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Meyerland Community Improvement Association

Volume 5 | Issue 9

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SEPTEMBER 2017



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MeyerlanderTM MONTHLY

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Meyerland Joins Greater Meyerland Super Neighborhood 31

By Barbara Marcus and Gerda Gomez

Super Neighborhood 31 (SN 31), Greater Meyerland was officially recognized by the Mayor and City Council on Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at City Hall. SN 31 is centered in southwest Houston, District C, and covers Brays Bayou along Interstate 610 towards Hillcroft. It includes Barkley Square Civic Club, Barkley Circle Civic Club, Braesmont Civic Club, Marilyn Estates Association, Maplewood/South/North Community Improvement Association, Maplewood Civic Club, Meyercrest, Shadowcrest Homeowners Association and Meyerland Community Improvement Association. The MCIA Board voted to join SN 31 in the hopes that it would further enhance our neighborhood making Meyerland a more enriched place for people to work, live and play. To learn more about Super Neighborhood 31, please visit: greatermeyerland.com/superneighborhood



Ribbon cutting ceremony at City Hall

Cover Credit

The beautiful home that graces the cover of this month's issue is located at 4930 Imogene in Section 5.

HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT STARTS CONSTRUCTION ON BRAYS BAYOU SEGMENT IN THE MEYERLAND AREA

The Harris County Flood Control District has begun construction on the next phase of channel modifications as part of the Brays Bayou federal flood damage reduction project – Project Brays. During this construction phase, Brays Bayou will be widened between Buffalo Speedway and South Rice Avenue in the Meyerland area.

Project Brays is a \$480 million cooperative effort between the Flood Control District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It includes the widening of 21 miles of Brays Bayou in 13 separate channel modification project segments, the modification of 32 bridges, and the construction of four stormwater detention basins with a combined capacity of 3.5 billion gallons.

On July 11, 2017, Harris County Commissioners Court awarded the approximately \$11.31 million construction contract to lowest qualified bidder, Quest Civil Constructors Inc. Work on the project began in July and is expected to be complete in late summer 2018.

During this construction phase, Brays Bayou will be widened along a section from 2,200 feet upstream of Buffalo Speedway to downstream of South Rice Avenue in the Meyerland area.

As part of the project, the Flood Control District will excavate approximately 280,000 cubic yards of soil, and will construct retaining walls under the Interstate Highway 610/South Post Oak Road and Braeswood Boulevard bridges. The project also will install new outfalls and headwalls, and rebuild existing trails along the bayou in the project area.

To make way for the channel modification project, the Flood Control District will clear some trees and vegetation. When construction is complete, the Flood Control District is committed to



(Continued on Page 6)

Meyerland

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(Continued from Page 4)

replanting trees and shrubs along the bayou during the next planting season. To date, the Flood Control District has planted more than 46,000 trees along completed sections of Brays Bayou, and at four regional stormwater detention basins.

Construction operations require the use of large trucks to carry the excavated soil from the construction site for off-site disposal, and to pour the concrete for the retaining walls. All motorists and pedestrians are encouraged to be alert to large truck traffic when passing near the construction access points.

To ask a question or comment on the project, please call Harris County Flood Control District's Project and Study Information Line at 713-684-4040 or the Project Brays Information Hotline at 713-316-4820.

NEW AND IMPROVED MEYERLAND PARK

By Joyce Young

In March, the City of Houston approved approximately \$54,000 in funding to improve the playground equipment at Meyerland Park. The park is located at 5151 Jason St. and is adjacent to Lovett Elementary School. The improvements to Meyerland Park are now complete and include the installation of new playground equipment as well as new paint on existing equipment. The park also has softball fields and tennis courts available for use and the park is convenient to all Meyerland residents.



SAVE THE DATE

Afternoon in the Park is back! Please mark the date, Sunday, November 12, on your calendars for a fun-filled day of **FREE** activities, entertainment and food. This spectacular, biennial event will take place at Godwin Park from 2 – 5 p.m. There will be lots of activities for both children and adults so be sure and **SAVE the DATE** and come join your neighbors and friends in November and partake in the festive activities!



