

# Meyerlander MONTHLY

Official Publication of the  
Meyerland Community Improvement Association

Volume 6 | Issue 7

MEYERLAND.NET

JULY 2018



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# WE'RE GOING UP!

*By Shirley Hou*

Deciding what to do with your flooded house is a gut wrenching decision. Should you repair, build new, elevate, or leave? More and more Meyerland homeowners have decided that elevating their homes is the right decision for them. MCIA has received about 92 elevation applications since Hurricane Harvey through the end of May. According to Randi Cahill, Architectural Liaison, she doesn't foresee the trend slowing down for quite some time.

"Elevating" refers to the two FEMA elevation techniques: (1) elevating on extended foundation walls or (2) lifting houses on slab-on-grade foundations using hydraulic jacks and a network of steel I-beams. The more common technique used in Meyerland is the second, "unified jacking method" of the entire slab foundation. Some opt to "slab separate" an attached garage as garages cannot be elevated per the City of Houston's code.

Homeowners who have chosen to lift their home share the following reasons: they love the Meyerland location and don't want to leave; they found that it was cheaper to lift than to build new, they can move home sooner (4-6 months to elevate vs. 18-24 months to build new), and they have peace of mind that their home will not flood again.

Lifting is still a major and expensive endeavor, so do your research of companies first. You can start by searching for pre-qualified contractors



*Kate and Daniel Katz lifted their Meyerland home in June. Here is their one-year old helping with the dig.*

under FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Home Elevation Grant Program, although it is not required that you use a pre-qualified contractor if you are paying for the lift yourself. Some companies are "turnkey" while others specialize in just the lift and leave the rest of the details for the homeowner to sub-contract with other companies. \$75 per square foot of slab elevation is an often quoted price by elevation companies, but price can vary widely based on the shape of the foundation and how high the house will be lifted. Other considerations that affect the price are the design and selection of stairs, decks, breezeways, garages, skirting material, utilities and easement. When you call a poll of Meyerland lifters, expect an "out the door" price of \$100 per square foot for a turnkey operation.

If you are elevating your house or seriously considering it, join the Facebook group, “Houston Flood Support Group: We’re Going Up!” This is a self-managed support group for Houston flood survivors who are elevating their homes, with particular emphasis on homeowners in the Meyerland area. Some are on the FEMA grant but most are self-pay. You will find advice and support among the 130-plus members on how to get started and what to expect through the process.

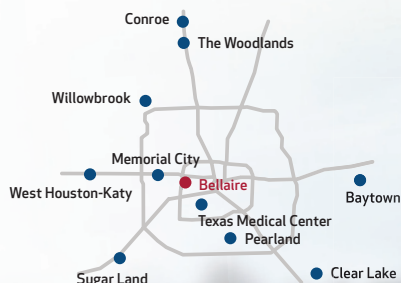
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## THE TRUTH ABOUT THE HILLCROFT EXPANSION

by John-Mark Palandro

Community is one of the greatest treasures Meyerland has to offer and is formed from a delicate balance of people, environment, and experience. We want to make sure our neighborhood balance stays as peaceful and safe as possible so that our local Community can continue to grow and thrive. There have been many discussions about the Hillcroft Expansion over the last few years, but here is an update on where we stand currently and how you can help.

The organization, SuperNeighborhood 31 (SN31), is leading an initiative to protect our communities and have Hillcroft designated as a P4 Thoroughfare (4 lanes) vs P6 (6 lanes) from Willowbend to Bissonnet. Meyerland, along with Westbury, Maplewood, Brays Oak Management District, and other community and commercial organizations in the area have written letters of support for this initiative. An expansion of Hillcroft to 6 lanes would degrade the residential nature of the neighborhoods bordering Hillcroft, while increasing traffic and flood hazards.

