

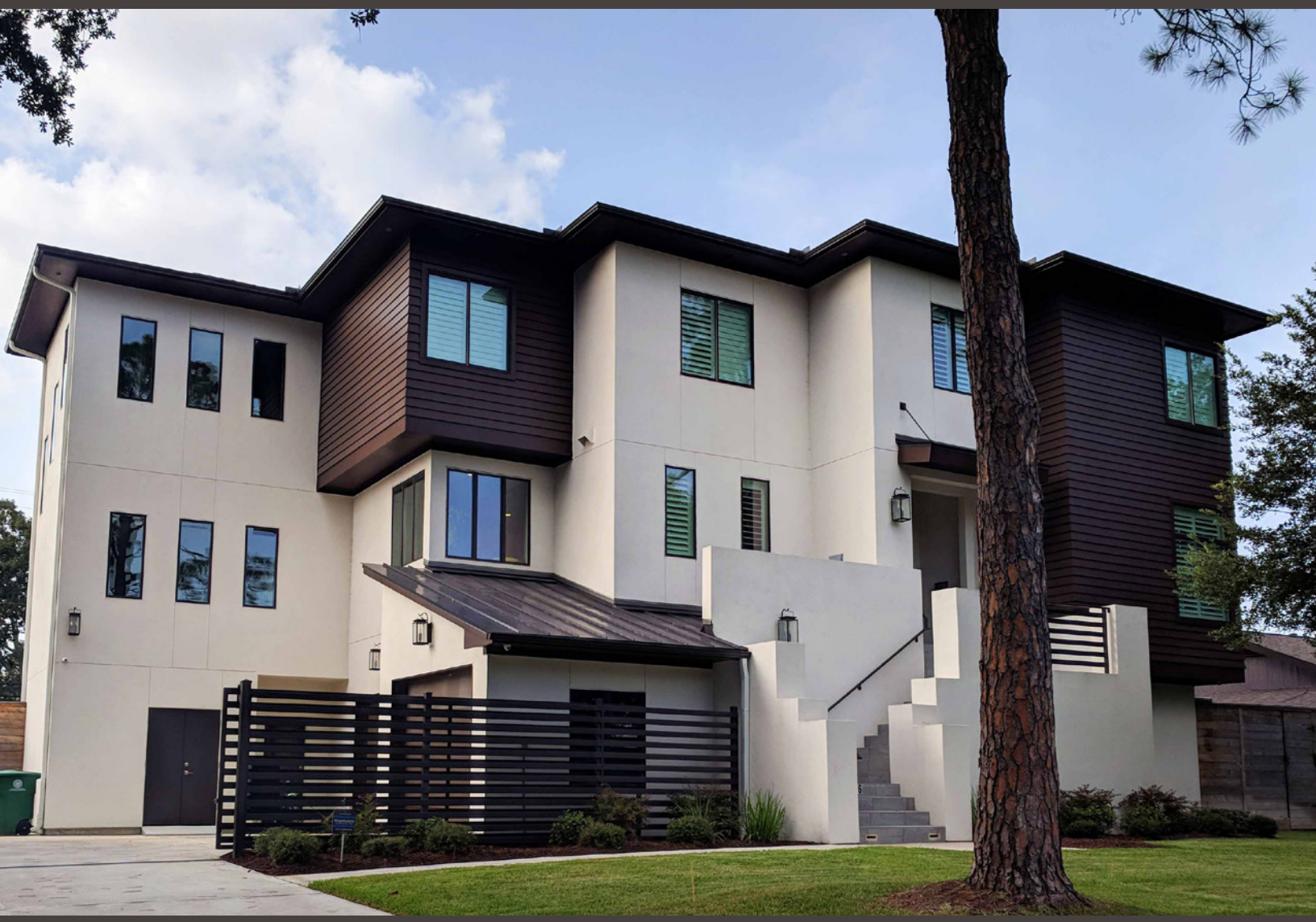
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Official Publication of the
Meyerland Community Improvement Association