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Project Brays: The Brays Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction Project

By Rhett Davis, Chad Mansfield and Gerda Gomez

One of the goals of the Ad Hoc Flood Committee of the Meyerland Community Improvement Association (MCIA) is to increase communication with fellow Meyerlanders. The Meyerlander Monthly provides that opportunity to communicate what is happening regarding flood mitigation.

The Flood Committee met with Gary Zika, Project Manager of Project Brays, who was gracious enough to provide our committee an update on July 20, 2017. Meyerland lies in the midsection of Project Brays. Construction of this section started July 2017 upstream of Buffalo Speedway and the planned completion date for downstream of South Rice Avenue is August 1, 2018. In the Meyerland area, the widening will be 50 feet: 10 feet on the northern side and 40 feet on the southern side of the bayou. Project Brays will also include improvements to the outflows into the bayou. The street storm drain outflows will be repaired and turned 30 degrees to reduce debris buildup and improve stormwater flow into the bayou.

The final phase of the widening will be from South Rice Avenue to Fondren and is planned to start upon completion of the midsection. Federal funding for this last phase is still pending and could delay construction of that project. Another component of Project Brays is

West Houston Center Boulevard to State Highway 6.

The South Rice and Chimney Rock bridges will be replaced upon completion of the widening of the entire bayou. The tentative date is set for 2021. Each bridge will be a separate project with separate funding. There are no planned changes to the pilings under the 610 bridge at South Post Oak. There are also no planned changes in Project Brays for work on the secondary channels of the South Rice and Chimney Rock ditches.

The widening of the bayou is welcomed. Project Brays will reduce the risk of future flooding in Meyerland, but it will not completely remove the potential for future flooding, especially for houses that took in roughly two feet or more of water during recent events. Committee members are working to identify other opportunities to make Meyerland and its families safer. These include supporting additional detention basins sought by Brays Oaks Management District near the Fondren Channel, Westwood Country Club at the intersection of Brays Bayou and the Southwest Freeway (between Gessner and Bissonnet), and the City at the Ruffino Hills landfill near Keegan's Bayou. You can expect the Flood Committee to continue updating you in this newsletter.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

Get out your lawn chairs and meet your neighbors - National Night Out is around the corner on Tuesday, October 3! This event is meant to increase awareness about police programs in communities, such as drug prevention, town watch, neighborhood watch, and other anti-crime efforts. National Night Out is typically recognized with neighborhood block parties.

Make plans now to host or attend a block party this year. You can join with your neighbor to host one right in your front yard.

If you don't host, ask a neighbor who is hosting how you can help. Perhaps you can bring extra chairs or drinks.

Registration of your block party is not required. However, if you would like a little help publicizing your block party, send an email to meyerlander@meyerland.net, Subject: National Night Out, with your name and address by Friday, September 29. The MCIA Office will include your street address in an "email blast" to the neighborhood the day before National Night Out.

SEPTEMBER
is TREE Waste Collection Month
Wednesday, September 13th

Director Spotlight

N. BURR FURLONG, SECTION 3



Although neither of us are native Texans, my wife, Cynthia, and I have lived in Houston for almost 60 years. We moved here in 1958 so that I could complete my Ph.D. with the mentor who directed my Master's research at Stanford and who had subsequently accepted the Chairmanship of the Biochemistry Department at M.D. Anderson. I then stayed on to help found the U.T. Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, while continuing research in the molecular biology of cancer.

Some 23 years later, I took early retirement from U.T. to shift to teaching honors biology and chemistry at The Kinkaid School, until

a second retirement 20 years ago. During much of this time I have also enjoyed teaching an adult Sunday School Class at St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

Cynthia and I and our three children, two boys and a girl, initially lived in West University Place, but we moved to our present home in Meyerland, Section 3 in the 1960's (despite our trepidations back then that it was almost too far from the Medical Center). The family has been quite pleased to live here in Meyerland; the children all graduated from Bellaire High School and were conveniently close to home while attending Rice and/or Texas A&M.

Since we have felt blessed by residing in Meyerland, when Cynthia saw in the Meyerlander Monthly that neither of the two director positions for our section were filled, I took the opportunity to sign in as a candidate and was selected. Perhaps I will be able to repay my neighbors by helping maintain the traditions and enthusiasm that we have appreciated while living here. I am especially interested in the flood abatement progress which is being made and the possibility that these efforts will significantly lower our flood insurance rates.



