one of the best nights of the year!", explains Anne.

It was another beautiful day for Lovett's Annual Fall Carnival. The Carnival boasted bounce houses, a rock climbing wall, cake walk, petting zoo, trackless train, face painting, midway games and more! Once again, the Dad's club grilled all of the food. This year they even had a dunk tank built by a very handy Lovett dad. The school's very own principal, Dawn Thompson and other staff got "dunked" in good fun! The new Lovett Art Car (yet to be turned into its masterpiece) also made an appearance at the event. From 11am-3pm, the campus was alive with busy and happy families. The event would not have been possible without the hard work of the Carnival Chairs, Monica Meyer and Sam Lopez. "Lovett students and staff had a great time at the Carnival", explained Monica. "It was rewarding to see hard work and effort come together for a fun time that the students really look forward to."

More Lovett News...

Magnet applications due: December 9, 2016

Book Fair: December 12-16, 2016

Art Car: Lovett's Art Car needs KEYS!! If you have any old keys of any size, please drop them off at Lovett Elementary

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## Explore the World Right Here in Houston

*By Shirley Hou*

Kolter Elementary held its annual International Festival, iFest, on November 12. This free, community event allowed kids and adults to explore the world without ever leaving Houston, or Meyerland. The iFest kicked off with a Parade of Nations featuring countries that students are studying through globally-based lessons and projects. After the Parade of Nations, guests traveled around the world by visiting booths that represented various countries and their local crafts, games, and snacks. The event culminated in an impression talent showcase featuring dancing, singing, and music. Congratulations to the PTO iFest chair, Valerie Carville, and all the volunteers for putting on this amazing event.



*Chloe Hanson, Noah Hanson and Alexandra Maglaras in Greek dancing costumes*



*Jonathan Curl and Josie Goldfarb in Peruvian dress.*

## Holiday Happenings 2016

*By Joyce Young*

The 97th Annual Mayor's Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting will take place on December 2, 2016 in Hermann Square at City Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and is free to the public. The annual event has become a holiday tradition and this year Mayor Sylvester Turner, Reliant and NRG Retail President Elizabeth Killinger, along with Santa Claus will light the official 63-foot White Fir holiday tree. The evening's finale will include a fireworks display perfectly timed to the Hallelujah Chorus from "Handel's Messiah" featuring Music Director Ernest Walker, his award-winning band and a 60 voice combined choir from local Houston High Schools. The public is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy to the Reliant booth to make the holidays brighter for a child this season.

On December 20, Santa and his reindeer will return to Bayou Bend for 12 magical nights of Christmas Village. The historic 14-acre estate will become a winter wonderland replete with sparkling lights, animated projections, festive programs and activities. At the center of the "Christmas Village" will be an elaborate stained glass Spiegel tent, a Belgian "tent of mirrors" comprising more than 1,200 separate pieces. It is travelling to Texas for the first time to provide a nostalgic, old-world setting in the middle of Bayou Bend's Diana Garden.

A Christmas Carol will be playing at the Alley Theatre through December 29. The re-telling of Charles Dickens' classic story follows Ebenezer Scrooge's journey with the three ghostly spirits that visit him on Christmas Eve. The play provides a powerful message about redemption and the spirit of the holiday season.

The Heritage Society's Annual Candlelight Tour at 1100 Bagby Street will take place on December 10 and 11. The tour will include decorated buildings, historic characters and 19th century crafters. There will be children's activities in Santa's Workshop and guests will hear stories of Houston's past residents, cultures and communities. The Art Market will include vendors and local artists as well as musical entertainment.

For the entire month of December the Houston Zoo is transformed into a winter wonderland, filled with brilliant displays of colorful lights and festive holiday music. There will be thousands of twinkling lights adorning the magnificent live oak trees, whimsical color 15 foot projections and life sized animated animal sculptures.





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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.

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