

# Meyerlander MONTHLY

Official Publication of the  
Meyerland Community Improvement Association



Volume 6 | Issue 6

MEYERLAND.NET

JUNE 2018



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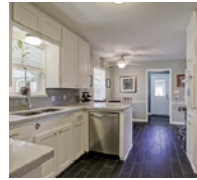
**Pending Sale!**

**MEYERLAND** | 5230 Caversham Drive  
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**MEYERLAND** | 5210 Loch Lomond Drive  
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Last list price \$309,000



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**MEYERLAND** | 5119 Loch Lomond Drive\*  
3-4 BEDROOMS | 2.5 BATHS  
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**Sold!**

**MEYERLAND** | 5115 Glenmeadow Drive  
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**MEYERLAND** | 9603 Moonlight Drive\*  
5 BEDROOMS | 3.5 BATHS  
Last list price \$335,000



**MEYERLAND** | 5234 Loch Lomond Drive  
3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHS  
Offered at \$339,800 | MLS 72945811



**MEYERLAND** | 5014 Glenmeadow Drive  
5 BEDROOMS | 3.5 BATHS  
Offered at \$319,000 | MLS 20987784



**Sold!**

**MEYERLAND** | 8903 Manhattan Drive  
4 BEDROOMS | 2.5 BATHS  
Last list price \$349,000



**Sold!**

**MEYERLAND** | 8707 Ferris Drive  
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## HOUSTON HOME SALES ON THE RISE

*By Joyce Young*

According to the Houston Association of Realtors (HAR), Houston home sales in April 2018 were up 7 percent compared to the prior year. There were 7,070 single-family homes sold in April compared to 6,611 homes sold in April 2017. According to HAR, pending home sales were up more than 15 percent and Houston home prices have reached the highest levels of all times. The median home price (the point at which half of the homes sold for more and half sold for less) for single-family homes increased 5.3 percent to \$240,000 and the average home price increased 5.2 percent to \$305,092. In May 2018 there were 142 homes for sale in Meyerland with an average list price of \$469,918 at \$160 per square foot. There were 126 homes sold in 2017 for a median price of \$137.52 per square foot. The median price in 2016 was \$176.68 per squarefoot.

## UPDATED CHAPTER 19 FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE

*By Joyce Young*

On April 4, 2018, Houston City Council passed revisions to the Chapter 19 Floodplain Ordinance that will go into effect September 1, 2018. The existing regulations require a minimum finished floor elevation at the 100-year floodplain plus one foot. The updated regulations require a minimum elevation at the 500-year floodplain level plus two feet. Zero net fill restrictions had previously applied to property in the 100-year flood zone. The new regulations, will extend the zero net fill criteria to the 500-year flood zone. Zero net fill requires that, within the property boundaries, no additional net fill may be added to the floodplain. This does not prohibit earthwork within the floodplain, only that any additional fill to this area must be equivalently balanced with a cut elsewhere on the property within this area.

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## HARRIS COUNTY RELEASES EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS APP

A free app is available for download on iTunes and Google Play as ReadyHarris. For more information on how to prepare for severe weather and other disasters download the app or visit [www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org).

The ReadyHarris app delivers real time weather alerts, hosts a step-by-step guide to building a personalized family disaster plan, offers survival tip sheets, maps evacuation routes and locates local emergency services. The app is available in both English and Spanish.

"People depend on information to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters," added Judge Emmett. "We want to make sure our community has the best available emergency information at all times, as easily as possible."

A "Need to Know" section offers quick tips on:

- Hurricanes
- Flooding
- Tornadoes
- Wildfires
- Winter Storms
- Thunderstorms
- Functional Needs
- Pet Preparedness
- And More

## DEAR LABBY

*By Labrigail Van Bird Dog*

**Dear Labby:** I recently was walking along the bayou and a medium sized Labrador mix ran up to me. At first, I was a little nervous. I didn't know what this dog's intentions were. Just as I was about to pretend I had athletic capabilities and run away like a scaredy cat, the dog stopped at my feet, rolled over, and eagerly waited for a belly rub. I couldn't help but smile, and obliged. Needless to say, she followed me home. She met my other two rescued dogs and hit it off. I named her Jane. My wife was less than enthusiastic about me bringing yet another dog home but I explained to her that it was just temporary. But it turned out not to be. She had no collar and no microchip. I put signs up in the neighborhood but no one responded. My problem is my two dogs and I are keeping Jane. We just haven't figured out how to break it to the Mrs. What would you suggest Labby?

-Retain Jane With No Marital Strain

**Dear Retain Jane:** How noble it is to give a rescue dog a home. I'm sure Jane would make a great addition to your pack. I would start with flowers and a nice evening out on the town with the Mrs. I'm sure Jane will melt her heart just like she did yours.

