

# *Meyerlander* MONTHLY



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JANUARY 2017

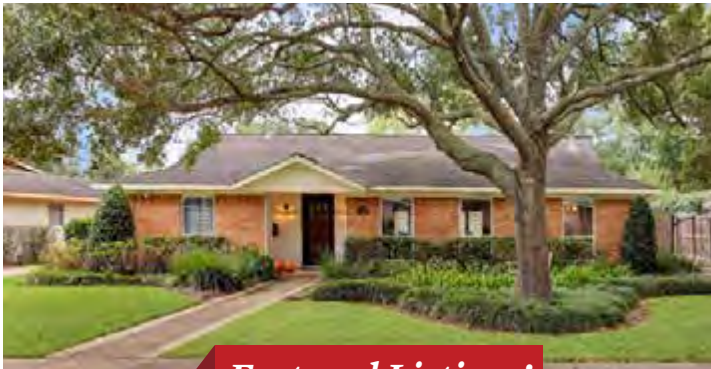


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# ON THE COVER

The Meyerland Farmers Market grand opening received thousands of visitors on November 19, 2016 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

**JANUARY**  
is Tree Waste Collection Month  
Wednesday, January 11th



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## 2017 Assessment Bills

*By the MCIA Office*

Meyerland homeowners have been sent their annual assessment invoice in the mail. All payments are to be mailed to a PO Box address in Arizona. Why do we mail our assessments to Arizona instead of Texas? We use a bank that specializes in homeowner association accounts. The bank processes over 100,000 payments monthly from hundreds of homeowner associations around the country. Their expertise ensures the safe transmission of your payment directly to your account. There is no charge to the Association for using this service which would be quite costly if we used a local bank. Using a lockbox payment system is much more efficient than using the MCIA office to manually process over 2,300 payments. The cost savings by using this system are passed onto you. Please mail your payment to the lockbox rather than dropping off your payment at our office, as we, in turn, have to forward your payment to the processor.

If your mortgage company pays your assessment from your escrow account, please forward this information to them to ensure prompt payment.

If you do not receive your bill in the mail by January 31st, we strongly urge you to contact the MCIA office to request another copy. You may call us at 713-729-2167 or email [office@meyerland.net](mailto:office@meyerland.net) with your property address. The payment is considered delinquent if it is not received by February 1, 2017. We appreciate your prompt payment.

## Continuation of Deed Restriction Renewal

*By the MCIA Office*

Meyerland is comprised of nine geographical "sections" but the 2,310 lots are further divided into areas governed by 22 different sets of deed restrictions. These rules periodically need to be updated. To date, three sets have been revised and 19 sets are on the horizon. The renewal process is moving as swiftly as possible. The Deed Restriction Renewal Committee has been hard at work producing a "springboard set" designed to give the homeowners of sections 8B, 8D, 8E, and 8G (the next areas under review) an idea of what their rules may look like. The homeowners in all of these sections have been contacted and are currently reviewing these documents. If you live in one of these sections, you may want to visit our website, [www.meyerland.net](http://www.meyerland.net), to read the proposed set of new deed restrictions for your section. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office by emailing [staff@meyerland.net](mailto:staff@meyerland.net) or calling 713-729-2167.

# Meyerland

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**Amy Bernstein**

713.932.1032

abernstein@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

srosenthal@BernsteinRealty.com



**Mindy Tribolet**

713.502.5915

mtribolet@BernsteinRealty.com



**Lisa Yambra**

713.870.8530

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# Construction in Meyerland

*By Randi Cabill*

Meyerland has been experiencing an explosion of massive new construction and major reconstruction growth in the last few years. Many of the decisions homeowners made to re-build, elevate or update homes were accelerated due to the floods of 2015 and 2016. The new exteriors, structures, colors and styles are exciting to see. There are currently over 150 homes under construction, which is an increase from 30 homes this time last year. The sheer number of lots under construction shows the dedication of the homeowners to the neighborhood and some of these new and reconstructed homes are not in areas that flooded.

Meyerland will always be known for its architectural uniqueness and trendsetting construction and these new homes are no exception in their uniqueness. At present, there is no sign of a slowdown of this reinvention of Meyerland, thus ensuring that it will always, truly be a great place to live.

