

Volume 5 | Issue 8

**MEYERLAND.NET** 

A BULLER AND A BULLER AND A BULLER

**AUGUST 2017** 



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Houston Police Dept. Non-Emergency71	3-884-3131

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For missed garbage pickup, water line break, dead animals, traffic signals, and other city services, dial 311. Some mobile phone users may need to dial 713-837-0311.

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# MEYERLAND NOW A MEMBER OF SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD 31

By Barbara Marcus and Gerda Gomez

At the Board of Directors monthly meeting on June 12, 2017, Meyerland Community Improvement Association's (MCIA) directors had a majority vote to join the newly formed Greater Meyerland Super Neighborhood 31 (SN31). The official Recognition Ceremony of Greater Meyerland Super Neighborhood 31 by Mayor Turner and Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Cohen was held on July 25, 2017.

Super Neighborhoods are geographically designated city entities. There are 88 Super Neighborhoods in Houston, of which approximately half are active. They are formally recognized by the city and direct access to city leaders is provided. Elected city officials are present at the monthly meetings to provide an opportunity for direct communication of problems and needs, and to inform the neighborhoods about city projects.

Stakeholders within the geographic area include homeowners' associations, schools, civic organizations, commercial entities, faith based and nonprofit entities. Stakeholders are able to collaborate on solutions to common problems (e.g., capital planning, development, flood mitigation, etc.). There was no cost to join. The homeowners' associations include: Braesmont Civic, Barkley Circle Civic, Barkley Square Civic, Maplewood Civic, Maplewood S/N, Marilyn Estates, Meyercrest, Shadowcrest, and now Meyerland.

By participating in SN 31, Meyerland will have an additional means of networking and obtaining information important for Meyerland. Barbara Marcus, MCIA Section 6 Director, will serve as delegate and Gerda Gomez, MCIA Section 7 Director, as alternate.



# Cover Credit

The inaugural Independence 8K event was held on Saturday, July 1, 2017. The race started at 7:30 a.m. at 420 Meyerland Plaza Mall and passed through Meyerland via Endicott, North Braeswood, South Braeswood and South Rice.

## Meyerland's Inaugural Independence 8k

### By Joyce Young

The inaugural Independence 8k held on July 1, 2017, in Meyerland was replete with blue skies and typical Houston weather. The runners were not deterred, however, when the 7:30 a.m. horn sounded the beginning of the race and the temperature was already 89 degrees. Seven hundred runners registered for this timed event and 604 runners toed the line and finished the race. It was a well-fought medal finish as the runners took to the streets of Meyerland and enjoyed the scenic views down both North and South Braeswood. It was a sea of red, white and blue with camaraderie aplenty. The start line was on Endicott Street in front of 24 Hr Fitness. The National Anthem was sung to total silence and respect. Soon thereafter, the horn blared and the runners were off. Approximately 5 miles later, the finish line appeared and all runners were awarded a medal topped off with the much appreciated cold, refreshing water.

Randi and Graham Schooley of RA Sports Management began planning this patriotic event nearly 16 months ago. The husband and wife team are runners themselves and have been organizing events for approximately 10 years. The Green 6.2 at City Centre was their first event in 2008 with 300 runners. It has now grown to 2,500 plus runners. In 2012, the Schooleys participated in the production of the Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta, Georgia. Atlanta's race is the largest road race in the United States with over 60,000 participants annually. "It was an incredible experience for our team and creating a similar tradition for Houstonians has always been in the back of my mind," states Graham. "When the opportunity presented itself in early 2016, I knew it was something we needed to do." And thus, the idea for Houston's inaugural Independence 8k was born.

The Schooleys wanted a race that distinguished itself from the normal 5k's and 10k's that "run" rampant in Houston and elsewhere. The 8k is "an uncommon distance for Houstonians", says Graham, "but not the case in other parts of the country. The Shamrock 8k in Chicago has an annual participation of over 25,000 runners." For Meyerland's inaugural run, the registration was capped at 700 runners and the Schooleys feel there is room to grow at this location. They looked for "a location that was unique" and feel they found "a lost *(Continued on Page 6)* 

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gem in Houston" in the Meyerland location.