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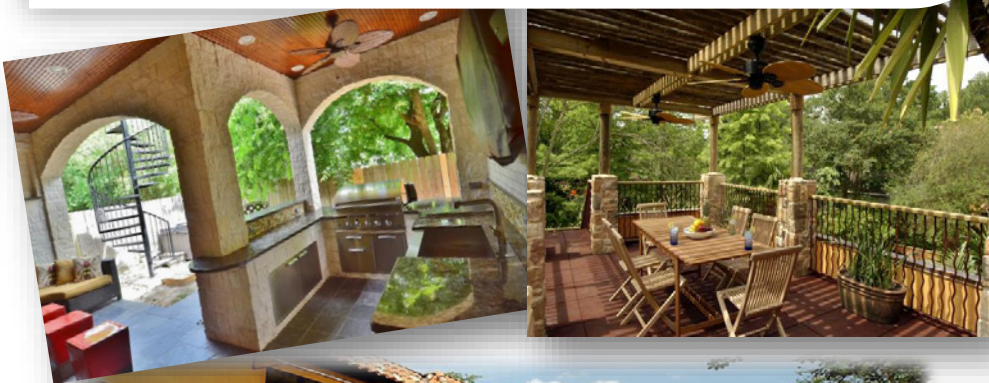
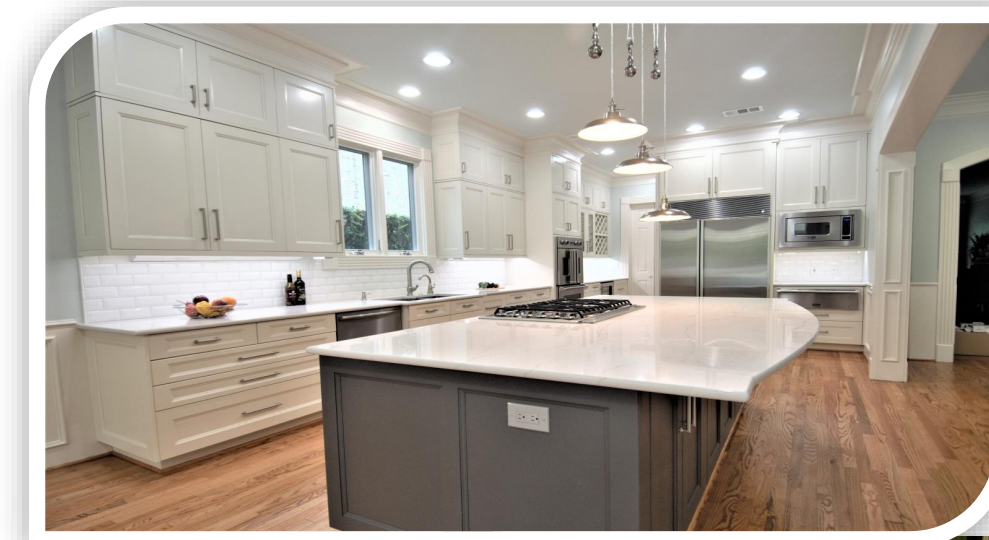


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FLOOD FORUM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

WILLOW MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH,
4300 W. BELLFORT 7:30 P.M. , DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 P.M. FOR MEET AND GREET



Russ Poppe

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.

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.