There are currently no planned, budgeted, or active projects, to expand Hillcroft to 6 lanes. With the current P6 designation, no further public hearings or approvals would be required to start a project to expand Hillcroft to 6 lanes. The goal of SN31's initiative is to protect our communities that border Hillcroft (which includes

Meyerland Section 10) by changing the designation to P4. Changing the designation does not mean that Hillcroft would never become 6 lanes; however, it would require additional public hearings and work on behalf of the City and/or County to change the designation back to P6 and start a new project to expand Hillcroft.

Meyerland residents have an opportunity to make their voices heard in favor of changing Hillcroft's designation to a P4 Thoroughfare. We can all help our Community stay protected from excess traffic and flood hazards by showing our support and attending the City of Houston Planning Commission's public hearing. Your attendance and show of support will be crucial to the success of this effort. Please make plans to attend the following meeting:

### Planning Commission Public Hearing

July 26, 2018 at 2:30PM

City Hall Annex Chambers

900 Bagby Houston, TX 77002

If you would like more information or to become more involved with this initiative, please contact Bruce Krewinghaus at [akrewinghaus@comcast.net](mailto:akrewinghaus@comcast.net) or 713-771-3379. More details are located at [http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/transportation/MTFP\\_18/2018-Notification-Package\\_D.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/transportation/MTFP_18/2018-Notification-Package_D.pdf).



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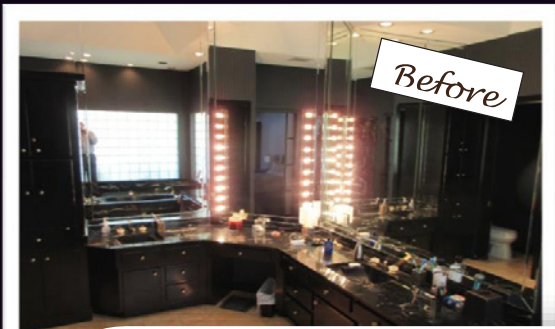
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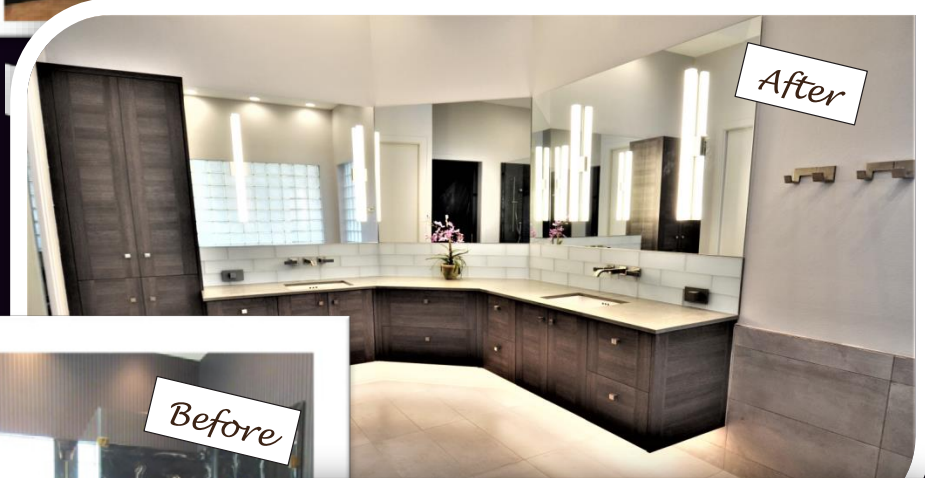
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After

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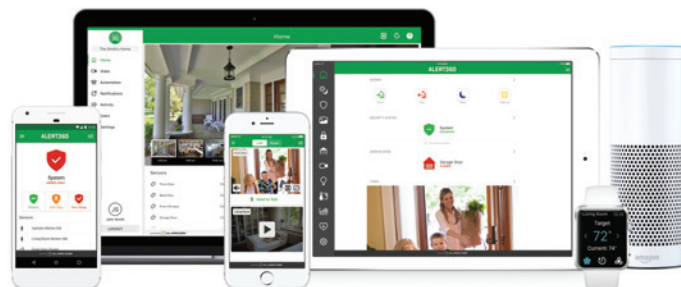


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# How Did You Know That?

