

# Meyerlander MONTHLY

Official Publication of the  
Meyerland Community Improvement Association

Volume 7 | Issue 1

MEYERLAND.NET

JANUARY 2019



Stylish Meyerland



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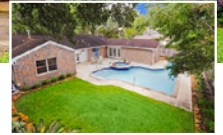
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## Chevron Houston Marathon

*By Joyce Young*

The Chevron Houston Marathon and the Aramco Houston Half Marathon will take place on January 20. The Houston Marathon Committee was established in 1972 and organizes the nation's premiere winter marathon, half marathon and 5k. The Chevron Houston Marathon Race Day is the largest single-day sporting event in Texas with over 33,000 runners with a median age of 40. There are approximately 57,000 attendees to the Health & Wellness EXPO which is home to Packet Pick-Up for all Chevron Houston Marathon, Aramco Houston Half Marathon, We Are Houston 5k and Run for a Reason participants. The EXPO will be held on January 18 and 19 and admission is free and open to the public. The EXPO is located at the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston.

This year's run will include runners from all 50 states and 49 countries, ranging from first-timers to athletes with disabilities to world record-holders. The Chevron Houston Marathon is also a certified Boston Marathon qualifier and with its fast and flat course presents a great opportunity to grab a BQ. The 26 mile course travels through the tree-lined streets of Rice University, the Museum District, Galleria and Memorial Park. There are plenty of spots to cheer your racer on and for those racing, 250,000 spectators, volunteers, marching bands, cheerleaders, bagpipers, belly dancers, Elvis impersonators and many others will be there cheering you on. Enjoy the run!

## 2019 Assessment Bills

*By the MCIA Office*

The 2019 annual assessment invoices have been mailed to the Meyerland homeowners. Many residents are not currently living in Meyerland due to Hurricane Harvey and therefore, it is even more critical to keep an eye out for this important letter.

All payments are to be mailed to a PO Box address in Arizona. Why do we mail our assessments to Arizona instead of Texas? We use a bank that specializes in homeowner association accounts. The bank processes over 100,000 payments monthly from hundreds of homeowner associations around the country. Their expertise ensures the safe transmission of your payment directly to your account. There is no charge to the Association for using this service which would be quite costly if we used a local bank. Using a lockbox payment system is much more efficient than using the MCIA office to manually process over 2,300 payments. The cost savings by using this system are passed onto you. Please mail your payment to the lockbox rather than dropping off your payment at our office, as we, in turn, have to forward your payment to the processor.

If your mortgage company pays your assessment from your escrow account, please forward this information to them to ensure prompt payment.

If you do not receive your bill in the mail by January 31st, we strongly urge you to contact the MCIA office to request another copy. You may call us at 713-729-2167 or email [office@meyerland.net](mailto:office@meyerland.net) with your property address. The payment is considered delinquent if it is not received by February 1, 2019. We appreciate your prompt payment.

## Christmas Tree Recycling

*By the MCIA Office*



The Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) is encouraging residents to recycle their Christmas trees in order to save landfill space and disposal costs. Residents can recycle their trees by dropping them off at one of six (6) free, drop-off, neighborhood recycling sites located throughout Houston. In addition to the drop-off

locations, residents with City of Houston collection may place their tree curbside on their scheduled tree waste day and it will be recycled. Residential curbside pickup is January 9. Trees that are collected for recycling will be ground into mulch.

NOTE: The trees must have all decorations, ornaments, tinsel, lights and stands removed. Flocked trees cannot be recycled.

The closest center to Meyerland is the City's Westpark Recycling Center at 5900 Westpark Road.



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On January 26, 2019 Kolter Elementary will host its 7th Annual Gala. The gala is the school's primary fundraising event and features a live and silent auction. This year's theme is "Kolter Royale" and is sure to be a lot of fun! The event will take place at Braeburn Country Club and more information and tickets can be found at [www.kolterpto.com](http://www.kolterpto.com).

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## Neighborhood Recycling Center *by Joyce Young*

The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department (SWMD) operates six (6) Recycling Centers that provide residents a convenient opportunity to dispose of junk, trees and recyclable materials.

The closest recycling center to Meyerland is located at 10785 SW Freeway. Residents may use the facilities up to four (4) times per month by providing a valid Texas identification card, such as a Texas driver's license and either a current utility bill or a copy of your lease agreement.

Items that are accepted at the recycling center include concrete, mattresses, tree waste, junk waste, furniture, refrigerators (must be tagged indicating the Freon has been removed), household appliances, used motor oil, wood fencing (must be broken down) and five passenger tires per household, per visit, total of ten per month.