Volume 6 | Issue 9

MEYERLAND.NET

SEPTEMBER 2018



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Telephone 713-729-2167
Fax 713-729-0048
General Email office@meyerland.net
Architectural Control randi@meyerland.net
Community Assistance catherine@meyerland.net
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Meyerland is LOVED & IMPROVING By the Numbers

By: Randi Cabill, CMCA - Architectural Liaison - Meyerland Community Improvement Association & Bill Goforth – Section 1 Director

Meyerland – a year later and much has changed. Hurricane Harvey came to town a year ago riding on the tail of the Memorial Day flood of 2015 and Tax Day flood of 2016. In its wake he left a community already hit hard by the two previous years' floods and this time not many residents were left unscathed. Many would think that Meyerland would crumble, but the residents of Meyerland are a diverse and resilient community. Much has changed in the last three years, but Meyerland is coming back strong.

Prior to the triad of floods, Meyerland had 12 New Construction homes during the period February 2014 to May 2015. Since Harvey, the activities for New Construction, Elevation and Demolition statistics have risen significantly:

- 143 - New Home Construction Applications
- 91 - Elevation of Existing Homes
- 41 - Demolition of Homes (with no construction as of yet)

There are 2,300 buildable home sites in Meyerland. The following data includes New Construction plus Elevation of existing homes:

Fall 2015 – August 2017	140 (6.1%)
Aug. 2017 – Aug. 2018	234 (10.2%)
Fall 2015 – August 2018	374 (16.3%)

Most Meyerland residents had to vacate during Harvey and very few were able to return quickly. It's been a slow, rebuilding process, but Meyerland is coming back strong. In addition to the new construction and elevations, Meyerland is experiencing a tremendous growth in applications for doors, windows, fencing, roofing, painting and other exterior structural modifications, such as new additions. The Review and Control Committee (RCC), along with the Meyerland Architectural Control Committee (MACC) comprised of Alan Krishner (8E), Bill Goforth (1), Bryan Holub (8C), Chris Bisel (7C), Clive Hess (1), Derek Olander (8D), Marc Spieler (7A) and past members of the committee have spent numerous hours reviewing and approving various applications for both new construction and renovations. They volunteer hours of their time in order to ensure applications are reviewed quickly and expediently.

Construction in Meyerland is proliferating at rates which pace many master planned communities in the Houston metropolitan area. Every elevated, new and repaired house is another family coming home. It is important to remember that although the appearance of Meyerland may be changing, the spirit of Meyerland remains. It is this spirit of a close-knit community, fantastic schools and excellent location which compels new and existing homeowners alike to invest in Meyerland, thus ushering in new generations of future Meyerlanders.

Harvey, you were an unwelcome guest to our neighborhood, and although we despise, maybe even hate you for the devastation you brought to us, we also thank you for the opportunity to recognize what an amazing, resilient community we are. You may have dampened our spirits for a short while, but we are Meyerland strong and we will continue to grow and thrive.

How HIGH IS THAT HOUSE?!?

By Lucy Randel

Driving around Meyerland you will see many homes in various stages of construction and elevation. As you get closer to the bayou, homes may seem to tower over original homes. A few are elevated close to 10 feet with garages under the house. You may have wondered how high they can go. According to policy and most deed restrictions in Meyerland, homes "shall not exceed two and one-half stories in height, nor be of more than thirty-six (36) feet measuring from the Minimum Flood Protection Elevation [MFPE] as defined by the Municipal Code of the City of Houston."

The key change here is the MFPE. Starting September 1, Houston's much debated new floodplain management guidelines in revised Chapter 19 take effect. Under these rules the MFPE is 2 feet over the 0.2% (500 year) flood level. For most homes in Meyerland, the MFPE would be about 2 to 7 feet above grade. A rough estimate of that number is about 1.5 feet over the current base flood elevation (BFE). A better estimate specific to your address can be found by following instructions at this link. <http://www.houstontx.gov/council/5/gims-help-floodplain.pdf>

If you are planning construction or elevation, your surveyor would need to get an exact number from a FEMA map.

With uncertain weather and potential for future floods, Meyerland policy allows homeowners to embrace many current design trends, while allowing homes to be built out of harm's way without becoming skyscrapers.