# Reuse Warehouse

*By Joyce Young*

Did you know that Houston has a “Reuse Warehouse”? The warehouse is free for making donations and for non-profit organizations taking the material. New construction and rehabbing in Meyerland is significant and lots of building materials are discarded during the process. Construction and demolition materials account for approximately 38% of the waste stream in the Houston area. The Building Materials Reuse Warehouse provides a space to donate excess building materials that would otherwise be dumped in local landfills. Materials are accepted from individuals, supply companies and builders. The donated items are available for free to any non-profit organization.

The Reuse Warehouse only accepts building material that is in suitable condition for reuse. The warehouse is located at 9003 N. Main. It is advisable to call beforehand to describe the items that will be donated to ensure that they will be accepted. Examples of acceptable items include cabinets, doors, electrical fixtures and equipment, fans, flooring materials, glass, gutters, hardware, lighting, lumber, metal, mirrors, pipe, plumbing, plywood, roofing material, screens, sheetrock, sinks, showers, trim, tubs, wall coverings and windows. They do not accept paint.

In order to pick up items from the warehouse, first time non-profits must show proof of their non-profit status. All material in inventory is available for free on a first come, first served basis.

# Citizens on Patrol Wants You!

*By Rick Fritz*

I have been involved with Meyerland Citizens On Patrol (COP) since its creation over seven years ago. This is a group of your neighbors – fellow residents of Meyerland who volunteer a minimum of one hour per month patrolling the neighborhood. Recent floods and other issues resulted in some of our group members leaving the Meyerland neighborhood. We still have a great core group, but our roster is not as big as it once was.

If you are interested in becoming a member of COP, all that is required is a background check by HPD and the completion of a short certification course that is led by a HPD instructor. The main purpose of the course is to help you to understand what you need to do to stay safe while patrolling, as well as to be trained on what to look for, how to get an informative description of people, cars etc. in order to convey to law enforcement the observance of suspicious activity.

If you do not want to be formally involved, you still can help. Crime knows no limits as to neighborhoods, time of day, type of home or car to attack. Even though the holiday season is past, we still need to be diligent in our efforts to notice and report crimes. After several years of working with Precinct 5 and HPD personnel, I can help you be more equipped to deter/solve crimes. Simple things, such as keeping your home well-lit at night and installing cameras that monitor your home, and if possible the streets in front of your home for vandals, etc., are great tools to help deter crime. Other things are just knowing what to look for when observing individuals or vehicles.

Another critical thing to remember is to report all suspicious behavior. Our Constables and Police would much rather answer an innocent call versus not being called until after the fact! So start helping by just paying attention to things in your neighborhood! The phone number for Precinct 5 is 281-463-6666 and HPD's phone is 713-884-3131. You can also call me anytime you have a question or if you want more information on how you can help. My phone number is 713-628-0207 and my email is sharick71@gmail.com.



## Trash/Recycling Schedule

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				

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

**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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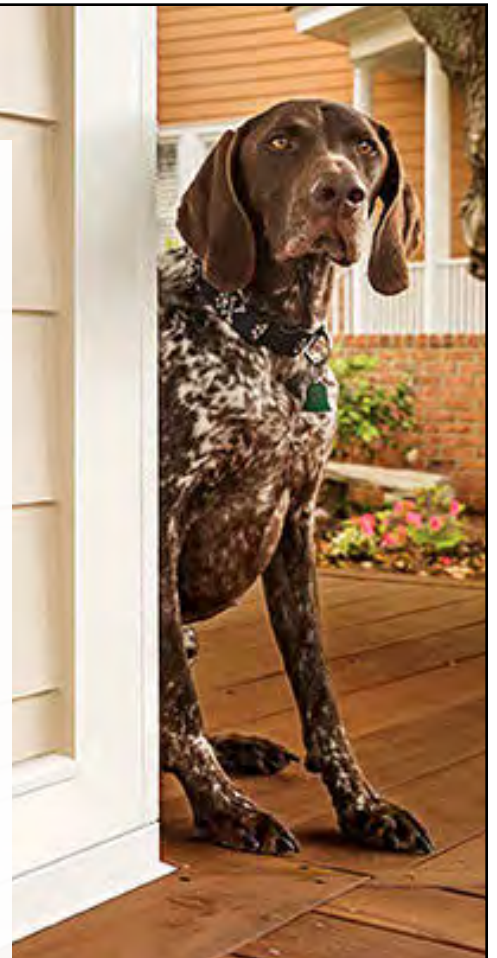
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## Farmers Market Opens in Meyerland

*By Shirley Hou*



The Meyerland Farmers Market opened on Saturday, November 19 and welcomed almost three thousand excited and curious shoppers as they checked out the market's array of fresh offerings.