Meyerland's inaugural Independence 8k proved to be a winning event that included runners from all parts of Texas, several out-ofstate runners and 67 runners from Meyerland's 77096 zip code. In family-friendly manner, there was also a kid's 1k run. The Schooley's organizational skills in providing a great run were evident with the ease of parking, vendors, start line, water, police and medical support, and great support staff and volunteers.

With the success of the inaugural event, the Schooley's are looking forward to next year's event and the steady growth of participants. Perhaps not as large as Atlanta's crowds, but watch out Chicago, Meyerland has you in its sights.

# **SALES TAX HOLIDAY**

By Joyce Young

Summer is winding down. School is gearing up. Many parents will be purchasing back to school clothing and other items for their kids. This year's Sales Tax Holiday will take place from August 11 through August 13. The law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies, and backpacks priced under \$100 from sales and use tax. Qualifying items subject to the sales tax exemption include items sold online, by telephone or mail orders. Lay-away plans also qualify. More information can be found at https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/98-490/.





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# **DEAR LABBY**

By Labrigail Van Bird Dog

**Dear Labby:** I have a five-year-old, male German Shepherd named Rex. He's a good boy and a great companion. I spend all night with him when I get home from work, and all weekend with him. But I feel bad leaving him inside of my house all day with nothing to do. Do you have any ideas how I can keep him entertained and not getting into trouble, resulting from boredom? He did recently eat a sofa. There wasn't much left of it and I never did find all the dismantled parts. I really miss my sofa. Should I get him a playmate? What should I do? Please help me, Labby.

### Sofa Saver in Houston

**Dear Sofa Saver:** How wonderful that you have such a devoted pet to share your life with. I would try leaving interactive toys around the house that will keep Rex busy. I suggest chew toys, squeaky toys, and toys Rex will have to roll around to get treats out of. There is also an electronic toy available that can be connected to the internet. It allows you to see, hear, and talk to Rex while you are away. You can even command it to throw treats to him when you desire.

Doggie Day Care is another option. There are several great ones in our neighborhoods, or close by. Rex will have tons of fun at Doggie Day Care, and he'll make new friends. If you have the funds for this, Rex will come home so tired and happy, he'll probably never be bored again. That's what I call a win – win.

If you decide to increase your pet family size and get Rex a new sibling, please make sure to introduce them properly. Dogs can be territorial and dog selective – just like humans can be people selective. I suggest two people walking them outside, away from one another so they can see each other before they meet. Then, gradually get them closer while walking. If all goes well, walk them side-by-side so they can sniff one another. This is how they make friends. They will probably end up being besties. Also, please consider adopting from one of your local animal shelters or rescue groups.

If none of these options are appealing, you can always tell Rex that while you're away, he can watch cable TV and perhaps leave him twenty dollars on the counter in case he wants to order a pizza. Just make sure the parental block is engaged with your cable provider. You never know what Rex may end up watching. I would recommend The Animal Planet or Nat Geo. At least until you have "the talk" with him.

# GOODBYE SUMMER, HELLO SCHOOL

### By Shirley Hou

The dog days of summer are waning and the new school term is right around the corner. The first day of school for the Houston Independent School District and nearby private schools is as follows:

> August 14 – St. Thomas More Parish School (age 3 – Grade 8)

August 16 - Beth Yeshurun Day School (age 15 months – Grade 5),

Pilgrim Lutheran School (age 18 months – Grade 8) August 17 – Westbury Christian School (age 3 – Grade 12) August 22 – The Emery/Weiner School (Grades 6 – 12),

The Shlenker School (age 15 months – Grade 5) August 23 - St. Thomas' Episcopal (Grades K – 12)