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Construction Starts on Final Project Brays Channel Improvements from Loop 610 to Fondren Road in Meyerland Area

By Karen Hastings, Harris County Flood Control District Communications

The Harris County Flood Control District has begun construction on the final 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 Loop 610 and Fondren Road in the Meyerland area.

On June 26, 2018, Harris County Commissioners Court awarded an \$11.72 million construction contract to lowest qualified bidder Serco Construction Group Ltd. for the channel improvement project. Preliminary work began in mid-July and is expected to be complete in approximately one year.

During this construction phase, Brays Bayou will be widened along an approximately 15,000-foot section from upstream of Loop 610 to 300 feet upstream of Fondren Road. (Bayou improvements will be made on the northern bank only between Loop 610 and South Rice Avenue.) A previous channel improvement segment from Buffalo Speedway to Loop 610,

which began construction about one year ago, is approximately 90 percent complete. Additional bridge modification projects also are in or nearing the construction phase.

As part of the newest project, the Flood Control District will excavate approximately 289,000 cubic yards of soil, and will construct retaining walls under existing bridges. The project also will install new outfalls and headwalls, and rebuild trails along the bayou in the project area. These operations require the use of large trucks to carry excavated soil from the construction site for off-site disposal, and to mix and pour concrete for the retaining walls. Motorists and pedestrians are encouraged to be alert to heavy equipment traffic near construction access points.

Project Brays is a \$480 million cooperative effort between the Flood Control District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Project Brays includes the widening of 21 miles of Brays Bayou in 13 separate channel modification project segments, the

(Continued on Page 9)

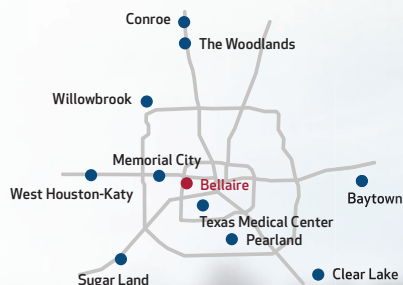
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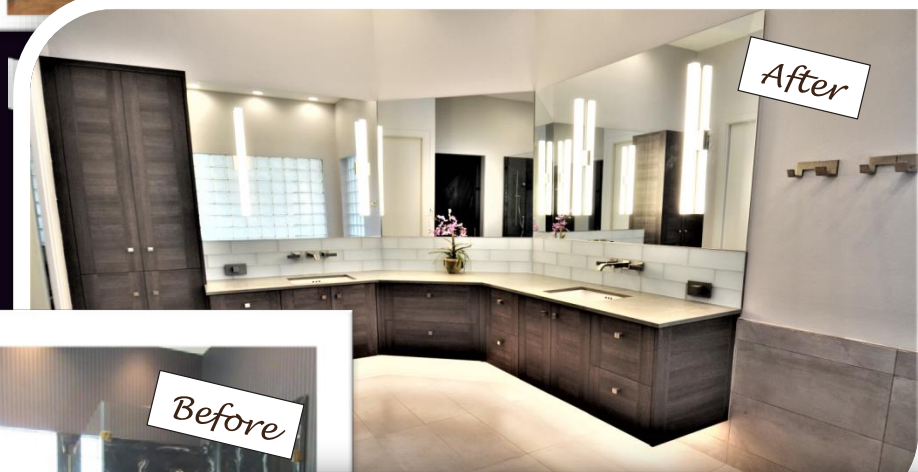
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Before



After

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MCIA Security Article – September

by Rick Fritz, Coordinator for Meyerland Citizens on Patrol

Meyerland Citizens On Patrol (COP) has been in existence for eight years. This is a group of your neighbors – fellow residents of Meyerland who volunteer a minimum of one hour per month patrolling the neighborhood. Recent floods and other issues have resulted in some of our group making the decision to leave Meyerland. We still have a great core group but our roster is not as big as it once was. HPD Chief Art Acevedo recently spoke to some of the COP volunteers thanking them for their service and emphasizing how their very presence on the street has deterred crime.