By Lucy Randel

Have you heard rumors floating around the neighborhood and wondered how to find out the real story? Do you have a friend or neighbor who always seems to be in the know? You, too, can be in the know if you follow a few trusted sources.

## Meyerlander Monthly

You are off to a good start right here, since the Meyerlander Monthly is the official publication of the Meyerland Community Improvement Association. Articles related to Deed Restrictions, construction guidelines and community events frequent these pages. Keep it handy for contact information for MCIA, security, City of Houston and Centerpoint, as well as the trash schedule. Review the Board of Directors list to see who represents your Section. Directors can answer many of your questions and can bring your concerns to the attention of the Association. Read current and past issues online at <https://peelinc.com/index.php/meyerland/> or sign up for e-delivery at [www.meyerland.net](http://www.meyerland.net) under the tab General Information-Meyerlander.

## www.meyerland.net

The MCIA website is full of practical and historical information. On the home page, you will often find information about Board Meetings, proposed changes to architectural policies, and even an online link to pay your property assessments. If you dig a little deeper, you will find minutes of past MCIA board meetings, past issues of the Meyerlander Monthly, and links to everything from government offices to area moms' groups.

## MCIA e-mail list

If you really want to be in the know and get the latest and breaking news, sign up for the MCIA e-mail list using the link on [www.meyerland.net](http://www.meyerland.net). You will receive security updates, changes to trash pick up schedules, holiday closures and announcements about events or issues that may be of concern to Meyerland residents. This is not a daily feed that will fill up your inbox.

## Official MCIA Facebook Page

Do you prefer to get news in your Facebook feed rather than e-mail? Then like and follow Meyerland Community Improvement Association (@meyerlandtx).

## MCIA monthly board meetings.

Sometimes you just want to hear the discussion live. MCIA board meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, located at 8601 Chimney Rock Road. Visitors are welcome to address the board for up to two minutes each at the beginning of each meeting.

Choose your media- print, internet or in person- and be the neighbor others turn to when they want to know the real story.



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## Landscape Maintenance & Trash, Glass & Other Debris

*By Catherine Martin,  
Meyerland Resident Relations Communications Specialist*

In the process of rebuilding Meyerland, it is important to remember that all properties are expected to be maintained. For the health and safety of the community, please keep your yards trimmed and free of weeds, trash, glass and other debris. Unkempt lots attract not only criminals, but pests. Glass, screws and other debris on the sidewalk and in the street pose a hazard for your neighbors, children, pets and passing vehicles. It is important to sweep up the remaining crumbs left behind from the storm debris pickup. It is likely that the debris removal has taken a toll on your lawn and you may have been left with only dirt covering your once manicured and pristine lawn. Until you are ready to landscape your yard with new sod, a temporary option to cover the dirt area is to use a low maintenance mulch. Please contact the office for additional information.

## DEAR LABBY

*By Labrigail Van Bird Dog*

**Dear Labby:** I have a six month old cream colored Labradoodle named Yankee. He's a wonderful companion dog and loves to fetch tennis balls and sticks. He just seems to automatically know how. My question is how do I get him to retrieve the newspaper from the front yard. Oh sure, he'll pick it up and bring it back but it's usually in several pieces. And wet. Any suggestions?

-Need A Hint With Soggy Print

**Dear Soggy Print:** Maybe Yankee would prefer the New York Times? However, this is an easy fix. Start taking the paper online like most people do in 2018. Problem solved. You're welcome.