August 28 - Trafton Academy (Pre-K – Grade 8); HISD schools, including Herod, Kolter and Lovett Elementary schools; Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School (formerly known as Johnston Middle School), and Bellaire High School

# **INK Waste Collection Month** Wednesday, August 9th





# **JOIN CUB SCOUTS**

### By Shirley Hou

Do you have a son entering 1st through 5th grade looking for fun and adventure? Cub Scouts provides a fun and safe environment to learn and grow while developing interests and skills. The program helps to develop character centered around good morals and values. There is a chance to learn life skills through community service and hands-on projects, like building Pinewood Derby cars. There are also exciting outdoor experiences like hiking, camping, and more.

The Scouting program is delivered through local civic, faith-based, and educational institutions which operate units, or packs. The Cub Scout units in the Meyerland area are shown below. While the packs meet at religious institutions, boys of all faiths are welcome and Meyerland's zoned elementary schools are included. Visit the packs' websites to learn more and enroll now.

Pack 99 St. Thomas More Catholic Church, pack-99.org Pack 455 Westbury United Methodist Church, pack455 houston.org Pack 806 Brotherhood of Temple, troop806.org Pack 1226 St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Megan Crossman, megancrossman@comcast.net



St. Thomas More's Pack 99 conducting a flag ceremony during a fall camping trip.



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# **TEXAS FUN**

#### By Cary Robinson

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? You know that question never gets old. Gas is cheap so why not take a nice Texas family vacation. Pack up the kiddos or grandkids and take a road trip. Some of your destinations will even accept dogs, so don't forget about Fido.

Let's start in Houston, the outskirts of Houston. A major attraction is the Space Center Houston, just to the south. Kids love this and NASA is very interesting for the young and old. Check out the Apollo rocket ships, lunar landers, and space shuttles. NASA is truly inspiring for young people. Your mind will be amazed with the summer exhibit: Science Fiction. It is really thought provoking. Science fiction adventures will be had by all. Plan on spending a lot of time there so you can get the full experience. When you leave, if you want really authentic Italian cuisine, try Frenchie's. It's on East Nasa Parkway and while there, you will think you are in Italy. Speaking Italian is optional, but welcomed. Be sure to check out the autographed Astronaut photos on the wall.

Might as well hit Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Galveston. They have more water rides than you can imagine. Water slides, wave pools, lazy rivers, they have them all. Want your kids to go to sleep early and stay sleeping till breakfast time? Well, this is the place for vou. You'll love it.

Don't forget about Moody Gardens in Galveston. There's an aquarium pyramid where you will see the wonders of the sea. Explore the rainforest in the rainforest pyramid. The kids will really enjoy the zip line. There's something for everyone at Moody Gardens. This place is a Texas treasure. After a super fun day at Moody Gardens you may be in the mood for some fine cuisine. Try the Paco and Rudy restaurant. Maybe get a babysitter for the young ones. Then

head over to Stella's Piano bar where Little Jewford will serenade you and make you laugh.

Do you like caving? Nobody calls it spelunking anymore. I don't know why. How about a road trip to Cascade Caverns in Boerne. This place is a true Texas wonder and you will stand in awe of Mother Nature. There are beautiful rock formations and caverns. It's eerie and beautiful at the same time in those underground caves. There are plenty of animals to view, like bats and salamanders. This place is special.

Hold the wedding, because if you didn't get enough caving at Cascade Caverns, just outside of San Antonio is a fantastic cave system called Natural Bridge Caverns. The natural caves here will have you and the little ones oohing and ahhing. It's just magnificent. And they have a great gift shop.

Are you into hiking in the most beautiful places? Well, you're in luck. Two fabulous parks in The Texas Hill Country are Garner State Park in Concan and Lost Maples State Natural Area in Vanderpool. Garner State Park is pristine and has some of the best hiking in the state. There are beautiful and inviting waterholes where you will be strongly tempted to take a dip. Highly recommended. Lost Maples State Natural Area is also pristine and remote. There are beautiful trails and you may see all kinds of wildlife, but you probably won't see many people. Remember to hydrate. This place is dynamite. Just down the road in Utopia, try the Lost Maples Café. I recommend the pancakes. You won't leave hungry.