If you are interested in volunteering, it just requires a background check by HPD and a short certification course led by a HPD instructor. New classes are being planned so watch for the date and location of the next class. The main purpose of the course is to help you understand what you need to do to stay safe while patrolling, as well as to train you on what to look for and how to get an informative description of people, cars etc. to convey to law enforcement in the event of observed suspicious activity.

Everyone can help whether formally or informally. Crime knows no limits as to neighborhoods, time of day, type of home or car to

attack. Simple things such as keeping your home well-lit at night and installing cameras that monitor your home and if possible, the street in front of your home, are great deterrents for vandals. Other things include knowing what to look for when observing individuals or vehicles. Below is a link to a recent report on the Today show about inexpensive things you can do to better secure your home.

<https://www.today.com/home/protect-your-home-burglars-these-3-products-jeff-rossen-demonstrates-t131865>

Nextdoor Meyerland is a wonderful way to stay informed on what is going on in the neighborhood as well as tips that your neighbors are sharing.

The critical thing to remember is to report all suspicious behavior. Our Constables and Police would much rather answer an innocent call versus not being called until after the fact! So start helping by just paying attention to your neighborhood and your surroundings! Contact Precinct 5 at 281-463-6666 and HPD at 713-884-3131. You can also contact me anytime at 713-628-0207 or email me at sharick71@gmail.com.

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(*Construction Starts Continued from Page 6*)

modification of 32 bridges, and the construction of four stormwater detention basins with a combined capacity of 3.5 billion gallons.

When Project Brays is complete, it is expected to provide a 1 percent (100-year) level of flood protection upstream (west) of the Sam Houston Tollway. In areas downstream (east) of the tollway, Project Brays will reduce the number of structures at risk from a 1 percent (100-year) flood from 16,800 to 1,800.

ABOUT THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT The Harris County Flood Control District provides flood damage reduction projects that work, with appropriate regard for community and natural values. With more than 1,500 bayous and creeks totaling approximately 2,500 miles in length, the Flood Control District accomplishes its mission by devising flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintaining the infrastructure. To learn more about the Flood Control District, visit www.hcfdc.org.

Herod Memorial Oak Tree

By Joyce Young

On July 17, the live oak tree that sits in the Meyerland shopping plaza memorializing Capt. Gary Herod was cut down. Charles Goforth, Sec 1 director, noticed several months ago that the tree seemed to be in decline and called upon an arborist to assess the tree. The arborist concluded that the tree was dying and a decision was made that the tree would be cut down.

The live oak tree was planted in 1961 to memorialize Texas Air National Guard Capt. Gary Herod for sacrificing his life in order to save others. His T-33 jet trainer's engine malfunctioned and he was unable to make it to the closest airstrip. He was left with the choice to bail out, leaving the plane to crash into a subdivision, or he could stay aboard the crippled plane and guide it to an unpopulated area. Herod crashed near Brays Bayou in an open field.

Goforth, who grew up in the area, had a plan to create a new memorial spot near Brays Bayou to honor Herod. Before the tree was cut down, Goforth contacted the Herod family and spoke to them of his plans. He got their blessing to cut the tree down and to create a new memorial even though it was a heartbreaking decision.

The tree was given to the Woodworkers Club of Houston which will work with the Herod family to create souvenirs including a cross, walking cane for Capt. Herod's widow and keepsake boxes for the family to enjoy. There are also plans for a bench, writing pens and a carved image of the tree. The memorial plaque which sat on a granite base and declares Herod "died a hero" was moved to Herod Elementary school. The oak seedlings at the base of the tree are being cultivated and some will be presented to the Herod family. A new memorial plaque will be embedded in the new H-E-B grocery store that is being built in Meyerland.

Final approval to establish a "Herod Pocket Park" along Brays Bayou has been received from Commissioner Steve Radack, Harris County Flood Control District and Houston Parks Board. The pocket park will be near N. Braeswood and Mullins.

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

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

At Press Time - if you still have Hurricane Harvey Heavy Trash on your curb, please call 311 to have it picked up - subject to change.