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

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# Trash/Recycling Schedule

## 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				

## August, 2018

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

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## Crime Focused on Homes Under Renovations

*By Catherine Martin,*

*Meyerland Resident Relations Communications Specialist*

In the last few months, we have seen an increase in crime in our neighborhood. In most instances, the crimes are occurring where homes are vacant and are undergoing renovations. Valuable tools and renovation materials are often the target. If your home is currently under construction, please work with your contractors to make sure the home is secured and locked up when no one is there. Many construction crews have left windows, doors, garages and construction site gates unlocked and wide open when their crews are not present. Thus, the property becomes vulnerable to criminals and leaves the homeowner open to liability if someone gets hurt on their lot. It is wise to make unscheduled trips to check on your property throughout different times of the day, especially when the crew has gone home for the evening. It also helps if the home looks lived in. Streets with overgrown grass and trash attract criminals because they think they will not be seen and therefore can take their time in looting the property.

## Hurricane Preparedness

*By Joyce Young*

According to the Texas Hurricane Handbook from the Weather Research Center, 80% of the North Atlantic hurricanes form in the months June through October. Hurricane season is officially declared from June 1 to November 30. The storms are most frequent on the Texas coast in August and September.

A basic emergency supply kit should be fully stocked and ready to go in case a hurricane hits the Houston area. Some of the items to include in your kit include:

1. Water – one gallon of water per person per day for three days for drinking and sanitation
2. Food – at least three days' worth of non-perishable food along with a manual can opener
3. Radio – battery powered radio as well as a NOAA weather radio with tone alert along with extra batteries
4. Flashlight and extra batteries
5. Medications and first aid kit
6. Handi wipes, garbage bags, plastic ties & dust masks for personal sanitation
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9. Local maps
10. Cash as ATMs may be down



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## ELLEN R. COHEN

Houston City Council Member, District C

Dear Friend, After 25 departmental reviews, on May 30th, City Council voted to approve the budget for FY2019, which begins July 1, 2018. The new \$4.9 billion budget closes a \$114 million deficit with no layoffs or tax increases.

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Council District Service Funds will continue, with \$750,000 allocated to each District Council Member to facilitate local projects.

The FY 2019 budget fully funds our pension obligations. The Mayor's historic pension solution, approved by the Texas Legislature last year, resulted in \$300 million in savings during this budget process alone.

Five police cadet classes and three firefighter cadet classes are funded.

The budget includes a healthy emergency fund balance in preparation for hurricane season, which begins today, June 1st.

Departmental spending has been reduced by over \$80 million over the past three years.

With a fiscally conservative budget in place for FY2019, Council will continue their efforts to address future expected deficits. These include the City's 10-15% share of Hurricane Harvey recovery costs that are not paid by FEMA; replenishment of the \$20 million that was taken away from the Budget Stabilization Fund to cover other Harvey costs; and the need to hire an additional 500 police officers over the next five years.

To do so, Mayor Turner has suggested adding a measure to the November 2018 ballot to allow voters to lift the revenue cap for the purposes of public safety. I strongly support this proposal and will send out further details once they are released.

Sincerely, Ellen

City Hall Annex, 1st Floor, District C  
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## ENERGY SAVING TIPS

It's that time of the year again when the oppressive Houston heat keeps most people indoors and therefore electricity costs increase significantly. Here are a few items to help with lowering your energy costs.

Unplug all unnecessary items – mixer, blender, knife sharpener, etc. The more you unplug, the less energy you use.

Have your A/C unit checked and serviced. Minor leaks and/or issues discovered and repaired during a service check can save you money in utility costs.

Change your air conditioner filters regularly. Replacing the dirty filter can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

Use smaller appliances – using the toaster oven or slow cooker instead of the oven can reduce the frequency of your air conditioner turning on due to the heat from your oven.

Cover up your windows – windows that are exposed to the sun can heat up the interior of your home. According to the Department of Energy, medium-colored draperies with white plastic backings can reduce heat gain by 33 percent.

Turn up the temperature – each degree that you turn up can save you money on your utility bill.

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