

# Meyerlander MONTHLY

Volume 5 | Issue 6

MEYERLAND.NET

JUNE 2017



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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  
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Gerda Gomez

Gerald Radack

Marlene Rocher

Joyce Young

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## Cover Credit

Over 80 students from Kolter Elementary joined thousands of other children to swim, bike, and run at the Houston Kids Triathlon on May 21 and 22. The Kolter group was led by Coach Tammy Parker and organized by parent Amanda Sorena.

### Corrections:

In the May 2017 issue, the article "Lovett Band Takes Top Honors" was attributed to the wrong author. The correct authors are Tonyamas Moore and Anne Warner, both Lovett Elementary parents. We regret the error.

## Flood Forum

Wednesday June 21, 2017

Willow Meadows Baptist Church, 4300 W. Bellfort

7:30 p.m.; Doors open at 6:45 p.m. for meet and greet



Above: Russ Poppe  
Right: Steve Costello



Guest Speakers: Russ Poppe, Executive Director of the Harris County Flood Control District and Steve Costello, Chief Resilience Officer "Flood Czar" for the City of Houston. Sponsored by the Braes Bayou Association.

The presentation will focus on how the city, county and other entities work together toward achieving the goal of reducing the risk of flooding within the Brays Bayou Watershed. It will also address the misconceptions regarding the coordination between the city/county and the effects one project may have on another. There will be updates on the following and end with a Question and Answer session.

- Project Brays
- Elevation Grant Program
- Flood Plain Maps
- Possible future flood risk reduction opportunities
- Impact and forecast for real estate values

## Annual Retreat for Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Meyerland Community Improvement Association (MCIA) had their annual retreat on Saturday, April 8, 2017, at the MCIA office. Newly elected directors were welcomed. The meeting was conducted by Gerald Radack, President. Support was provided by Eddy De Los Santos, Vice-President, Amy Hoechstetter, General Manager, part time, and staff members Randi Cahill and Catherine Martin.

The group reviewed the Bylaws and decided the membership of various Committees. It was confirmed that most of the Board's work will continue to take place at the committee level. Goals were defined for the year and prioritized. The most important of these is filling the General Manager vacancy and determining if additional staffing is needed. The revised deed restrictions for Section 8D, which were originally going to be sent to residents in May, will be distributed this summer for signatures. Priority goals for this year include updating the Bylaws, continuing with Deed Restriction renewals, and hiring a new, permanent General Manager.

### 2017-2018 - Standing Committees

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*(Continued on Page 6)*



# Meyerland

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(Continued from Page 4)

## 2017-2018 Ad Hoc Committees

### Grounds and Landscape

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Clive Hess  
Alan Kirshner  
Ron Meyer  
Derek Olander

## 5, 4, Key, 2, 1... BLAST OFF TO THE ART CAR PARADE!

By Allison Claytor



## A Time for Theatrics

By Joyce Young

The Company OnStage (COS) is a local southwest community theater that was founded in the late 70's and had its beginnings at St. John's Presbyterian Church. In 1980 the group moved to Westbury Square. The theater is now moving to the former Family Life Center on the campus of Salem Evangelical Church at 4930 W. Bellfort. COS offers professional quality performances in contemporary and classic theater for both children and adults. Everyone in the community is invited to participate in the theater by attending performances, taking classes or volunteering in all phases of production.

COS is currently raising funds to update the new location and get it ready for the 2017-2018 season where it will continue performing the children's productions and resume production of the evening series. Additional information can be found at <http://www.companyonstage.org/>.



Let me start by saying I am not normally a parade person. However, in support of my kids and Lovett Elementary, I attended my first Art Car Parade this year. It was an amazing experience and I will definitely be at the parade next year! At this event, you can let your inner artist come out and play.