Marketgoers from the neighborhood and around the city—including Missouri City and Pearland—made their way to the open air market at Pilgrim Lutheran Church on what turned out to be a crisp and sunny day. The debut was so successful, a few vendors ran out of goods after just one hour into the opening and they have plans to increase their inventory in the following weeks.

The market offers locally produced vegetables, fruit, dairy, seafood, and artisanal products such as fresh salsa, pasta, natural oils, beeswax candles, and more. Some of the vendors participating in the market are Swede Farm Dairy, Plant It Forward Farms, Pop Cart (all-natural ice pops), Awesome Bites (vegan snacks), Gulf Coast Honey Bee Farms, Nisha's Quick-N-Ezee Indian Food and Della Casa Pasta. In total, there are over 20 agricultural and prepared food vendors every week, and more are signed up to start in 2017.

Preparation for a farmers market began in earnest over the summer as Tim Carlson, market manager, worked with a team from Pilgrim Lutheran Church and the city to bring the market to southwest Houston. "We felt that there was so much demand from the Bellaire and Meyerland community for locally grown and fresh foods, yet the next closest market was miles away," said Carlson. "A city the size of Houston can easily sustain more markets like this. Pilgrim is the perfect location." Joshua Duffy, senior pastor at Pilgrim Lutheran Church said the market's ability to sustain farmers while providing neighbors with access to healthy essentials is exciting. "We are absolutely thrilled that we are able to provide a place where neighbors can meet, connect, and build community," said Duffy.

The Meyerland Farmers Market is open every Saturday, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, corner of Chimney Rock and Beechnut. The market will be open Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Bring your recyclable bags. Pets on a leash are welcome. Keep up to date with the market by liking the Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/meyerlandfm/>. Farmers and vendors who are interested in having a booth at the market should contact Tim Carlson at [meyerlandfm@gmail.com](mailto:meyerlandfm@gmail.com) or (832) 659-7070.

## Herod is Thankful

*By Natalie Johnson*

On November 15, the Herod Elementary school cafeteria was packed as parents and grandparents had the opportunity to join students for a Thanksgiving lunch. The school lunch, available to parents for purchase, consisted of turkey, stuffing, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, and pumpkin pie for dessert. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents and students to share a meal in the middle of a busy work and school day, and give thanks while spending time with other parents and teachers.

Second grade Herod mom, Leslie Schwartz, said, "It was special to spend time with my daughter at the Thanksgiving lunch at Herod because our lives are hectic and full of activity. I think it's good to take time out and have our own time together and feel thankful for each other. The Herod staff made it easy for us and it was nice to see her among her friends."

Jeff and Jane Haas attended the lunch with their first grader. "Lizzie's favorite part was getting to eat lunch with her parents. Jeff and I thought it was fun to see her and all of her classmates and their parents. It was fun seeing the school staff, too."

A Thanksgiving lunch not only brings families together, but brings the school together as well. Herod Kindergarten teacher and Herod parent, Marcella Melancon, exclaimed, "It's so great to see all of our families come and enjoy Thanksgiving with each other. It gives us teachers a chance to get to know everyone a little better. I also love getting to spend this special time with my own daughter and her classmates!"

Parents are often consumed with schedules, after school activities, and a multitude of other obligations, so having so many attend this event was truly special. Children never tire of having their parents join them at school, there is always a sense of pride in sharing a special memory at Herod with their family.





# Lovett Honors Our Veterans

*By Pauline Mathiesen*



November is a time to show gratitude for the lives that we have and to the people who helped us make our lives better. The students and staff at Lovett elementary worked to show this gratitude through a

impressive event. "The students were so well behaved and the music was so beautifully played."

Mr. Polidore, the art teacher who narrated the event, declared that, "This program is dedicated to all of our American heroes - living and dead." The well organized program, included the color guard from Boys Scouts pack 1020. Dressed in uniform, the Boy Scouts proudly presented the flag before the music began. The Choir, led by Ms. Martin, the band, led by Ms. Croft and the Orchestra, led by Mr. Cobb, all gave impressive performances to honor our Veterans. One of the most humbling moments was when members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Navy were invited to stand as music which inspired each service organization was played.