Steve Costello

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

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GO **PAPERLESS**



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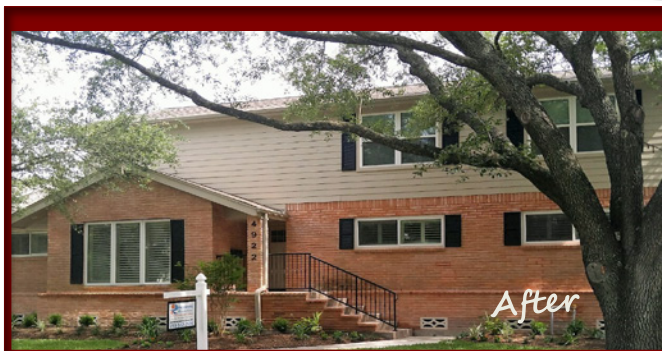
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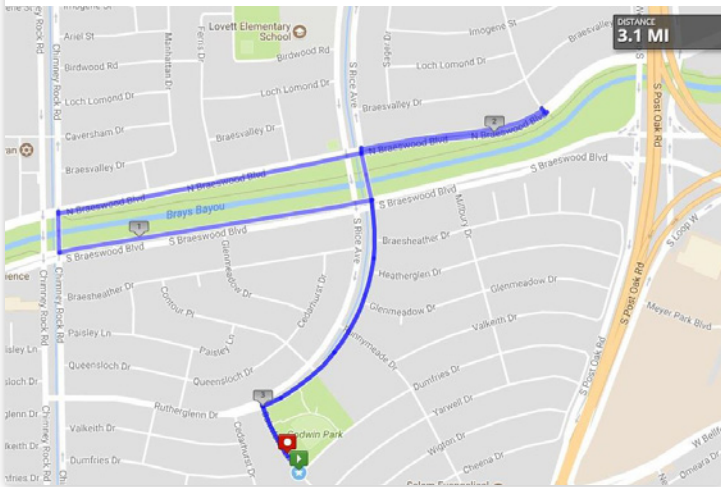
After



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OY VEY 5K RACE

The Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center (ERJCC) is hosting a 1k/5k race event on September 17. The race will begin and end at Godwin Park. The event will support the Meals on Wheels program. The post-race event will include food, vendors and family entertainment. For more information, please visit www.erjcchouston.org.



Wastewater Drain Repair Update

by Gerda Gomez

The Rebuild Houston Millbury project was completed in May 2015. The initiative's goal was to improve the quality of life and mobility for residents through the reconstruction and proper maintenance of drainage and street improvements. Since the project was completed, the main drain on Millbury Street at Braesheather has experienced five massive sewage overflows that occurred during heavy rains. Investigation is underway to find the root cause of the overflows.

Jason Iken, Senior Assistant Director of Wastewater Operations, confirmed in July that the City of Houston's Department of Wastewater continues to investigate the site of entrance of excess storm water in our area south of the bayou. The main wastewater pipes along North and South Braeswood, as well as the pipe that passes under the bayou connecting the South to the North Braeswood main have been visually checked for any breaks. Also, the "inverted straw" near the 610 Loop has been visually inspected. The "inverted straw" permits wastewater in the main pipe along South Braeswood from Millbury to 610 to flow under the bayou to connect to the main North Braeswood pipe and then to the treatment plant. No break has been found in the wastewater system that would permit the massive amounts of stormwater to enter this area.

A possible cause of the overflow is storm water entering the wastewater system due to residential drain cracks or openings. Consequently, the Department of Wastewater conducted an extensive video assessment of all wastewater drains from Doud to Hillcroft. Some residential drains in need of repair or relocation were identified. The service repair and relocation of these drains is near completion.

The MCIA does not allow residents to build into the City's easements. If structures are built in the easement, the city is unable to assess, repair or relocate broken drains.

The City has not yet been able to determine all the root causes of the sewage system overflow and therefore continues to monitor the situation and make the necessary repairs. The latest check at the Millbury and Braesheather overflow occurred on August 8 when heavy rains hit Southwest Houston. Any occurrence of wastewater overflow can be reported by calling 311 and the drain will be checked within four hours.

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Angie's list
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MONARCHS & OE

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

The protozoan parasite *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE) infects monarch and queen butterflies. It is an obligate parasite and requires a host to live within and to grow and multiply. It was first discovered in the 1960's infecting monarchs in Florida. Since then, it's been found in monarch populations across the world. It is thought that the parasite has co-evolved with monarchs.

There are three major populations of monarchs in the United States- one east of the Rocky Mountains that winters in Central Mexico and migrate north into the US and Canada; another west of the Rocky mountains that overwinters on the coast of California; the third population are non-migratory and can breed year round in areas such as Florida, Texas and Hawaii. All three populations are infected with OE.



Monarchs infected with OE will have spores wedged between the scales on their body, with the greatest concentration usually occurring on the abdomen. The spores are very small and require a microscope to see.