Lovett Elementary School's entry this year, entitled 5-4-KEY-2-1, was a tribute to 30 years of art cars in the Space City. The car that was artistically transformed by Lovett students was generously donated by Market Square Tower. The students, under the guidance of art teacher Mr. Rickey Polidore, created a futuristic spaceship designed with donated keys and other items. My kids had been talking about it for months, but to see it in person was amazing! I was so impressed with their design – and they were so proud to show me the parts they had personally worked on! Also worth noting was the fact that last year's winning art car "OWLways in the Artistic Frame of Mind", was also in the parade! Mr. Polidore agrees that this year's parade was a hit, stating "This was by far our best year and our best car, with lights and smoke and even two television monitors showing a slideshow entitled, Four Years of Lovett Art Cars! We had two entries and more participation than ever before by students, staff and the community!"

The Staging area at the parade gets everyone in the spirit. The Lovett Art car had music playing and Mr. Polidore and Magnet Coordinator, Ms. Cara Boynton, were there in their space inspired costumes welcoming all the Lovett families. Some of the families actually rode in the art car, which was an exciting way to experience the parade for the kids and parents alike!

As spectators, my family was close to the MC and the VIP area, so we were able to hear live music and the name of each art car as it passed. These cars are truly amazing! The best part for us was seeing the Lovett car and all of our friends waving at us from the parade. My kids were so excited and proud to see their hard work on display and hear the applause of the crowd!

Houston is an amazing place to live and the Art Car Parade is one of those special events that makes our city unique. I hope to see you there next year - I will be in the shade with my family, possibly getting a little over excited when the Lovett Art Car rolls past!



## LOVETT ELEMENTARY RAISES FUNDS WHILE HAVING FUN AND GETTING FIT

By Monica Meyer

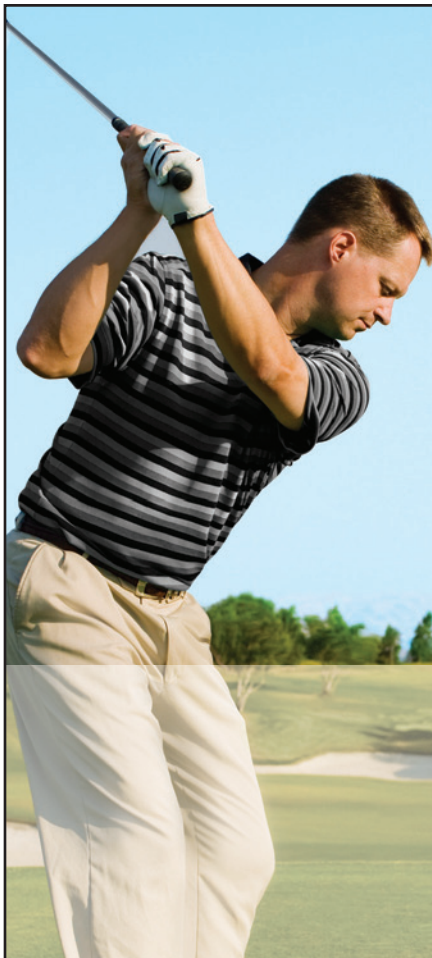


On April 7, Lovett Elementary students ran their way to raising over \$30,000 for their school in the “Lovett Hoot Scoot.” This was the second year students participated in the Lovett Hoot Scoot that was put on by a local fundraising

company. The goal of the fundraiser was for students to ask family, friends, and other important people to sponsor them with a flat donation or a per lap donation. The funds raised will go toward a new shade structure for the kindergarten playground, as well as updated technology in the school’s multi-purpose room. The fundraising team brought enthusiasm and encouragement to the entire school the week prior to the actual run. One staff member said, “the program brings a week of fun to our campus that everyone really enjoys.”

In addition to fun, the program discusses important lessons with students that include working together as a team, anti-bullying, and making a difference. Students spent a few minutes each morning learning and discussing these topics that led to the culmination of the Hoot Scoot fun run. The weather was perfect for a run and allowed the use of the school’s outdoor track. The track was divided into four t-shirt marking stations and two water stations run by school staff and PTO volunteers. The students did an amazing job, and most of them ran the maximum goal of 35 laps. First grade student Morgan said, “running was fun and it helped my school” and third grade student Landon thought, “the fun run staff were fun and really encouraged us.”