If that doesn't work, you may want to invest in a new kitchen renovation that she probably secretly wants. I'm certain Jane has found her forever home after an endeavor of that magnitude.

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

## INDEPENDENCE DAY 8K

The 2nd Annual Independence Day 8k will be held on June 30 at the Meyerland Plaza. The 8k start time is 7:30 a.m. followed by a Kids K at 9 a.m. The course is a fast and scenic route that runs along Brays Bayou. Parking is free and the post race party will include food, drink, music and family fun. All 8k finishers will receive a finishers medal and a unisex t-shirt on race day. For more information and to sign up, please visit [www.independence8k.com](http://www.independence8k.com). Please use the code "MYRESIDENT" for 15% off the entryfee.

## FATHER'S DAY

*By Joyce Young*

Father's Day is a time for celebrating and honoring our fathers. This year's celebration will be held on June 17, 2018. A failed attempt to recognize Father's Day as a national holiday was introduced to Congress in 1913. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson tried to make it an officially recognized federal holiday, but Congress resisted, fearing that it would become commercialized. In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge recommended that the day be observed throughout the nation, but stopped short at issuing a national proclamation. In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers and designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. The day was made a permanent national holiday in 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed it into law.



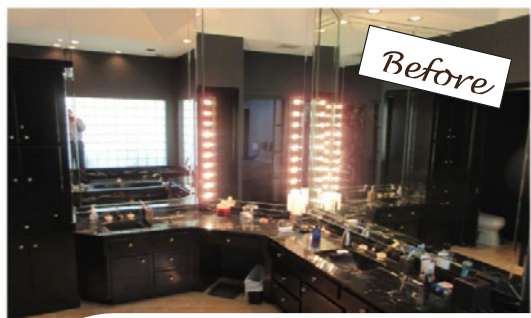
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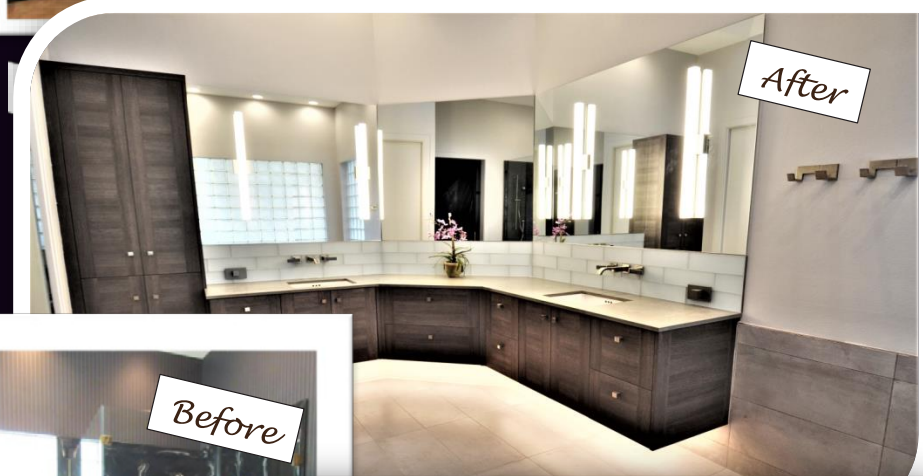
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## MAGNIFICENT MEYERLAND TREES

By Cary Robinson

Did you know that our Meyerland has some of the oldest, most magnificent, majestic trees in the City of Houston? It's true. Just walk or drive through some of the Meyerland neighborhoods. While Meyerland may be in a very positive transition, the one constant is our trees. And we try really hard to make sure our trees remain.

When we built a pool in our backyard many years ago I was told that we would have to remove several huge live oaks. I immediately began formulating a plan that involved a trip to Home Depot to purchase enough chain and a padlock to fasten myself to one of the trees to prevent its removal. Fortunately, it didn't come to that. We just rearranged the location and shape of the pool to accommodate the trees. It was a good deal because I know the Houston mosquitos were just waiting to feast on me.

And then there was the beautiful, large Crepe Myrtle tree overlooking the pool. My wife told me it needed to come down because it made a mess in the pool. I started envisioning another trip to Home Depot but cleverly explained that the pool looked like someone had placed beautiful floating flowers in it and to just pretend we were in Hawaii. To further enhance the tropical experience, I explained that the noise from the freeway were the ocean waves crashing in and out. Yes, we live close to the freeway, er...beach. I

think it worked because the Crepe Myrtle still stands.