Veteran, Ron Megow, a Lovett student grandfather, explained, "I especially enjoyed when they played songs from each branch of service. I got tears in my eyes when parents, strangers to me, stopped to shake my hand and thank me for my service." It was befitting to see service members, young and old, at the event and meaningful for the students to see that these veterans we honor are part of our community and Lovett families.

beautifully planned Veterans Day program.

Lovett Elementary has made it a tradition to invite family, friends and the community to join them as they honor those who have served for us. It was heartwarming to see how the students and staff prepared for the day. The hallways were lined with artwork and thank you letters to Veterans and the choir, band and orchestra were clearly well prepared as they filled the multipurpose room with beautiful music. Teresita, a grandmother who happened to be visiting from Canada, admitted that she was delighted to be able to witness this



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# Winter Lawn Maintenance

*By Joyce Young*

Winter is here. The temperatures are cooler and the grass doesn't need to be mowed as often. Nor is the lawn getting burned by the sun. What steps should be taken to ensure a healthy lawn during the winter months?

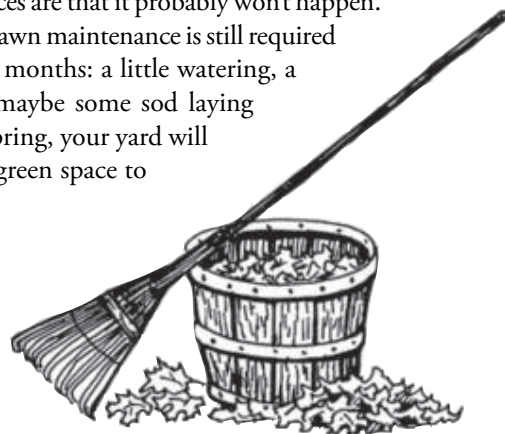
Do our lawns need to be watered in the winter months? If our Houston weather leaves us rain free for a couple of weeks, our lawns still require 1 to 2 inches of water per week, including rainfall. Grass experts agree that watering first thing in the morning is best. There is less evaporation in the morning and water has a better chance of drying before nightfall, thus reducing the risk of lawn disease. In addition, most experts agree that deep, infrequent watering is the most beneficial for deep root growth.

Is it a good idea to lay sod in the winter time? The ideal time of year for laying sod is between early spring and early fall. However, sod can be installed in the winter months and will take root. The only concern is that there is not a big freeze during the first two weeks of sod establishment.

Do leaves need to be raked and bagged or composted? When leaves fall, they block the sunlight and can kill the grass underneath.

If your yard is covered in dead leaves, it is advisable to remove as many of them as possible in order that spring does not bring with it a brown lawn. However, if your lawn is sparsely littered with leaves, this shouldn't cause a huge problem. Leaves can be mulched and turned into a source of nutrients for your grass.

So, while many of us dream of a Houston winter wonderland, chances are that it probably won't happen. Therefore, simple lawn maintenance is still required during the winter months: a little watering, a little raking and maybe some sod laying and voilà, come spring, your yard will be a nice healthy green space to enjoy.



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# More Hike and Bike Trails for Meyerland

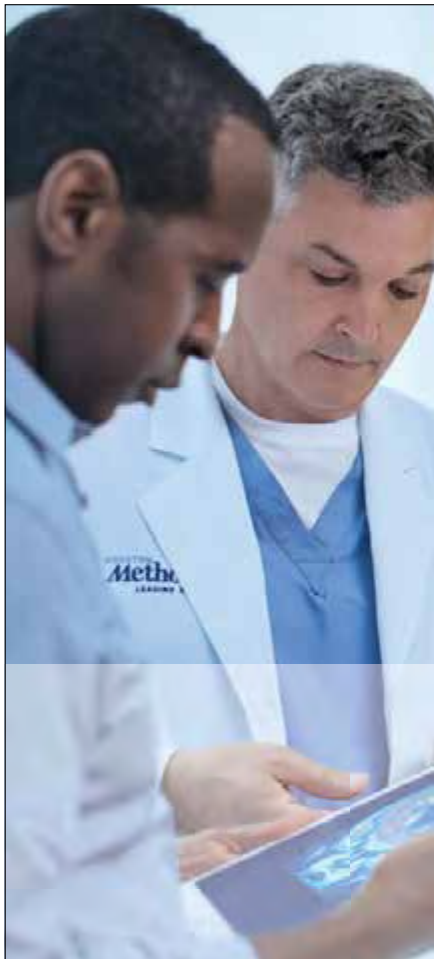
The National Park Service (NPS) announced in November that Neighborhoods to Trails - Southwest (NTTSW) has been selected to receive assistance from the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program. NTTSW is dedicated to developing hike and bike trails to provide safe, economical, and environmentally friendly transportation from the Brays Bayou and connecting Keegan's Bayou trail systems to destinations in Southwest Houston. The organization is a partnership of seven southwest Houston neighborhoods, along with a number of community partners. NTTSW includes representatives from Westbury, Willow Meadows, Maplewood N/S, Braeburn Valley West, and Meyerland. Gerda Gomez, Director of Section 7, and Charles Goforth, Director of Section 1, are the Meyerland representatives.

