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Meyerland Community Improvement Association

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Visit our website at www.meyerland.net

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

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

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Houston Help & Information 311 or 713-837-0311

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COVER CREDIT

Lovett Elementary students were thrilled to be back at school following an unexpected longer summer vacation due to Hurricane Harvey.

CONSTRUCTION APPROVAL PROCESS 101

By Randi Cahill

I have received several phone calls recently regarding the approval process for construction in Meyerland. There are a few things you can do to ensure that your plans are reviewed by the architectural review committee as soon as possible.

All exterior changes in Meyerland require approval before any work begins. There are two committees that review applications for these changes. Depending on which section you live in, the Meyerland Architectural Control Committee or the Review and Control Committee (RCC) will review your application to ensure it is in compliance with the Meyerland Community Improvement Association's deed restrictions and policies. Both committees are comprised of volunteer residents.

Construction applications are available on the Meyerland website, www.meyerland.net under General Information > Home Improvement Info > Home Improvement Applications. There are different forms for several categories of projects.

Once an application is received by the office, you will receive an emailed receipt for your application. If your contractor was supposed to submit the application on your behalf, and you do not receive a receipt within one business day, please call the office. We will be able to confirm if the application was received or not.

Once the application is received, it goes into the queue where I will make a cursory review. I will email the homeowner feedback regarding any revisions or major items that should be addressed before presenting to the review committee. This increases your chances of being approved once the application is presented. Please do not hold onto your application as I need to have it well in advance of a meeting in order to best help you.

The committees meet monthly and more frequently if needed. After the committee reviews your application, you will receive one of the following outcomes: a notice of approval, a notice of denial, or a request for additional information. I send these notices electronically, so please make certain that your application includes the best contact information for you.

I know how stressful things are for many of you right now. Please know that we are helping facilitate the process of moving Meyerland forward post Harvey. If you have any additional questions, please contact our office.

Architectural Control Review Meetings

By Randi Cahill

The following dates are the 2018 meeting times for the architectural control committees, Review and Control Committee (RCC) and Meyerland Architectural Control Committee (MACC). Home improvement applications are due by the 20th of each month to be included in the next review meeting, e.g., applications are due December 20 for the January 9, 2018 meeting.

January 9	June 5
February 6	July 10
March 6	August 7
April 10	September 4
May 8	October 9

Hurricane Harvey Statistics

By Joyce Young

On September 29, 2017, Mayor Sylvester Turner announced the launch of the "Harvey By The Numbers" website that tracks various statistics regarding Hurricane Harvey flooding. The numbers have continued to increase and as of mid-November the following data was available on the City's website:

- 149,611 - Single-family homes were damaged
- 51.66 – Average rainfall from Harvey, according to the National Weather Service
- 36 – Storm-related deaths in Harris County
- 256,845 – Volunteer hours logged
- 37,000 – Families sheltered in the more than 270 Red Cross locations
- 1,380,788 – Cubic yards of debris collected
- 424 – Amount of Olympic-sized swimming pools the noted debris would fill

Please visit <https://houstonrecovers.org/numbers/> for more information and to track the continued cleanup efforts.

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STORM DEBRIS PICK-UP UPDATE

By the MCIA Office

The City of Houston has announced the completion of the first and second phases of storm debris collection, where debris on the curb is picked up by city trucks. After December 1st, Meyerland residents who continue to generate debris will need to arrange removal themselves. For homeowners that decide to use a dumpster, dumpsters must be placed on the property – not in the street and may not block the public sidewalk.

Now that a majority of the association has been cleared of storm debris and continued cleanup is occurring, it is necessary to sweep the sidewalks and lawns of the remaining “crumbs” of storm debris. If you have not done so already, please have all glass shards, nails, bits of sheetrock, etc. removed from the grass, sidewalks, and gutters in front of your homes. Further, remaining furniture and materials that are not trash should be stored out of view of the street and not left on driveways and porches.

Recycling collection resumed on Tuesday, November 14th for the Meyerland service area and will continue forward with collections every other Tuesday during a normal collection schedule. The trash/recycling collection calendar may be found by visiting: <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/holiday.html>.