Female monarchs pass OE spores onto their offspring when they lay eggs. When caterpillars emerge from the egg, they eat the egg shell ingesting the spores. When spores reach the midgut of the insect, they break open and release protozoan parasites. The protozoans move through the gut lining to the epidermis where they reproduce asexually (divides multiple times increasing

the number of protozoans). In the butterfly chrysalis stage, the protozoans go through sexual reproduction (again increasing the number of protozoans). Spores form so the emerging butterfly is covered in spores. Spores can also be scattered onto milkweed from butterflies laying eggs or feeding on nectar. Spores on the milkweed can be consumed by caterpillars as they eat foliage.

Once butterflies are infected, they do not recover. OE does not grow or reproduce on the adults; spores remain dormant until they are ingested by a caterpillar.

Infected pupae have dark blotches 2-3 days before emergence. Adults that are heavily infected often have problems emerging from the chrysalis and some may die before emerging. Others that do emerge may fall to the ground before their wings are expanded leading to them dying quickly. Many infected monarchs look healthy, so the only way to determine infection is by looking for spores.

What can you do? Check monarchs for spores and destroy any you find that are infected. I know this seems harsh, but infected monarchs further spread the protozoa and kill more butterflies in later generations. Cut down milkweed several times per year to get rid of any possible spores that may be on the plants and to encourage new, healthy growth.

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

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Trash/Recycling Schedule

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

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

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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DEAR LABBY

By Labrigail Van Bird Dog

Dear Labby: My three-year-old son, Jake is just a chatty Kathy. I hear him talking and singing pretty regularly. He started talking to me and my husband in the beginning, but lately I hear him talking to himself in the front room. When I quietly sneak up on him, I find him in his pull-ups, with no shirt on, sitting face to face with our four-year-old black Great Dane named Shadow. He seems to enjoy talking to Shadow and has long conversations with her. I've even noticed him using hand gestures to her – and we're not even Italian. What do you think about this Labby? Is it okay?

Talking Toddler in Houston

Dear Talking Toddler: I wouldn't worry too much about Jake having conversations with your Great Dane. I have found that they are usually pretty good listeners. I would only be concerned if there are inappropriate words being used or if Shadow actually talks back. Jake will probably learn a great deal from Shadow's silence while she faithfully listens. Things like loyalty, kindness, and unconditional love. That's a conversation any toddler would benefit from. So, tell Jake to use his words – and keep talking to Shadow for as long as she (and he) wants. I'm sure she won't mind.

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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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Nature Discovery Center-Boy Scouts of America-West University Little League and Softball
Willow Meadows HOA-Westbury Little League-St.Thomas More Parish School-Parker Elementary
McNamara Elementary-West University Elementary-Bellaire High School-Kolter Elementary
Twain Elementary-Braeswood HOA-Keep Houston Beautiful-St.Thomas High-Lamar High
Westbury Baptist Church-Parker Elementary-Herod Elementary-Bellaire LaCrosse-YMCA

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SPECIAL

Turf Aeration &

Fertilization

Includes application
of Gypsum and Turface

\$144.99 +tax

Average size yard

Use coupon code TURF2017

Why Aeration?

- * Stimulates root growth
- * Enhances water uptake
- * Reduces compaction
- * Improves oxygen content
- * Enhances nutrient absorption

For more information
visit our website

Help your turf recover

Has your turf taken a hit this summer from Sod webworm and/or Cinch bug damage?

Have you been in a battle with excessive weeds all year?

Do you feel like you spend more money and time watering to keep your grass alive than you should?

There are many things you can do to optimize root growth and minimize weed development so that you can reduce water useage, recover quickly from recent damage and help it to withstand future pests, diseases and fungal infestations.

Call us to schedule a consultation so that we can help you develop a recovery program that works long term to create a beautiful more stress free lawn.

Why Aeration?

Aeration is a process of penetrating a surface in order to create a permeated surface in order for air or rather, oxygen, to enter. Oxygen is critical for the ability of roots to uptake nutrients. Core aeration where plugs are actually removed, also allows creates areas where roots will have the ability to grow in when sod is trying to grow through our compacted gumbo soil.

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