So, take care of your beautiful trees. Remember to trim them to keep strong winds from damaging them. Feed them. Talk to them. Sing to them if you like. Trees can really enhance your property values in a positive way. Plus, your home will look wonderful with majestic trees next to it. And if you like birds, you'll find the most interesting species living in our trees, including hawks and owls.

Meyerland has some of the most wonderful trees. Make sure to take notice the next time you walk or drive through the neighborhood.



## LIVE A LIFE WITHOUT JOINT PAIN



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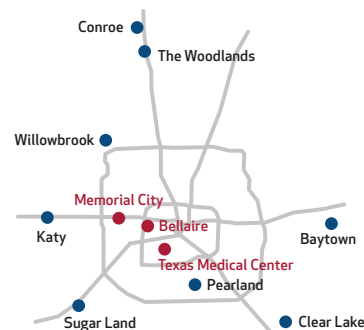
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## RADIANT BARRIERS – WHAT ARE THEY AND SHOULD I HAVE ONE?

By Larry Schwartz

Radiant barriers and reflective insulation systems work by reducing radiant heat gain. To be effective, the reflective surface must face an air space. Dust accumulation on the reflective surface will reduce its reflective capability, e.g., you do not want to have it on the attic floors collecting dust. The radiant barrier should be installed in a manner that minimizes dust accumulation on the reflective surface. When the sun heats a roof, it's primarily the sun's radiant energy that makes the roof hot. Much of this heat travels by conduction through the roofing materials to the attic side of the roof. The hot roof material then radiates its gained heat energy onto the cooler attic surfaces, including the air ducts and the attic floor. A radiant barrier reduces the radiant heat transfer from the underside of the roof to the other surfaces in the attic. Radiant barriers consist of a highly reflective material, usually aluminum foil, which is applied to one or both sides of a number of substrate materials such as kraft paper, plastic films, cardboard, oriented strand board, and air infiltration barrier material. Some products are fiber-reinforced to increase durability and ease of handling.

Roofs that are exposed to the sun would benefit from a radiant barrier. For many residents with HVAC units and ductwork in the attic, the radiant barriers will help reduce that heat load and should reduce your energy costs. The barriers can be foil stapled to the underside of your roof with the reflective side facing down or they may also be a part of the roof's decking. One maker of radiant barriers is Louisiana-Pacific, maker of LP TechShield. Another method is to have a spray painted radiant barrier which may be preferred in an existing attic. Spray painting the radiant barrier is easier, but the reflective rating is generally lower than radiant shields. An example of a spray-on radiant barrier is HeatBlock, made by STS Coatings.

If you are replacing your roof and need new decking, consider a radiant barrier instead of plain decking. If your home already has existing decking in place, consider the opportunity for an insulation professional to spray on a radiant barrier. Once installed, you can reap the benefits of a cooler home and reduced energy costs.





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## ONE RABBI'S RUMINATIONS ON THE REPEATING REFLECTIONS REAPED FROM REAPPEARING ROUTES IN LIFE

*By Rabbi Scott Hausman-Weiss*

I've been a rabbi for almost 19 years. My "rabbinate" has been filled with a heck of a lot of baby namings and brisses (circumcision), Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, trips to Israel, High Holy days, Chanukahs and Passover Seders. I've married a ton of couples and some of them are even still married! But as I enter into this twentieth year, I am finding more in common with the human condition than the Jewish condition. I am lucky of late to be a part of an interfaith cadre composed of Evangelical Ministers, Islamic Imams and Rabbis and what unites is overwhelmingly more significant than what divides. And so, as I launch this column, at least for now, what I will focus on is our common humanity. The love and the hate, the healing and the pain, the joy and the loss – all of these and each of these bear no great difference between one of us and another. We may react and reframe them in our own unique ways but they are each proof of one common truth – that we are made of unique combinations of vital organs in a finely balanced network that is as fragile and as enduring as our minds and hearts allow them to be.

For the first time in my career, I performed a wedding for two people, neither of whom are Jewish, nor do they wish to be. Juan is from a Mexican Catholic family and Belinda is from a Mexican Catholic and Muslim family. Neither of them identify religiously with any of the religious traditions with which they were raised or were exposed to, but they unite and see the world in very spiritual ways. When they approached me, I explained that this would be a first for me, but that since I am appointed by the state to perform weddings, I can do so for anyone. But I have to tell you, I don't think I would marry just anyone. For even though their wedding was not a Jewish wedding, affirming the Jewish covenant with God and projecting into the future the Jewish home to be, the spiritual nature of what they sought was inspiring and evocative. I walked them through the full Jewish wedding ceremony, with the caveat that I did not expect nor recommend that they choose all of it or even most of it. Rather, it served them as a framework to build this ceremony upon. And there I was, as they accompanied each other down the aisle, singing a blessing of Welcome in Hebrew, leading them in vows spoken in Hebrew, Spanish and English, and then offering the Priestly Benediction over this couple, following the donning upon them of the lasso that united them in this moment. Lastly, while I certainly had never imagined a wedding I would perform would conclude in this manner, I had to wipe tears from my eyes as I then witnessed a grandmother's deep love as she bestowed upon her grandson and his new wife the Catholic blessing for welfare and peace, in the name of the Father, son and Holy Spirit.