Texas has too many fun destinations to list here. These are just some Texas favorites. I'm sure I'll have plenty more for you in future issues of your fabulous magazine, The Meyerlander.

		Au	gust, 2	017			1			Septe	ember	, 2017
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.		Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.
		1 Trash	2	3	4	5						
6	7	8 <b>T/R</b>	9 Junk!	10	11	12		3	4	5	6 <b>T/R</b>	7
13	14	15 <b>Trash</b>	16	17	18	19		10	11	12 Trash	13 <b>Tree!</b>	14
20	21	22 <b>T/R</b>	23	24	25	26		17	18	19 <b>T/R</b>	20	21
27	28	29 Trash	30	31			]	24	25	26 Trash	27	28

### Trash/Recycling Schedule

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

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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# SAFE SUMMERTIME FUN

By Cary Robinson

It's another hot Texas summer. If our summer doesn't make men out of boys, I don't know what will. It's darn hot. What do we do when it's hot? We dunk ourselves in the water. If you don't have a nice, cool, clear, soothing river running through your place, the next best thing is a swimming pool. The river thing sounded pretty good, didn't it?

The words: swimming pool, originate from the word: piscine, which is Latin in origin, meaning fish. The Greeks and Romans loved their pools and sometimes even kept fish in them.

Let's talk about some swimming pool basics so we can all have some safe summertime fun. First, if you have small children or infants, you must ALWAYS watch them. Never take you eye off of the young ones when around water. Floaties, while maybe not manly, are very nice to help keep children afloat. Just keep in mind, floatation devices are not substitutes for your attention. Accidents can happen – even if a child has floaties on.

Horseplay. All well and good, but keep in mind, the wet, slippery pool decking is pretty darn hard when someone falls on it. Running around like crazy should really be kept to a minimum. Not only can someone fall and hurt themselves, they could fall and end up in the pool. Sometimes, this can result in tragedies. A little caution goes a long way.

Ever heard of Buddy Checks? Sometimes, older children are assigned "buddies" who they are responsible for. They stay close to one another and when "Buddy Check!" is announced, everyone has to stop what they are doing, hold their hand up next to their buddy, and be counted – for just a minute, and then the fun continues. This actually works and keeps the idea of safety in children's minds.

If things get a little too playful in the pool, it is always a good thing to correct the culprit. There's no harm in that. And always try to swim in a pool with a lifeguard on duty. If not, consider yourself the lifeguard. And a water safety class or CPR class sure wouldn't hurt anything. Please consider taking one. Many places, like the YMCA, offer them free of charge or for a small fee. And check into swim lessons. Swim lessons can be fun and very beneficial.

And don't think that children are the only ones who need to be attended to around pools. Adults can get into trouble just as easily as our young folks. Elderly people and people with health issues may sometimes need a little help here or there getting in and out of pools. Be vigilant. Did you know there have already been four accident drownings in Houston this year? Paying attention around pools is vital for safety issues.

Do you have curious canines? A lot of people do. Some dogs love the water. They love to swim. Unfortunately, dogs can have trouble in pools as well. If they go in, do they know how to safely exit? Dogs can't just magically lift themselves out of a pool. Make sure and keep your eye on them as well. Most dogs know how to swim, so if you train them how to properly exit the pool, you can avert an accident.

And just in case you were worried, the water doesn't really turn red if you or your child happens to have an accident in the pool. That's just a myth. Chlorine in pools are used just for this reason. So, don't fret over "accidents".

A little safety goes a long way. Be observant. Keep a watchful eye on people and pets who choose to swim. If no problems occur, wonderful, you had a great time. If a situation arises that needs your attention, you're good to go. Be safe out there. Mar ORGANIZED BLISS



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