The school and PTO were very appreciative of their t-shirt sponsor, Texas Orthopedic Hospital. The sponsorship allowed the PTO to provide a shirt to all students, teachers and administration to wear on the day of the run. The PTO treated teachers, staff and administration to a catered lunch at school. The students were treated to snow cones at Field Day later that month as a way of saying “thanks” for their hard work. Over 1,500 pledges from 41 states and 6 countries helped the school meet their goal while having fun and getting fit!



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## Trash/Recycling Schedule

June, 2017						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				7	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 T/R	28	29	30	

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

**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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## Herod Elementary Wins Earth Day Challenge

*By Vicki Wallin*

On Saturday, April 22, Herod Elementary School participated in the Earth Day Celebration sponsored by HEB. Albert Hargrove, Store Director at the South Braeswood and Chimney Rock location, selected five schools to participate in the Earth Day celebration, which included Herod Elementary. The school challenged all of its students to collect recyclable plastic bags for a period of one week. A tally was kept of each teacher's bags that were collected from his/her homeroom. Mr. Hargrove awarded the winning teachers HEB gift cards. Herod's Safety Patrol collected the bags from each classroom and tallied the bags by teacher. The final count exceeded 15,000 plastic bags! The winning teachers were 4th grade teacher, Jeanetta Brady; 2nd grade teacher, Pamela Hinsey; and 1st grade teacher, Maria Manzanares. Each won a gift card from Mr. Hargrove and the students won a cookie party for the winning grade level.

HEB's location at Braeswood and Chimney Rock also won the First Place victory in the company-wide Earth Day contest. Congratulations to Mr. Hargrove and his winning team! He and his team have been incredibly supportive of our community and our schools this past year. The Herod students loved the Earth Day Challenge and asked if they can collect bags again next year.



# JUNE

is **JUNK Waste Collection Month**  
Wednesday, June 14th



## Meyer Library Update

*By Gerda Gomez*



The George Meyer Houston Public Library on West Bellfort is in the City of Houston's 2014-2018 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for replacement. The project scope includes replacing the current 8,339 sq. ft. building built in 1962 with a new 12,000 sq. ft. building. The project includes funding of one million dollars to purchase land for a new building. The current land is inadequate to house a larger structure. According to Elizabeth Sargent, Assistant Director of Customer Experience at Houston Public Library, no land in the District K vicinity is available for the approximate \$1 million amount funded in the CIP. Since no land was available, the project was put on hold, and the CIP allocations will soon expire.

In order to secure sufficient funds to replace the building in the future, the Meyer Library needs to be included again in the next Houston Library bond request in a general bond election. Meyer Library is located in District K and Meyerland is in District C. The amount of funds available for spending may make future relocation farther away than its current location. The good news is that Houston Public Library has reassessed the Meyer Library staffing and the library will have open hours again on Mondays by the end of June, date to be announced.



## Director Spotlight - Barbara Marcus



Barbara is the new director for Section 6 and has lived in Meyerland for 27 years in Section 6b. She joined the board because of her desire to promote Meyerland as a desirable place to live. Barbara has served and been an officer on many boards: Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, The Eleanor Rubenstein Jewish Community Center, The Jewish Federation of Houston, Business

and Professional Women (BPW), and The Professional Group. She owns her own company, Marcus Personnel, a full service staffing agency for 25 years. Barbara has extensive executive management skills in Human Resources management. She lives on Braesvalley with husband, Al of the Grateful Bread and her shih tzu, Harry, who thinks he owns Braesvalley. Her son, Matt is a founder/owner of Eatsie Boys, 8th Wonder Brewery and other restaurant projects.

## Willow Waterhole Music Fest 2017

The 2017 Willow Waterhole Music Fest was a huge success with over 7,000 people in attendance for the two day festival that was held on April 22 – 23. There were 16 professional bands and 7 school bands that provided 20 hours of free music that included Zydeco, Big Band, Rock, R&B, Blues, Latin and Jazz. This year's festival included the addition of a dynamic Art Village and the return of the popular food trucks. Thanks went out to all the sponsors including Meyerland Community Improvement Association. A short video of this year's festival can be found at <https://vimeo.com/215123067>.



