

Meyerlander MONTHLY

Volume 5 | Issue 7

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JULY 2017



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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

MCIA OFFICE

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.

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Architectural Control randi@meyerland.net

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4999 West Bellfort St., Houston, TX 77035

Visit our website at www.meyerland.net

SECURITY

Precinct 5 Constable (including burglar alarms) 281-463-6666

Emergency 911

Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency 713-884-3131

CITY OF HOUSTON

Houston Help & Information 311 or 713-837-0311

District C Council Member, Ellen Cohen 832-393-3004

Meyer Branch Library 832-393-1840

Godwin Park Community Center 713-393-1840

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Home Construction Update

By Randi Cahill

Home construction and elevations continue to occur at a fast clip in Meyerland. There are currently around 70 homes under construction, and another 30 to 40 houses in the queue waiting to get started. Some homeowners are elevating their homes to be above the floodplain. About 40 homes are going through the FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Program and approximately 10 are being lifted privately at the homeowners expense. About 160 homes have been demolished to either sell as lots or to construct new homes. The balance of flood-damaged homes are being rehabilitated and renovated.

The top trends in reconstruction right now appear to be outdoor living spaces, stained wood soffits, and pre-wiring garages to install hydraulic lifts. If you are rebuilding or substantially remodeling your home, it is very important that the plans are complete. The MCIA home improvement application forms specify what items must be included in order for the application to be considered by the appropriate architectural control committee. There is even a "New Home Construction Packet" for people who are going to build a new house. All of these documents can be found on the MCIA website, meyerland.net. Understanding the rules before scheduling your first appointment with the MCIA office staff will ensure a smoother process. Please read the application, Deed Restrictions, and policies carefully, then reach out to Randi Cahill in the MCIA office for an appointment.

New Library Hours

By Shirley Hou

Bookworms, rejoice! The Meyer Library on 5005 West Bellfort expanded their hours in June. The library is now open 6 days a week:

Monday 11 AM - 6 PM
Tuesday 10 AM - 6 PM
Wednesday 10 AM - 6 PM
Thursday 12 PM - 8 PM
Friday 1 PM - 5 PM
Saturday 10 AM - 5 PM

Browse the Houston Public Library catalog, borrow books, e-books, audio-books and more at houstonlibrary.org.

Cover Credit

Many homes are being elevated in Meyerland, and the results can be very attractive, such as this beautiful home on 4938 Heatherglenn in Section 7.

Should Meyerland Allow Garage Sales? The People Speak

In March and April, the MCIA Board of Directors published a non-binding survey to residents regarding whether Meyerland should allow garage sales. Currently, garage sales, yard sales and estate sales are prohibited. However, Directors have received numerous requests over the years to reconsider the policy. The topic was reviewed this year by the Deed Restriction Compliance Committee (DRCC) as an issue to probe further with residents. The Board felt that the impact garage sales would have on the community was a major issue that needed to go above and beyond the normal procedure. Consequently, the non-binding questionnaire was used to obtain resident input. This type and extent of gathering information was a first for MCIA and from that effort and via its responses, both pro and con, it is evident how much the residents care about Meyerland.

A paper survey was distributed as a handout at the Annual Meeting on March 24. The online survey was published on the MCIA website soon thereafter. It was also included in the April issue of the Meyerlander Monthly newsletter and responses were accepted until April 30. Each property address was allowed one submission.

In total, 455 residents responded. The results showed that 293 residents (64%) indicated some kind of garage sale (individual or community-wide) should be allowed while 162 residents (36%) did not want any type of garage sales. The overwhelming responses were submitted online with only 9% of them returned in paper form. Interestingly, a majority (59%) of people who responded via the paper survey were against garage sales, but an even larger majority (67%) who responded online favored garage sales.

Long, passionate comments were submitted along with the survey. Arguments in favor of garage sales included that it would be beneficial to people who need to declutter their homes and heirs who want to hold estate sales, as well as being a good opportunity to interact with their neighbors. Bellaire and West University Place permit garage sales without apparent injury to their reputations. People who felt strongly against garage sales cited safety and traffic concerns as well as strangers in the neighborhood, potential theft, and the down-market feel of garage sales. Both sides agreed that clear rules and procedures by MCIA are required if any type of garage sales are eventually allowed.

Directors deliberated the garage sale results at the June 12 Board meeting. At the end of the debate, they directed the DRCC committee to proceed with writing a draft garage/estate sale policy and procedure for future debate and a possible vote.

Meyerland

· past, present & future ·

a neighborhood we know, we sell & we believe in



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Meyerland Mothers Club



Did you know that Meyerland has a Meyerland Mothers of Young Children organization? If you are new to Meyerland or new to motherhood, this organization serves as a parenting and networking resource,

as well as a social group for Moms (and Dads) of preschool age children (0 to 5 years). The group includes working and stay-at-home moms, as well as married and single moms with natural and adopted children.

The organization is a 100% volunteer organization with annual dues of \$25. The dues go toward subsidizing food, decorations and other supplies for the club's social activities. The benefits of joining the organization include a members-only electronic mailing list, playgroups, mom's night out, family events and lasting friendships. In addition, the organization hosts several annual events. For more information, please go to www.bigtent.com/groups/mmoyc.



DEAR LABBY

By Labrigail Van Bird Dog

Dear Labby: My wife and I just adopted a Boxer named Herbert. She thinks he may be French but I think he's Cajun because he likes fried catfish and spicy boudin sausage. I think it's okay to feed Cajun Cuisine to Herbert but she doesn't.

I'm not sure who's right but Herbert does walk around the house belching. I just don't want to deprive him. Who do you think is right, Labby?