Items that are not accepted include garbage, dead animals, rocks, dirt, bricks, TVs and other electronics, truck or industrial tires, paint and other household waste such as chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides, infectious waste, gasoline and other flammable materials/liquids. Please visit <https://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/depository-rules.pdf> for a complete list of acceptable and unacceptable items.

The City also has an Environmental Service Center located at 11500 South Post Oak that accepts many of the items that are not accepted at the recycling centers. Please visit <http://houstontx.gov/solidwaste/esc.html> for a list of items accepted at that facility.

In addition to the recycling center, SWMD also operates a Reuse Warehouse. The warehouse is free for making donations and for non-profit organizations taking the material. New construction and rehabbing in Meyerland is significant and lots of building materials are discarded during the process. Construction and demolition materials account for approximately 38% of the waste stream in the Houston area. The Building Materials Reuse Warehouse provides a space to donate excess building materials that would otherwise be dumped in local landfills. Materials are accepted from individuals, supply companies and builders. The donated items are available for free to any non-profit organization.

The Reuse Warehouse only accepts building material that is in suitable condition for reuse. The warehouse is located at 9003 N. Main. It is advisable to call beforehand to describe the items that will be donated to ensure that they will be accepted. Examples of acceptable items include cabinets, doors, electrical fixtures and equipment, fans, flooring materials, glass, gutters, hardware, lighting, lumber, metal, mirrors, pipe, plumbing, plywood, roofing material, screens, sheetrock, sinks, showers, trim, tubs, wall coverings and windows. They do not accept paint.

In order to pick up items from the warehouse, first time non-profits must show proof of their non-profit status. All material in inventory is available for free on a first come, first served basis.

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## Trash/Recycling Schedule

January, 2019						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2 Trash	3	4	5
6	7	8 T/R	9 Tree	10	11	12
13	14	15 Trash	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 T/R	24	25	26
27	28	29 Trash	30	31		

February, 2019						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3	4	5 T/R	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Trash	13 Junk	14	15	16
17	18	19 T/R	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Trash	27	28		

**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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## Winter Lawn Maintenance

*By Joyce Young*

Winter is here. The temperatures are cooler and the grass doesn't need to be mowed as often. Nor is the lawn getting burned by the sun. What steps should be taken to ensure a healthy lawn during the winter months?

Do our lawns need to be watered in the winter months? If our Houston weather leaves us rain free for a couple of weeks, our lawns still require 1 to 2 inches of water per week, including rainfall. Grass experts agree that watering first thing in the morning is best. There is less evaporation in the morning and water has a better chance of drying before nightfall, thus reducing the risk of lawn disease. In addition, most experts agree that deep, infrequent watering is the most beneficial for deep root growth.

Is it a good idea to lay sod in the winter time? The ideal time of year for laying sod is between early spring and early fall. However, sod can be installed in the winter months and will take root. The only concern is that there is not a big freeze during the first two weeks of sod establishment.

Do leaves need to be raked and bagged or composted? When leaves fall, they block the sunlight and can kill the grass underneath. If your yard is covered in dead leaves, it is advisable to remove as many of them as possible in order that spring does not bring with it a brown lawn. However, if your lawn is sparsely littered with leaves, this shouldn't cause a huge problem. Leaves can be mulched and turned into a source of nutrients for your grass.

So, while many of us dream of a Houston winter wonderland, chances are that it probably won't happen. Therefore, simple lawn maintenance is still required during the winter months: a little watering, a little raking and maybe some sod laying and voilà, come spring, your yard will be a nice healthy green space to enjoy.



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## Attracting Wildlife

*By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center*



It seems that everywhere we look we are seeing trees being torn down and grassy areas being turned into parking lots. Sadly, there's not much we can do about it. There are things you can do, however, to help replenish some of the natural resources that are destroyed. You can turn your

backyards and even small apartment balconies into areas that attract wildlife, butterflies and even bees.

You can provide food by planting wildlife-friendly plants. Choose plant species that bloom and fruit at various times of the year. Like the woodpecker, some birds will dine on insects during the summer but will eat berries in colder weather. Shrubs and trees can provide seeds and berries for mammals and birds while a flower garden will provide food for a variety of insect pollinators and hummingbirds. Bird and squirrel feeders are great to help supplement what is found in nature. If you can, leave dead trees. They can be a food source by attracting insects, lichens, mosses and fungi.

Every living thing needs water. Birds not only need water to drink but to bathe in. The easiest way to do this is to provide a birdbath or a shallow dish of water. Make sure to keep it clean and be careful to use animal-friendly cleaners! No bleach or anything toxic. If you're fortunate enough to own a little land, you can add a water garden or pond to your property.

Wildlife needs cover from the elements just like we do. In our area we don't have to worry about snow but we often get heavy rains and extreme heat. Again, dead trees work great for some species. Planting dense shrubs provide shelter for rabbits, turtles and some bird species. Don't forget about man-made shelters, too, like bathhouses and birdhouses.