The NTTSW representatives are proposing a trail on the Chimney Rock esplanade from Brays Bayou to Westbury. Representatives for Westbury are focusing on the connection on Chimney Rock to Willow Waterhole Conservancy. All the proposed trails are off-street hike and bike trails.

NPS staff will assist NTTSW with their efforts to develop new trails and linear parks in southwest Houston. This assistance will include organizational development, public engagement, project

development, and fundraising assistance. The project is one of four new projects accepted by the NPS in Texas this year.

The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program helps communities design trails and parks, conserve and improve access to open space, protect special places, and create recreational opportunities through locally led partnerships. For more information on the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/rtca>,



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# Free Trees for Houston

*By Gerda Gomez*

Did you know that you can get free trees? Barry Ward, Executive Director of Trees for Houston, spoke on November 15, 2016 at the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center at the invitation of Citizen Solutions to Houston Flooding. Trees for Houston is a nonprofit organization, which plants over 20-30,000 trees per year in the Houston area. Trees for Houston provides the trees and plants the trees in partnership with individuals and groups, who then assume responsibility for maintenance of the trees. Maintenance, primarily watering, particularly during our hot summers, is critical in the first years following planting. To bring costs down, Trees for Houston has multiple tree farms throughout the area where trees are grown for planting.

Why do we need trees in Houston? Trees cool homes and thereby reduce air conditioning costs. They also cool outside through the tree canopy. The respiratory cycle of a tree serves to reduce flooding. Tree roots remove water from the soil. The water then travels up the tree and is converted into water vapor via the chlorophyll process. The water, as vapor, is then released into the atmosphere. The leaf canopies of trees serve to slow down the heavy rains and thereby permit more gradual absorption of rainwater on the ground. In addition to all the foregoing, trees improve health. Studies have demonstrated that childhood asthma decreases when the number of trees increase.

When planting, it is best to plant younger and smaller trees, rather than more mature, larger trees. Roots of larger trees grown in pots become entangled over time in the limited space of the pot. For the cost of one large tree, whose health may be questionable, multiple healthy smaller trees can be purchased.

Trees can become ill. The disease can travel through the roots, by air, or by bugs. Toxic chemicals can be born via the winds. Acid rain can be carried via water molecules to settle on trees. More recently the danger of acid rain has been reduced due to the governmental regulation of vapor given off by factories.

Flooding in Houston and adjacent areas can also be reduced by native grasses. Most native grasses have roots that go down as far as 6-8 feet.. They have evolved in the gumbo soil of our area. They prevent erosion of soil and reduce flooding. In contrast to Bermuda and St Augustine grass, native grasses do not need mowing. They do not need watering. They do not need to be fertilized. For these reasons they reduce maintenance costs.

Is there an area in Meyerland that would benefit from new trees? Once permission is given by the property owner, Trees for Houston can be contacted to provide and plant the trees. The only requirement that Trees for Houston requests is that maintenance is promised. For more information, contact Barry J. Ward, 713-840-8733 or [barry@treesforhouston.org](mailto:barry@treesforhouston.org).

# Finding Resolution

I am a goal-oriented, list-making individual. It's how I'm wired, and it has helped me be productive and successful in many ways. However, being goal-oriented doesn't always work so well when building relationships. What if the other individual doesn't have the same goals as you do?