Please remember to pick up after your pets and “scoop the poop”

All Smiles at the Lovett Carnival

By Pauline Mathiesen

October 21, 2017 marked another successful Carnival for Lovett Elementary! The weather was great and the attendance was plentiful! Thanks to the hard work of Lovett Carnival chairs Monica Meyer and Sarah Kiernan, the Carnival housed plenty of favorite activities like face painting, a trackless train, cake walk, petting zoo, games, rock wall and the ever popular dunk tank, which was constructed by a Lovett dad. The Lovett administration, who are always good sports, also participated in the fun and were dunked by a few lucky students. This year's carnival was really aimed at bringing the community together and letting people have fun family and friend time. "After Harvey, we wanted to make sure this was an event that everyone could enjoy", explained chair, Monica Meyer. The smiles on everyone's faces shows they succeeded in making this an enjoyable event.





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FREE MUSEUM ADMISSIONS

By Joyce Young

The holiday season is upon us and students will soon be out of school for an extended period of time. If you are looking for ways to entertain your kids without breaking the bank, Houston is replete with museums. Here is a list of the days and times in which the ticket price is free.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MUSEUM

Free on Thursday from 1 – 5 p.m.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF HOUSTON

Free on Thursday from 5 – 8 p.m.

CZECH CENTER MUSEUM HOUSTON

Free on the last Monday of the month from noon – 4 p.m.

THE HEALTH MUSEUM

Free on Thursday from 2 – 7 p.m.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON

Free on Thursday from 2 – 5 p.m.

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE

Free on Thursday from 6 – 8 p.m.

HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Permanent Exhibit Halls are free on Thursday from 2 – 5 p.m.

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON

Free on Thursday from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.



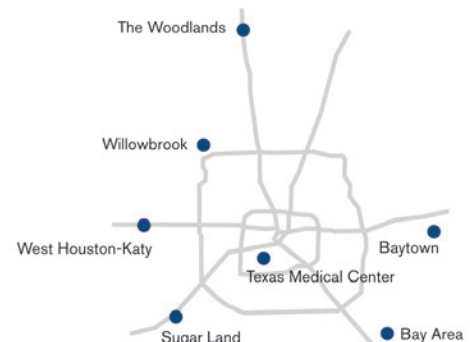
Children's Museum of Houston



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HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

By Joyce Young

The holiday season is upon us and it's time to partake in the festivities that abound. December is filled with plenty of family activities:

The ICE at Discovery Green is open from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily from November 18, 2017 to January 21, 2018. The ICE is the largest outdoor ice skating surface in the Southwest. On Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. during this timeframe there will be live jazz and special snow effects to enjoy. More information can be found at www.discoverygreen.com/ice.

The Houston Zoo will once again be transformed into a winter wonderland as it celebrates its sixth year with twinkling lights, hot chocolate and plenty of displays to entertain the family. It is quickly becoming a favorite holiday tradition. From November 18, 2017 through January 14, 2018 there will be more than two million lights illuminating the ancient oak trees and paths along with a carousel, artistic displays, food and entertainment. For more information, please visit <https://zoolights.houstonzoo.org>.

The "Trains Over Texas" exhibit is at the Houston Museum of Natural Science from November 18, 2017 to February 20, 2018. The display is the size of a tennis court and is the largest indoor "O" scale model railroad in Texas. It features destinations across the state that include the state's various geologic wonders. Please visit www.hmns.org/exhibits for more information.

Through January 7, 2018 Hermann Park will host holiday train rides. The train is decorated in holiday garlands and at night the train glows with colorful lights. More information can be found at www.hermannpark.org/calendar.

The 9th Annual Gingerbread Build-Off will take place at City Hall's Hermann Square on Saturday, December 9. More than 4,500 spectators are expected to attend and cheer on the teams. There will be a kid's construction zone and Santa will make an appearance. The event is free and open to the public. See www.aiahouston.org for more information.

On Saturday, December 9 celebrate the holiday season with your family at Hermann Park and enjoy breakfast, a ride on the Hermann Park Railroad, pedal boat ride and pictures with Santa. The party includes arts and crafts and complimentary face painting. Please visit www.hermannpark.org/calendar for more information.



Houston Zoo



Trains over Texas



ICE at Discovery Green



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HISD SURVEY

In an effort to increase efficiency and save money in the 2018–19 school year, Houston ISD is considering options to standardize school start times across the district. There are more than 280 campuses in HISD with 67 different school start times. This is the highest number in the state and poses challenges in transporting the students in a safe, reliable and affordable manner. The challenges include ineffective routes, increased costs in maintenance and repairs and reduced availability of buses for field trips and athletic events.