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One Step Closer to a New Library

By Joyce Young

Prior to the deluge of Harvey hitting our community, the George B. Meyer Neighborhood Library was already designated “in most need”. After Harvey, the library was shuttered and it was declared that it would not reopen. A temporary location for hold book pickup and drop offs was set up at 5101 Rutherglenn Drive in the Godwin Community Center to accommodate the residents of Meyerland until a permanent location could be found.

In July, Houston’s city council approved spending \$1.2 million for the purchase of a 2.5 acre lot at 5505 Belrose, just four blocks south of the existing library. The new location is near Willow Waterhole, but sits outside both the 100- and 500- year floodplains. The new library will replace both the Meyer library and the 10-year-old Frank Express Library at 10103 Fondren. The new library will serve the southwestern section of the city.



DEAR LABBY

By Labrigail Van Bird Dog

Dear Labby: A couple of days ago a good friend of mine moved to Charleston for her job and she needed to “rehome” her two-year old Black Labrador named Enzo. I felt bad for Enzo and took him into our home. Imagine my wife’s surprise when she got home from work that day. I guess I should have gift wrapped Enzo. My bad. He’s a great dog. He’s house trained, loves people, and is super loyal. He never leaves my side. My wife finally got over the shock of having a dog in the house and calls him my little shadow, even though he’s 80 pounds. The problem is my wife doesn’t like his name and wants to change it to Henry. But I love his name and he’s already used to it. What should I do Labby?

-Nameless In Houston

Dear Nameless In Houston:

I happen to have the perfect solution for you and the Mrs. Did you know that Enzo actually translates from Italian to Henry in English? So, assuming that Enzo is bilingual, he will most likely answer to both. And even if he’s not, he’ll answer to whatever you call him if you have a treat in you hand. Problem solved. You can call him Enzo and your wife can call him Henry. You should only be worried if Enzo starts talking with his hands. Then, you’ll know for sure he’s Italian. Or possibly Jewish..

*If you have pet questions for Dear Labby (not just for dogs),
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HEROD FAMILIES HIT THE ROAD!

By Natalie Johnston

Summer vacation is the perfect time to hit the road, and Herod Elementary School families did just that. Whether it's to the beach, driving cross country, or flying across the ocean, the long break allows families to take the time to visit loved ones and share adventures to exciting places. Melissa Zacarias, Herod mother to Miranda and Daniel, visited Disney World for the first time. It was a special vacation because it included grandparents and extended family. "We started the trip off in Miami then headed to Orlando for Disney World. We visited Tampa and Destin as well. Destin has some of the most beautiful beaches. Our children really enjoyed all the beaches we went to while exploring the state of Florida."

Jayne Kalasinsky, mother of 3, has a daughter, Gracie, entering 2nd grade. "We visited Amish Country in Millersburg, Ohio. Gracie got to sit in a retired Amish wagon from the late 1800s. Gracie also enjoyed



Gracie visiting Amish country in Ohio



Zacarias family at Disney World, Florida

Art Camp at Artsy Doodle in Beaver, Pennsylvania and the kids had a blast at the Olcott Beach Carousel Park on Lake Erie near Niagara Falls, NY. They had fun riding kiddie cars from the 1930s and 1940s."

Shannon Younkin is a Herod mother to two boys. "Gray and Cooper Younkin got to spend time with their great-grandmother at her land in Llano, TX. They helped feed the cattle and went on a late-night golf cart adventure with flashlights looking for deer. They found many!"

Michelle Manning, Herod mother to 1st grader, Mackenzie, went on a European adventure with her family. "We recently returned from our family vacation, 2018 Tour de Europe, where we visited London and Paris. What was special was that Mackenzie's grandparents, Naan and Papa, joined us on our adventure." The summer is meant for making memories, and Herod families made plenty of them. There will definitely be many tales to tell friends when returning back to school.

National Hispanic Heritage Month 2018

www.hispanicheritagemonth.org

During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) we recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

Hispanic Heritage Month, whose roots go back to 1968, begins each year on September 15, the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile and Belize also celebrate their independence days during this period and Columbus Day (Día de la Raza) is October 12.

The term Hispanic or Latino, refers to Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. On the 2010 Census form, people of Spanish, Hispanic and/or Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin."

