

# MERIDIAN *Community Monitor*

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MERIDIAN



## BALDWIN WATCH D.O.G.S. AT WORK!

*Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop, Baldwin PTA Board*

Our campus Watch D.O.G.S. and our teacher appreciation committee kicked off the school year a little early, treating Baldwin teachers and staff to a homemade BBQ lunch of brisket tacos with all the fixings and Tiff's Treat's cookies for dessert!

WATCH D.O.G.S.® (Dads Of Great Students) Program. WATCH D.O.G.S.® is an innovative program being used by schools across America which helps them to be positively impacted by the committed involvement of fathers and father-figures in

their student's life. Watch D.O.G.S. is a Baldwin PTA Program.

Each Watch D.O.G. volunteer spends at least one day at school during the year, acting as a positive male role model and to provide an extra set of eyes and ears. Dads, granddads, uncles, step-dads and adult brothers . . . this is your chance to be the big DOG on campus! Contact Top DOG David Mass / [dmassimo10@gmail.com](mailto:dmassimo10@gmail.com) to learn more or to get involved in Baldwin's program.

# THE MONITOR

## WELCOME

### *A Newsletter for Meridian residents*

The Monitor is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Meridian residents. Each newsletter is filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information and more. If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com) or you can email it [meridian@peelinc.com](mailto:meridian@peelinc.com). Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome. Our goal is to keep you informed!

## ADVERTISING INFO

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# Meridian HOA Board Update

*Submitted by: Rob Gura*

The new HOA Board met Wednesday, July 18th for the first official board meeting. Current HOA financials and contracts, as well as new business regarding pool maintenance, landscaping, trash disposal, communications, committees, and future projects were discussed. In addition, several items were brought to the board's attention in the Resident Forum portion of the meeting, including trails, greenbelts, road and sidewalk maintenance, and more. We selected a new landscape contractor and are moving forward with a pool filter repair and upgrade. Both efforts, will keep things functional all summer long and ultimately save the community money. Official meeting minutes will be provided to the community via email and NextDoor. Please understand that we cannot post meeting minutes until officially approved by the board.

### *Your Meridian HOA Board is:*

Dawn Bowes, President  
Vito DelGatto, Vice President  
Jason Verette, Secretary  
Rob Gura, Treasurer  
Vince Heinz, Director

## JOIN BALDWIN PTA TODAY!

*Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop, Baldwin PTA Board*



Baldwin Parent Teacher Association (PTA) needs YOU! August 1st marks the beginning of a new PTA year, and we would be honored to have our Meridian Families and Community members join the PTA and make your support of our school official! Join our mission of making every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for our children. Together, we create a forum where educators and families unify to raise socially and academically strong students. You don't have to have a child at Baldwin to be a part of the PTA to share your voice and show your support. Visit [BaldwinPTA.org](http://BaldwinPTA.org) to join now! Single memberships are \$8.50 and Family memberships are \$15. Help us reach our goal of 400 members strong in supporting our kids and school!

Emily Mirkin/ Baldwin PTA - VP Membership  
[membership@BaldwinPTA.org](mailto:membership@BaldwinPTA.org)



## Baldwin Elementary School Carnival

September 29th 4-8 pm

*ALL FOR FUN – FUN FOR ALL – ALL FOR FUN – FUN FOR ALL*

Join us for the Annual Baldwin Elementary School Carnival on September 29th from 4-8 pm. Students, families and the community are welcome! A guaranteed fun time for all with exhilarating rides, exciting games, and amazing food: Torchy's Taco Truck, Kona Ice, Kettle Korn, Cotton Candy, Funnel Cakes and more!

Meridian neighbors, we hope you will attend! You don't need to have kids at Baldwin to take part in the fun! If you are not able to join us, thank you for your patience with the traffic and congestion in the neighborhood on this evening.

Wristband and ticket sales will begin Tuesday, September 4th. Visit BaldwinPTA.org to purchase tickets and wristbands. Vendor and Sponsorship opportunities available!! Fundraising@BaldwinPTA.org.

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## SAVE THE DATE: FOR MERIDIAN HOA SOCIAL EVENTS\*

### Mon, Sept 3:

LABOR DAY BBQ BENEFIT FUNDRAISER-1PM

### Sat, Oct 13:

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE, 8AM-1PM

### Tues, Dec 18:

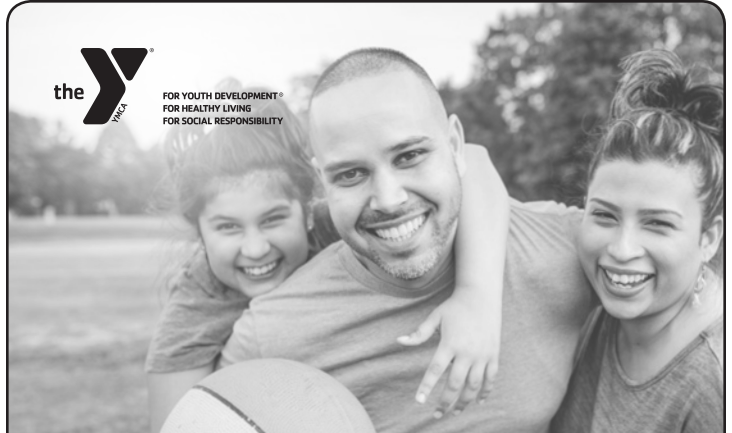
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**\*DATES AND ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