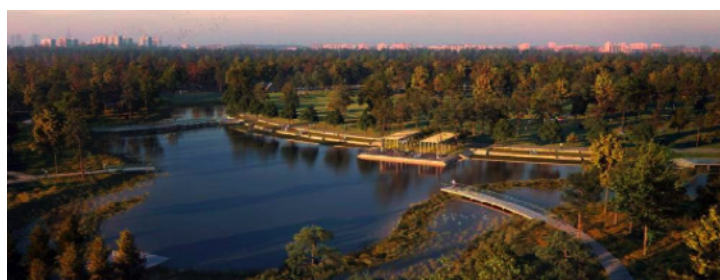
This grandmother's love is drawn from the common humanity of all. And while it is not my faith nor the faith I espouse, it's yet another beautiful and stunning "gown" worn by the ineffable source of all life.

## ELLEN COHEN UPDATE

Dear Meyerland residents, Following is the "What's New at City Hall" eblast:

It is my pleasure to serve as your representative at City Hall as the CAP Member for Meyerland. I have learned a lot during the past 6 years. CAP stands for Cohen Ambassador Program. It is my duty to notify our District C office anytime a resident has a question or issue that is outside the 3-1-1 reporting or MCIA procedures. Best Regards, Diane Furst

Houston philanthropists Nancy and Rich Kinder announced a donation of \$70M to Memorial Park, the largest greenspace donation in our city's history. Council approved an amendment to the City of Houston's operating agreement with the Memorial Park Conservancy to accept the donation and authorize an accelerated schedule of improvements through the Memorial Park Master Plan.



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

July, 2018						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3 Trash	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 T/R	11 Tree	12	13	14
15	16	17 Trash	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 T/R	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Trash				

**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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## Mud Daubers

—Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Mud daubers are a great wasp to have around. They are solitary, generally docile, and can help to reduce various bugs in the landscape. Mud dauber wasps are  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch in size and come in a variety of colors. They have a very thin, thread-like waist.

Mud daubers create a mud structure that they provision with insects and/or spiders; they lay an egg on each prey item within a cell in the nest, and then seal the nest off. When larvae hatch from eggs, they eat the items provisioned for them, pupate, and then emerge as adults to begin the process over.

Management is not usually needed for mud daubers as they do not guard their nest like other wasps. While they are capable of stinging, they are not considered to be aggressive. If you do not like the look of the mud nests, you can remove them with a putty knife.

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).

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



## Wash Your Hands

### *Reducing Spread of Disease While at Home and Work*

By: Concentra Urgent Care

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say that nearly 90,000 patients die in U.S. hospitals each year due to a preventable disease – many could be avoided if everyone properly washed their hands.

From germs on office equipment to sick colleagues who decided to come into work anyway, people face the same dangers in the workplace. The same simple fact holds true: Washing your hands regularly is an effective way to prevent yourself from catching or spreading a preventable disease or illness.

#### WHEN TO WASH YOUR HANDS

The CDC recommends washing your hands every time you:

- Prepare or eat food
- Use the restroom
- Tend to someone who is sick; both before and after
- Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze
- Handle garbage
- Treat a cut or wound
- Change a diaper or clean up after children
- Handle an animal or animal waste

#### HAND WASHING BASICS

The CDC has issued specific guidelines about effective hand washing:

- Wet hands with water
- Use plain bar or liquid soap
- Create a lather by vigorously rubbing hands together for 15-20 seconds—about the amount of time it takes to sing “Happy Birthday” twice
- Be sure to wash palms, back of hands, fingers, and nails (clean nails by gently scratching nails down your opposing soapy palm)
- Rinse off soap under a stream of water

#### WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

- Focus on hand washing in the lunch and/or break room
- Be careful when using sponges and dish towels. These are ideal sites for bacterial growth. Always wash your hands after using these items.
- Maintain a clean work area; regularly clean any office equipment, especially shared items such as phones and keyboards.
- Remind your colleagues of the importance of hand washing, particularly when you witness someone neglecting to wash his or her hands.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about how washing hands regularly can help prevent disease, ask your health care provider, or visit the CDC's creative Web site dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of hand washing at [www.henrythehand.com](http://www.henrythehand.com).



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