-Heartburn in Houston

Dear Heartburn: It sounds like you might be headed from out of the frying pan and into the fire. Stay out of the dog house. Listen to your wife.

If you have pet questions for Dear Labby (not just for dogs), please email them to: meyerlander@meyerland.net



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Nature Escapes

By Joyce Young



It's summertime and for many families that means it's time to enjoy the outdoors. If traveling to distant locations is not in the plans this summer, perhaps local park exploration can appease the wanderlust. Houston has an abundance of outdoor spaces and it all began with The Houston Parks and Recreation Department that was created in 1916 with just two facilities, Sam Houston Park and Hermann Park. Today Houston is home to over 370 developed parks and over 200 greenspaces and esplanades. Additional information for park locations near Meyerland can be found at www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/District_C.pdf.

The Houston Arboretum and Nature Center is located at 4501 Woodway Drive. In addition, to its 155 acres of natural environment that is a sanctuary for native plants and animals, the arboretum is also hosting several events in July. These events include "Nature Revealed", "Food, Wine & Beer" and "Arboretum at Night". Please visit www.houstonarboretum.org for more information.

Evelyn's Park in Bellaire recently opened in April 2017. The park is located at 4400 Bellaire Blvd and occupies the former location of Teas Nursery, which closed in 2009. The Rubenstein brothers, Jerry and Bo, purchased the five acres of land and gifted it back to Bellaire with the caveat that it be used as parkland, and that it be named in honor of their mother, Evelyn, a Bellaire resident and philanthropist who loved the outdoors.

The five acres have been transformed into an iconic greenspace that includes the planting of over 300 native trees. The park offers visitors the chance to learn about the environment and includes a natural playground of reclaimed tree stumps and a ten-foot slide. There are over 150 hidden elements from the Alice in Wonderland story in the whimsical "Move One Place On" sculpture. There are five garden areas and five trails. There is a signature entrance fountain, peaceful meditation area and a café. The park also hosts a farmers market along with other special events. For more information, please see www.evelynspark.org.

Russ Pittman Park is also located near Meyerland at Newcastle and Evergreen Street. The Nature Discovery Center is located in the park. The four acre park includes four habitat zones. The Pocket Prairie zone includes native prairie plants along with the insects that live in it and the birds and animals that visit. The Prairie Wetland is planted with native plants and grasses that have deep roots which absorb water during heavy rains. The Deciduous Woodland area is planted with species native to the East Texas deciduous forests. The Cypress Pond area is named after the Bald Cypress trees and it is a habitat for amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, small mammals and invertebrates that live there year-round. Additional information can be found at www.naturediscoverycenter.org.

Summer is a good time to go explore the outdoors and Houston and the surrounding areas have an abundance of parks, greenspaces and nature preserves that are ripe for exploring.



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GO **PAPERLESS**



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Director Spotlight CORY GIOVANELLA



Cory Giovanella was born and raised in Houston, Texas and grew up in Maplewood South, where his parents still live. His mother was a chemistry teacher at Westbury High School for almost twenty years. Cory moved away from Houston and attended The University of Texas at Austin. He is currently the Sr. Director of Sales

at DocuWare, an international software company.

In 2009 Cory married his wonderful wife, Carley, a veterinary neurosurgeon at Gulf Coast Veterinary Specialists. His son, Marcello, was born in 2011, and Cory and his wife decided it was time to settle down and buy a house. They returned to Meyerland because

of the fond memories Cory had of growing up in this area. His wife, who grew up in Maryland, really liked the unique architecture and aesthetics of Meyerland. They bought their house in July 2012, did an extensive renovation and moved into it in May 2013. The Memorial Day flood of 2015 and the Tax Day flood of 2016 had other plans for them, however, and their newly renovated home was lost. Cory and his family are determined to stand by “our beloved community”, and they are rebuilding on their lot and looking forward to celebrating another “move in” to a beautiful Meyerland home.

Cory’s perception of Meyerland is that it has changed very little since his childhood days. This charm has made the neighborhood desirable for him and his family. However, Cory feels that events have transpired in the last few years that have caused, and will continue to cause, significant changes to Meyerland. His professional career involves helping organizations modify the way they’ve done business processes for many years. Therefore, he frequently sees the adverse reactions to change. Cory believes change has been and can be very positive. He is looking forward to working with the necessary people and groups to help be a part of the management of change in Meyerland.

JULY IS TREE WASTE COLLECTION MONTH WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

Trash/Recycling Schedule

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

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

Kids' Club

Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:

Peel, Inc. - Kids Club

308 Meadowlark St

Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

DUE: July 30th

Be sure to include the following so we can
let you know!

Name: _____
(first name, last initial)

Age: _____



**Happy 4th
of July!**

MEY

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FREEDOM OVER TEXAS

This year's Freedom Over Texas celebration marks the 30th anniversary of Houston's signature patriotic event. The festivities will take place at both Eleanor Tinsley and Sam Houston Parks on Buffalo Bayou (along Allen Parkway) from 4 p.m. – 10 p.m. The United States Air Force Band of the West will pay tribute to our nation's birthday. The 45-member ensemble from the Air Education and Training Command at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland will proudly represent the men and women of the United States Air Force as they kick off this year's festivities. The evening's performances will also include CMA award-winning artist, Hunter Hayes and the American dance-rock band, DNCE led by Joe Jonas. In addition, there will be children's entertainment, professional sport team set-ups, live music and food. The evening's festivities will conclude with the traditional fireworks display sponsored by Citgo. ABC-13 will simulcast all the fun state-wide. Admission is free for children five and under. Please see www.freedomovertexas.org for more information.

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