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## Baldwin PTA Family Benefactor and Business Sponsor Opportunities Now Available

*Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop, Baldwin PTA Board*

The mission of the Baldwin Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for our children. We create a forum where educators and families unify to raise socially and academically strong students. Now more than ever, our school will be looking to the Baldwin PTA to help supplement their resources. Because of this, we have set a steep goal to raise \$80,000 to foster and support worthwhile educational enrichment opportunities, including:

- Technology: hardware devices & tech support
- Learning-based software subscriptions for reading, math & science
- Great Leaps reading acceleration program & Blast Off to Reading dyslexia support curriculum
- Math manipulatives & other educational classroom games and supplies
- Physical Education equipment
- Watch D.O.G.S. program: "Dad" volunteers in school daily, enhancing security & reducing bullying
- Family Fun Community Nights: Bingo Night, Santa Night, Valentine's Family Dance, Art Open House
- Teacher Appreciation and Support
- Much, much more!

We are pleased to announce our new fundraising program for our Baldwin families: Bobcat Benefactors and a new program designed with business partners in mind. Both programs are a no-hassle, tiered program designed to fit every budget, offering loads of benefits and marketing opportunities. As a Baldwin Family Benefactor or Business Sponsor, you'll be taking part in supporting our PTA's vision and mission and building a foundation for our future leaders. Visit [BaldwinPTA.org/Fundraising](http://BaldwinPTA.org/Fundraising) to see the opportunities.

Contact us: [Fundraising@BaldwinPTA.org](mailto:Fundraising@BaldwinPTA.org) /Jacquelyn Waldrop & Katie Sisk, VP Fundraising, Baldwin PTA Board

## Kids' Fall Allergies

*Submitted by: Aaron Williams, Pharm D @ Brodie Lane Pharmacy*

School is in session, and just like clockwork your 8-year-old starts sneezing, sniffing, and snorting—not to mention clearing her throat and blowing her nose like there's no tomorrow. Chances are it's allergies—the immune system's reaction to a substance that would normally be quite harmless. Up to 40% of children in the U.S. have nasal allergies.

Outdoor allergens, also known as hay fever or seasonal allergies often bring images of springtime sufferers. In the fall, however, outdoor allergens such as ragweed and tumbleweed may also release tiny pollen and wreak major havoc—especially in the morning.

But that's not all. In the fall, your child begins spending more time inside at school and friends' homes. That's when many indoor allergens may also rear their ugly heads such as: Dust mites, Mold, Animal allergens, clothing and toys made or stuffed with animal hair or latex in rubber gloves, toys, balloons or elastic in clothing.

You don't have a lot of control over indoor allergens at school. But there certainly are some things you can do to protect your child. Here's a small sample of steps you can take:

- Use air conditioners and keep windows closed in your car and at home and change HVAC filters regularly to reduce exposure to pollen.
- Have your child avoid playing in piles of dead leaves to avoid mold allergies.
- Reduce mold growth in the home by fixing leaky plumbing, removing bathroom carpets and control indoor humidity.
- Vacuum upholstered furniture and wash linens weekly and other bedding every 1 to 2 weeks in hot water.
- Limit stuffed animals in the bedroom.
- Replace pillows every 2 to 3 years.
- Encase pillows, mattresses, and comforters in special covers that keep dust mites out

Avoiding triggers is the best way to prevent the symptoms of allergies. But keep in mind that it can take 3-6 months to see an improvement in symptoms once indoor triggers are removed.

Sometimes avoiding triggers is not enough to control symptoms. Before you stock up on loads of over-the-counter medicine, however, swing by and have a talk with me. I can point you to products in our store and guide you on their use. Also, make sure to have a conversation with your child's pediatrician. Sometimes allergy testing or prescription medications are sometimes needed to bring relief.

Nothing herein constitutes medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or is a substitute for professional advice. You should always seek the advice of your physician or other medical professional if you have questions or concerns about a medical condition.



## Residential Real Estate Sales Statistics for 78739

*Submitted by Jacquelyn Waldrop, Realtor ~ AustinRealEstate.com*

Listings	This Month			Year-to-Date		
	Jul 2018	Jul 2017	Change	2018	2017	Change
Single Family Sales	44	46	-4.3%	247	247	--
Condo/TH Sales	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total Sales	44	46	-4.3%	247	247	--
New Homes Only	1	3	-66.7%	23	22	+4.5%
Resale Only	43	43	--	224	225	-0.4%
Sales Volume	\$24,515,309	\$25,090,240	-2.3%	\$131,551,145	\$126,618,021	+3.9%
New Listings	47	48	-2.1%	316	371	-14.8%
Pending	39	33	+18.2%	269	264	+1.9%
Withdrawn	7	14	-50.0%	17	29	-41.4%
Expired	1	--	--	3	1	+200.0%
Months of Inventory	1.5	1.7	-14.2%	N/A	N/A	--

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## Simplify Going Back to School Unload those Backpacks!