In an effort to meet these challenges within tight budget constraints, HISD is proposing four options for standardized start times at HISD campuses. Benefits of the standardized start times include more efficient routes that arrive and depart on time, extended life of the bus fleet and increased ridership. HISD conducted a survey to measure the input of the options for each campus level. For more information, please visit <http://blogs.houstonisd.org/news/2017/10/25/>.



DEAR LABBY

By Labrigail Van Bird Dog

Dear Labby: I live in Houston and I'm a college student. I have a one-year-old, male Irish Wolfhound. Her name is Lola. I live with a roommate and when we try to watch football on Sundays, Lola doesn't want to move off of the sofa. She pretty much takes up the entire sofa with her 120 pounds. My roommate is a little unhappy because his football viewing pleasure has been interrupted. We've tried everything but I'm afraid Lola is a sofa hog. Any ideas how we can coax her off of the sofa, Labby?

Lola On The Sofa

Dear Lola On The Sofa: It sounds to me like whatever Lola wants, Lola gets. If I were you I would visit a Houston icon who owns several furniture stores and who helped so many people during Hurricane Harvey. He also gave away free furniture when The Astros won the World Series. Oh, and ask for an extra-large sectional. It may just save you money – and a roommate.



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HEADIN' SOUTH

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



I was sitting on my back porch last night and heard the familiar “honking” sound I hear every fall—geese flying overhead. I looked up to see an almost perfect V. It instantly filled my mind with several questions. How do they know where they’re going? Why do they fly in a V shape? How far do they fly? Do they stop and rest? I decided to do some research and get some answers and I am sharing them with you. After reading about them, I have a whole new respect for them.

WHY DO BIRDS MIGRATE?

They migrate in search of food and warmer temperatures. Because of climate change and changes in farm practices that makes waste grain more available, the geese aren’t migrating as far south as they used to. Some Canada geese don’t migrate at all anymore. Lack of natural predators is another reason geese may not migrate.

HOW DO GEESE KNOW WHERE THEY’RE GOING?

One tool they use is the earth’s magnetic field. There are small pieces of what’s called magnetite found in some birds’ brains. It acts like a compass. They also use the position of the sun and the stars. Birds follow the same migration path every year and use landmarks like rivers, mountains, and valleys as their roadmap.

WHERE DO THEY GO?

They follow the same path every year. There are four routes which include the Atlantic flyway (along the east coast of North America), the Mississippi flyway (named after the river), the Central flyway (along the Rocky Mountains) and the Pacific flyway (west of the Rockies). Canada geese spend winters in southern Florida and southern North America including the southern United States and part of Mexico.

WHY DO GEESE FLY IN A “V”?

This formation is sometimes call a skein and it helps them conserve energy. Each bird flies a little higher than the bird in front of him/her. This reduces the wind resistance. As an example, in a V formation of 25 geese, each bird experiences a reduction in what’s called induced drag. This results in an increase of their range by 71%. Geese rotate taking the lead position since being in front takes the most energy.

HOW FAST CAN GEESE FLY AND HOW LONG DO THEY FLY BEFORE RESTING?

Most articles I read put their cruising speed at between 20 and 30 miles per hour. For long distance flying their estimated speed is 40 miles per hour.

DO MIGRATING BIRDS STOP TO REST

Birds need to take a “pit stop” occasionally to rest and refuel. They stop where there is ample food and water, shelter and with few competitors. They normally will spend a couple of days on the ground before continuing their journey.

The animal kingdom is amazing and the volunteers and staff at TWRC Wildlife Center get to experience the wonders everyday. If you’d like to be a part of this amazing world, volunteer! For more information, visit www.twrcwildlifecenter.org Be sure to follow us on Facebook for amazing stories and photos.

Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is located at 10801 Hammerly Blvd., Houston, TX 77043.

Spend Time With Loved Ones...



Why should the winter holiday season be the only time to enjoy your friends and loved ones? While it's still early in the year, plan to set aside time for someone close to you, or someone you'd like to know better.

- Make a list of friends you've lost touch with over the years. Scribble a note in your planner to call one of them every other month just to catch up.
- Plan private time with your significant other. Send the kids to sleep over at a friend's house so that you can be together in the comfort of your own home.
- Make a date with each of your kids to go out where he or she chooses. Use the opportunity to have fun together, just the two of you, without mentioning schoolwork or a messy room.
- Use a special event, like a new exhibition at a museum or a craft fair, to invite a friend for a "walk and talk" afternoon.
- Keep postcards and stamps handy, so that you can drop the people you love a note whenever you think of it.