A large advertisement with a yellow background featuring radiating lines. In the center, the text 'SELL US YOUR CAR!' is written in large, bold, black letters. Several puppies are positioned around the text: one at the top left, one at the top right, one in the middle left, and two at the bottom left. A larger puppy is on the bottom right. At the bottom, a blue banner contains the Texas state flag logo and the text 'TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM' in white.

## Bicycle Safety

*By Joyce Young*

School is out; summer is in. Lots of outdoor activities will be taking place and many parents and children will be on their bicycles enjoying the sunshine. In order to make the most of this pleasant experience listed below are some basic guidelines for responsible bike riding.

- Ride a bike that fits you and is in good shape, e.g., brakes are in good working order and reflective lights are on the bike (white front light and red rear light).
- Wear a helmet and wear clothing that is visible to others and can be seen at night or when visibility is poor.
- Wear closed-toe shoes; i.e., avoid sandals or flip-flops that can easily fall off.
- Bicycle in the same direction as traffic and obey all street signs. Use hand signals when turning both left and right.
- Avoid wearing earbuds which block out the noise of the traffic. Be aware and don't text while biking.
- When passing someone on the street or sidewalk, announce your presence by saying "on your left", "passing on your left", or use a bell to let the person know you are behind him. This simple act will help avoid unnecessary startling and accidents.

Summer is the perfect time to get outside, have fun and enjoy the bicycle path on Brays Bayou.



**Please remember to pick up after your pets and "scoop the poop"**

A colorful advertisement for Kidventure Summer Camp 2017. The background is a vibrant, abstract mix of red, orange, and blue. On the right side is a photo of a smiling young girl with dark hair, wearing a red t-shirt with a yellow "K" logo and the word "KIDVENTURE" below it. The text "This Summer, Dream Big!" is written in large, white, sans-serif font. Below that, "KIDVENTURE" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Then "SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER" is in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font with horizontal lines on either side. Below that, "★ SUMMER CAMP 2017 ★" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "REGISTER TODAY" is in a white, sans-serif font, and the website "Kidventure.com/houston-summer-camp" is in a white, sans-serif font.



## WHERE DOES IT GO?

*By Lynae Novominsky of Jewish Family Services  
and Gerda Gomez*

Jason Iken, Sr. Assistant Director of Wastewater Operations, City of Houston, gave a presentation about Houston's sewage system on May 3, 2017, at the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center. The event was hosted by Citizen Solutions to Houston Flooding with the goal of educating residents about how the sewage system impacts the main drain at Millbury and Braesheather, where residents have complained about frequent overflows during heavy rains.

Mr. Iken stated that the city's sewage system is enormous with 6,100 miles of collection pipes and 383 lift stations that pump the sewage water to higher elevations to send onward to 40 discharge stations. The lift stations are important because sewage water flows by gravity and has to be lifted once it gets to a certain depth. The discharge stations, namely treatment plants, treat the sewage water by first providing micro-organisms, an aeration process, (which deconstructs & removes pathogens and organic matter) and then by removing solids (including inanimate items and inorganic material such as sand). Clean water rises to the top and is released and the sludge at the bottom is sold commercially to fertilizer companies. Mr. Iken emphasized that only human bodily waste and toilet paper should be going into our toilets and sewage lines.

Meyerland's lift station is located south of Brays Bayou, west of Chimney Rock, across from the Harmony School. The station lifts the sewage water in the pipes and pushes it under the bayou to the north side and into the main pipe which carries it to the treatment station inside 610. The sewage pipes closer to 610 and south of the bayou do not have a lift station. Instead, they go under the bayou, to the main pipe and directly to the treatment station.