*Submitted by Melynda Weiland, Order to Everything  
Professional Organizing*

It's back to school which means back to lunches, backpacks and all the fun stuff that comes home every day from the classroom. Did you know your back to school stress can be minimized just by having a system for unloading backpacks? A simple system in place for your children to unload their backpacks will not only create less work and will keep you and your children on top of things, making coming home time easier to manage.

Before you can implement your backpack system, there are 5 "homes" or stations that need to be created - the key elements to your system working. These homes are where all your backpack items will live when they aren't going to school.

**Home #1 ~ A Landing Zone-** This is where all backpack items get taken out before they go to their designated homes. The spot could be anywhere around where your natural "dumping" place would be such as the dining table or an area on the kitchen counter. Don't worry, this space will be clean when you're done! When the kiddos come home, the landing zone is their first stop before they do anything else. Have them empty everything.

**Home #2 ~ Lunchboxes and Water Bottle Station-** When lunchboxes get taken out, it's easy to just let them sit for later, but completely emptying them right away is the key to having frozen ice packs in the morning and no smelly food. Create a space in your kitchen or pantry where your child can easily put their lunchbox away and designate a spot for the water bottle. If the bottles get washed every day, perhaps a spot next to the sink. If they get used again, maybe they get filled and put in the refrigerator. Have the littles empty everything out of the lunchbox and put it where it goes. Leftover drink box in the fridge, wrappers in the trash, containers by the sink etc... When it's empty, it goes to its home.

**Home #3 ~ Paperwork-** Invitations, event fliers, graded homework and art projects are those items that float in and have no home. When you're faced with these, having a home for them will make things so much easier for you. Take a minute to think about the different types of papers that come in and designate places for them to go and/or what you will do with them. For example: Make a holding spot for all graded homework for later review, recycle unneeded papers immediately, create a place for actionable papers that need to be kept and put dates in your calendar right then. It's also very helpful to sign anything that needs your signature right away so it doesn't get forgotten.

**Home #4 ~ Homework-** Have your child create a place where homework will go while it's at home and still needs to be worked on. This will allow them to know exactly where it is when it needs to go back to class. If they have an everyday binder, keeping the binder in the backpack is always a good option.

**Home #5 Backpack-** Find a spot where the backpacks can live on a permanent basis. A hanger in the laundry room or entry way or even in your child's room will work. Command hooks are great for this! When the backpack is empty and the binder or whatever you want to have live in the backpack is put back in, hang it up.

Once you have your homes designated, you're set! The next and final step in implementing your system is to teach your kids and get them in the habit of going to the landing zone every day. Be consistent and you'll have less mess and less stress for this new school season.

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## What color are you putting out there today?

*Submitted by Kimberly Paulson, Unbound Life Coaching*

What color do you want to bring to the world today? What you put out here in our beautiful world matters. If you see joy, kindness, compassion, love and laughter, don't you just feel as if your grandma is holding you tight and whispering, "It's all going to be okay?" What if you were the one that helped create that feeling today? Whether it's the children in your home, your spouse, or the person behind you inside the store, people are watching your color. "Your sail was of fine embroidered linen from Egypt so that it became your distinguishing mark; Your awning was blue and purple from the coastlands of Elishah." Ezekiel 27:7

What is your distinguishing color today, despite your circumstances? Are you going to choose a vibrant hue to spread a little light to those you reach today or are you going to choose a darker tone to help the Enemy darken our days?

I know what I am choosing. Color me YELLOW. Take care of yourself today...and be in touch. Love, Kim

## Calling Meridian Mamas to Join Circle C Mom's Club

*Submitted by Jacquelyn Waldrop*



Circle C Mom's is a group of neighborhood moms that coordinate events for children, moms and families. Children's events include weekly age-specific playdates, holiday parties and field trips. Weekly moms' events are usually hosted at members' homes or nearby restaurants and include activities such as bunko nights, book club, craft night, movie nights, recipe/supper club, ladies-only lunches and much, much more! These activities are a great opportunity for moms to get out and enjoy a little "adult" time and meet new friends.

If you are interested in joining the fun, contact:  
[Jacquelyn.Waldrop@gmail.com](mailto:Jacquelyn.Waldrop@gmail.com)

## SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back to a new school year, students! Your neighbors want to hear about all the neat things going on at your campus. Submit your good news to Jacquelyn Waldrop @ [J.Waldrop@AustinRealEstate.com](mailto:J.Waldrop@AustinRealEstate.com) and see it printed in this publication.





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