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CINNAMON ROLL SWIRL CAKE

FOR THE BATTER:

- 3 cup flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 tsp baking powder
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup butter, melted

TOPPING:

- 1 cup butter, soft to the point of almost melted
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp flour
- 2 Tbsp cinnamon

DIRECTIONS:

1. In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients together except for the butter.
2. Once mixed ...slowly pour in the butter & blend in.
3. Pour into a greased 9x13 pan.
4. For the topping, mix all the ingredients together until well combined.
5. Drop evenly over the batter and swirl with a knife.
6. Bake at 350 for 30-40 minutes.

GLAZE:

- 2 cup powdered sugar
- 5 Tbsp milk
- 1 tsp vanilla

While the cake is warm, drizzle the glaze over the cake.

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MEY

CARPET BEETLES



Carpet beetles adults can be found outdoors on crape myrtles or other plants where the adults eat pollen and nectar. The adults may also be found in rodent or bird nests. When these adults move into homes, they may lay eggs which can lead to problems. These beetles can be pests in

warehouses, homes, museums and other locations.

Carpet beetle adults are small, round to oval shaped and often brightly colored. Larvae are small, tan, and ringed with bands of long hairs.

Carpet beetle larvae feed on high protein foods, usually animal based, but they can also feed on plant material. They can be found in a variety of locations throughout the home. In the pantry, you may find them in items such as powdered milk, dried meats (jerky), or pet food. Other areas of the home they can be attracted to items made from wool, fur or feathers, areas where dead insects accumulate (i.e. light fixtures), leather book bindings, hair, silk or dried plant products. If the larvae are seen feeding on synthetic fibers, it is because the material is stained with body oils or food.

A program utilizing sanitation, exclusion and insecticides should be able to get a carpet beetle problem under control.

- Clean accumulations of hair, dead insects, and bird, rodent or wasp nests
- Regularly clean rugs, carpets, upholstery, etc.
 - o make sure to get along edges, under cushions, and under furniture where debris may collect
- Inspect animal based items (taxidermied animals, leather, wool, silk, etc.) once a year to avoid infestations
- Keep pantry items/ dry goods in sealed, air-tight containers
- Infested items (if possible, depending on the items) can be heated or cooled to kill any beetles
 - o freeze 2 weeks at temperatures below 18°F
 - o heat for at least 30 minutes to temperatures above 120°F
- Insecticides should be used as spot treatments- make sure carpet beetles are listed on the label as well as the area/ item you are treating
 - o make sure the product will not stain

If you find a few adult carpet beetles in your home, squish them on vacuum them up. A few adults usually do not warrant a full treatment, but you should watch for a developing infestation.

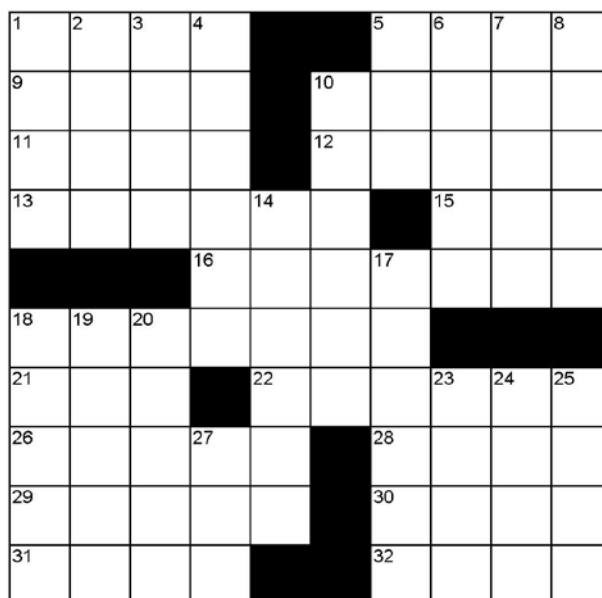
For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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Willow Meadows HOA-Westbury Little League-St.Thomas More Parish School-Parker Elemen
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

2007 Recipient of Mayoral Honorable Mention Award, Keep Houston Beautiful

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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