The main drain on Millbury Street at Braesheather has experienced five massive sewage overflows during heavy rains since the completion of the Rebuild Houston Millbury project in May, 2015. To address the problem, Mr. Iken explained debris was removed in the nearby pipes. They were also cleaned with a special solution before being examined with video equipment. A service relocation will be done in the five cul-de-sacs off Braesheather between Millbury and South Post Oak. This will entail relocating the sewer pipes from behind the homes to the front yards and capping the old lines. In addition, 1.3 miles of sanitary pipes will be replaced in the area. This project will be completed by October, 2017. Currently crews are monitoring the Millbury/Braesheather sewage drain during all rains in which anticipated rainfall is over 1.5" during 6 hours. This is called "code wet." Iken believes that the massive overflow occurs because hydrological flow information was not collected prior to the Rebuild Houston project. If there was a prior flow restriction that has been released, the flow is much stronger than anticipated and hence the massive overflow from the drain.

The Greater Houston Water Program averages 112 major projects each year, which consist of renewing, bursting, and cleaning pipes. The pipes need to be maintained and cleaned periodically. Currently the department is working on deferred maintenance issues, i.e., finding problems and working on the worst ones while evaluating the cost of the project.

## Farmers Market Grows In Popularity

*By Shirley Hou*

The Meyerland Farmers Market continues to see steady growth and popularity in the neighborhood since it started just six months ago. The market, located in the parking lot of Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School at 8601 Chimney Rock Road, is open every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The market has about 30 vendors each week. New and returning customers come to buy fresh produce, grab a cup of coffee and pastry and chat with friends. Several new vendors joined the market earlier this year:

- Jami's Fine Foods - award winning chicken salad, homemade tamales, blueberry/corn salad, and more
- Rookies Cookies - incredible homemade cookies & ice cream
- Renaissance Chicken - free range eggs (chicken, duck or quail) as well as chicken meat
- The Bar Center - delicious healthy food bars

The farmers market also sells hot, prepared foods such as meatball sliders on pretzel rolls, Indian wraps and individual customization of tea blends. Did you know that Gunderman Farms, which has the largest produce stall at the market, also supplies produce to Brennan's Restaurant and Landry's Restaurants? Now that the weather is definitely warm, we encourage residents to visit the Meyerland Farmers Market and support the local Houston food community.

If you are a vendor wishing to sell at the market, or if you are looking for part-time work to help vendors on Saturdays, please contact Tim or LeeAnne Carlson at 832-659-7070 or [meyerlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:meyerlandfarmersmarket@gmail.com).



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EXTENSION**

# HOUSE FLIES

Moving into summer, we should prepare for the inevitable...house flies. While many see house flies as a nuisance, they are capable of spreading diseases such as dysentery or food poisoning. Due to the locations house flies frequent- garbage, manure, and carrion- they can pick up bacteria and other disease organisms which can transfer to other areas where they may land such as dishes, food, or countertops. House flies regurgitate onto food to liquefy it before eating and they can further contaminate items by defecating upon surfaces.

The common house fly has two wings and is dull gray with black stripes on the thorax (the section where the wings are attached). Adult flies can only eat liquid foods and have sponging mouthparts specialized to help them feed.

Eggs are usually laid on decaying matter such as animal fecal material, grass clippings, or garbage. Around 100-150 eggs are laid by the female. Depending upon temperature (warmer temperatures speed things up); eggs may hatch within 8 hours to 2 days.

Maggots, the immature stage of a fly, are small, white, carrot-

shaped, and legless. There are 3 larval molts then mature larvae seek a dry location for pupation. Pupae are reddish brown and somewhat oval in shape.

During the summer, house flies may live up to 2.5 weeks while during cooler times of the year they may live up to 3 months.

The key to fly management is sanitation, or cleaning. Eliminate breeding sites by picking up animal waste one to two times per week; empty garbage cans regularly; clean garbage cans at least once a month with soapy water. Keep garbage cans located away from doors that lead into the home and make sure they have tight fitting lids.

Other items that can help reduce fly problems include keeping window screens in good repair; making sure doors and windows have a tight seal and weather stripping is in good condition; and using fly swatters or sticky fly paper to get rid of adult flies.