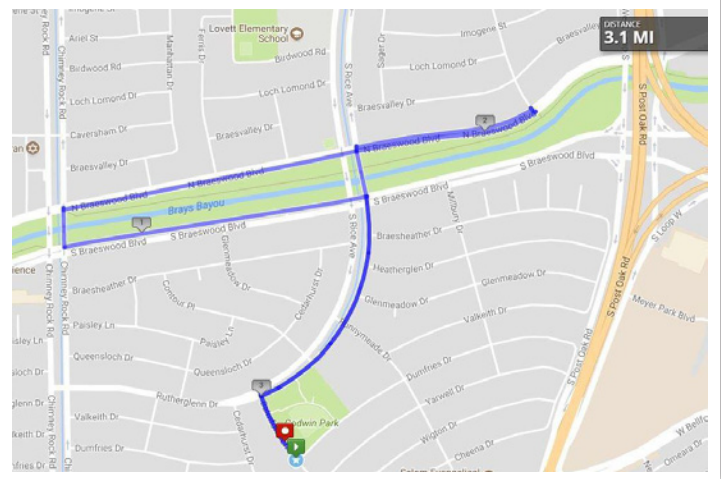
Today, 57.5 million people or 18% of the American population are of Hispanic or Latino origin. This represents a significant increase from 2000, which registered the Hispanic population at 35.3 million or 13% of the total U.S. population.

Share in this special annual tribute by learning and celebrating the generations of Hispanic and Latino Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.

Oy Vey 5k Race

The Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center (ERJCC) is hosting a 1k/5k race event on Sunday, October 7. The race will begin and end at Godwin Park in Meyerland. The event which supports the Meals on Wheels program will include post-race festivities that include food, vendors and family entertainment.

For more information, please visit www.erjcchouston.org.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2018

By the MCIA Office

National Night Out is Tuesday, October 2nd. The National Night Out campaign began in 1984 to promote involvement in crime prevention activities and 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.

This year is especially meaningful as it provides an opportunity to meet new neighbors and welcome back neighbors who have been displaced. 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 28. The MCIA Office will include your street address in an “email blast” to the neighborhood the day before National Night Out.



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PATRIOT DAY AND NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE

September 11

In memory of the nearly 3,000 people who were killed in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, each year in the United States we observe Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance.

HISTORY

On October 25, 2001, the U.S. House of Representatives Joint Resolution 71 was approved. Resolution 71 requested that the President designate September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day". President George W. Bush signed the resolution into law on December 18, 2001 (as Public Law 107-89).

On this day, it is asked by the President that the American flag is flown at half-staff at individual American homes, the White House and on all United States government buildings and establishments at home and abroad. The President has also asked Americans to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 A.M. (Eastern Daylight Time), the time the first plane struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. He also strongly encourages Americans to use the Corporation for National and Community Service to find and volunteer for service opportunities.

It was on September 10 of 2012 that President Obama issued a proclamation renaming the day as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, in reference to both Public Laws 107-89 and 111-13 (the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act).

"As we join in serving causes greater than ourselves and honoring those we lost, we are reminded of the ways that the victims of 9/11 live on — in the people they loved, the lives they touched, and the courageous acts they inspired. On Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, we pledge to carry on their legacy of courage and compassion, and to move forward together as one people." ~Presidential Proclamation—Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/09/09/presidential-proclamation-patriot-day-and-national-day-service-and-remem>



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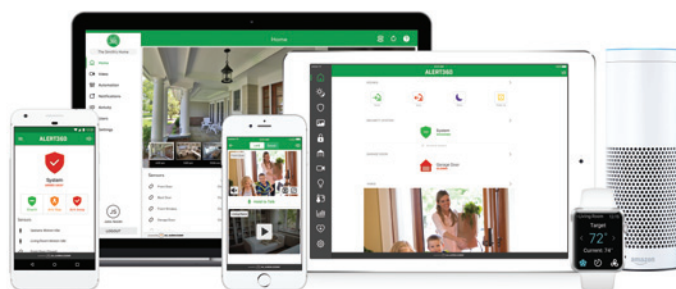


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