This has been the case many times in my life, and my tendency was to bulldoze over them with my lack of concern for their goals. My goals were better, more thought out, more important, etc. What does that do to this relationship that I valued to work on so much? It completely undermines the whole thing! So, how did I learn to stop this destructive pattern in my relationships? Horses!

How many of you have tried to get an animal that weighs over 1000 pounds to meet your personal goals? It's not easy. Yes, it is possible to force them to do many things, but can you catch them easily the next day? Do they really want to have a relationship with you after you have met said goals? Mine didn't.

Mine ran away and fought many things I tried to "teach". What did it take for me to listen to the horse's thought on our relationship? An unplanned dismount is the nicest way I've heard it phrased. When a horse goes to bucking, it is pretty clear it doesn't respect your leadership. A wise man once asked me what happened before that buck. I answered, "Lots of little things that I ignored, actually."

I'm too old to ignore those little signals anymore. It hurts to hit the ground with that kind of force! As I've learned to listen to horses better, it has also helped me to listen to people better. Have you ever asked a friend what they want to receive out of the relationship you have? Do they have needs that aren't being met? If they aren't treated respectfully and valued, they may not stick around.

Setting goals is still helpful, especially in helping me think of the steps to help myself achieve them. I just want to make sure I am not ruining relationships along the way. So, my goal setting looks different now as I make sure it includes the friends I value the most.

These are a few of my relational goal ideas for the next year. They are all oriented toward preventing those blow ups, like my horse gave me, with one of my friends or husband.

*Be a better friend by:*

1. When feeling annoyed or offended- stopping to question why and if it is really that important?
2. Plan monthly dates to build relationships.
3. Check in with my friends to find out their needs, before they ask!
4. Be more available by being less BUSY- say no to more things, so I can say yes to important ones.
5. LISTEN better- friends are giving you early signs of needs, but we are distracted with our own.

**\*\*If you find these things to be true in your own life, and would like to make a change, please visit our website at [www.fivehorses.com](http://www.fivehorses.com) to learn more about our new Goal-Setting Workshop this January\*\***



# Fungus Gnats

## TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

fungus gnats are a pest to watch for.

Fungus gnat adults are small, black, long-legged flies with long antennae. Most adults are about 1/16 an inch but some can get up to 1/2 an inch. They are weak fliers and generally remain near potted plants, growing media, foliage or leaf litter.

Larvae, or immatures, have a black head capsule and long whitish body without legs. They feed on organic matter such as mulch, compost, grass clippings, plant roots and fungi. When conditions are very moist, fungus gnat larvae can become abundant and may leave slime trails on media that looks similar to trails left by snails or slugs.

While these gnats are a nuisance they are fairly easy to manage. Indoors, it is a good idea to use yellow sticky cards as a monitoring tool. Potato pieces may also be used as a monitoring tool for fungus gnats. To do this, imbed a peeled potato cube into media and inspect the underside of the potato and the media directly below it twice a week for fungus gnat larvae.

Fungus gnats often become a problem in homes due to an overwatering problem. Since this time of year can bring poinsettias or other plants into the home,

To manage fungus gnat populations, work on reducing excessively moist conditions. Avoid overwatering and make sure that there is good drainage. The surface of container soil should be allowed to dry before watering again.

If using compost, make sure that items have been fully composted. Compost piles should be turned regularly and kept away from doors or windows. Inspect all doors, windows, vents and screens for a good seal to reduce the number of gnats that may enter a structure.

Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis or the nematode Steinernema feltiae can be applied in containers to control larvae. Either spray on the media or apply as a soil drench. Biologicals work best when they are applied early in an infestation. If a population is already large, they may not provide the control desired.

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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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# Tomato Basil Soup

## Ingredients:

1 large red onion,  
diced  
1 tablespoon minced  
ginger  
1 tablespoon brown  
sugar  
4 cups whole Roma  
tomatoes, diced  
5 cups chicken stock  
1 cup picked basil leaves  
Salt and black pepper. to taste



## Directions:

In a large saucepan and a little oil, caramelize the onions, ginger and sugar. Add the tomatoes and bring to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper. Add the stock and simmer on low heat until very soft, at least 20 minutes. Add the basil and puree. Check for seasoning.

Prep Time: 10 minutes Cooking Time: 40 minutes Difficulty: Easy

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