*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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## 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  
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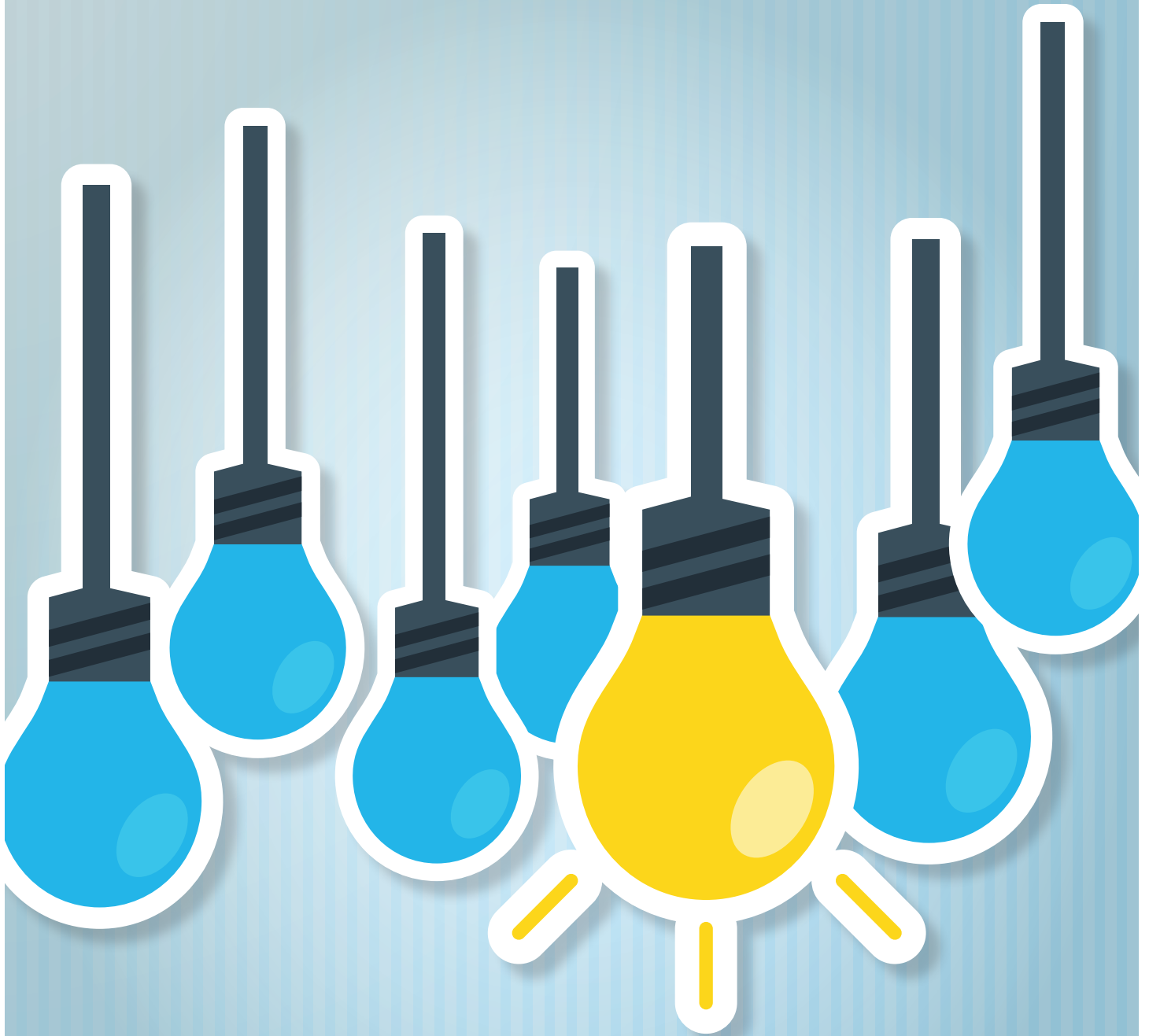
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