There are books available to help you garden for wildlife. One of them is, *Texas Wildscapes* by Kelly Conrad Bender. It's published by Texas A&M. Texas Parks and Wildlife is also a great resource. Some organizations provide instructions and help so that your school or home can become a Certified Wildlife Habitat. One such organization is the National Wildlife Federation.

You can make this a family project and have fun with it. Get the kids involved. Plant some trees and shrubs, hang some birdhouses and squirrel boxes and decide where you want your birdbaths.

TWRC Wildlife Center is getting ready for a busy spring and we're looking for baby feeders. We'll train you to care for baby squirrels, baby opossums and baby birds so you'll be ready to start in the spring. No previous experience is needed—just a desire to help wildlife babies, a great attitude and you must be reliable! Send your resume or letter of interest to [operations@twrcwildlifecenter.org](mailto:operations@twrcwildlifecenter.org).



## Drain flies

*By Wizzie Brown*



Drain flies are small brownish-grey insects with two wings. They have fuzzy wings and bodies and when at rest, the wings are folded over the body making them look like tiny moths. This is why they are sometimes called moth flies.

Drain flies may be seen in kitchens and bathrooms near sinks or tubs. They tend to be more active in the evening. Female

flies lay eggs in the thin film of organic matter that builds up on the inside of drain pipes. Larvae develop in the slime layer, feeding on fungi and other microorganisms.

Unfortunately, targeting adult drain flies will only temporarily solve the problem. To manage drain flies, the source should be located and treated to reduce the population of developing flies. To track down where the flies are coming from, place tape over one side (don't cover the drain completely) of drains in sinks and tubs before you go to bed. In the morning, check tape for flies that emerged during the night to find out which drain(s) is/ are infested.

Once the drain is located, take a stiff brush and scrub the inside of the drain, following up by flushing the drain with boiling water. There is no need to treat the drain with bleach or ammonia. It may take several days to see a reduction of the adult flies once the drain has been cleaned; you have to allow the emerging adults to die. If you have drains that you cannot access to clean, there are biogels that consume the organic matter where they larvae develop. Read and follow all label instructions.

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.

## Higher Education for Senior Citizens

*By Joyce Young*

Did you know that Texas Education Code Sec. 54.365 allows for Senior Citizens to audit any course offered by a Texas institution without payment of a fee if space is available? Also, senior citizens may enroll in up to six credit hours each semester or summer term without payment of tuition if space is available. A senior citizen is described as a person 65 years of age or older.

Texas Education Code Sec. 54.263 allows for students age 55 or older to pay reduced tuition and fees at rates lower than the rates otherwise stated.

If you are interested in these programs, please contact your Texas higher learning institution for further information.

## In the Know

*By Joyce Young*

If you are new to the Meyerland area, you may want to sign up for Nextdoor Meyerland at <https://nextdoor.com/neighborhood/meyerland--houston--tx/>. Meyerland neighbors use this website to share recommendations, classifieds, lost and found, important alerts and other information pertinent to the neighborhood.

If you are a mom (or dad) with young children (ages 0-5), you may also want to check out the Meyerland Mom's group at [www.bigtent.com/groups/mmoyc](http://www.bigtent.com/groups/mmoyc) and [www.bellaireyoungmothers.org/](http://www.bellaireyoungmothers.org/) for friendship and support.

Also, be sure to sign up at [www.Meyerland.net](http://www.Meyerland.net) to receive important alerts and announcements regarding the Meyerland community.



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## 10 Easy Ways to Make Your Home Safe

A home should be a sanctuary and a safe haven. You can ensure that you and your loved ones remain out of harm's way in the precincts of your homestead.

To avoid all kinds of accidents you should make it an accident-proof dwelling. It's really simple if you observe specific steps to keep mishaps at bay.

Here are 10 easy ways to make your home safe and secure. These will help you take care and protect yourself, family members and house-guests. Employ these effective tips:

1. Keep interiors and exteriors well lit. This is important at nighttime and also in winters when daylight is not very effective. Critical areas that need to be illuminated are the stairs, outdoors and foyers.

2. Never leave electrical problems pending at any point. The slightest fluctuation should be attended immediately. Make it a cardinal rule to switch off appliances after use.

3. Smoke alarms are a necessity and you must have the very best. Practice regular safety drills with your family to ensure awareness of procedures.

4. Keep ordinary appliances safely as they could be dangerous. Especially with kids around. Make electrical outlets safe by safety plugging and child proofing them. Keep sharp objects like scissors, knives, weapons and match boxes out of reach.

5. Ensure locks and bolts on doors and windows are in order and tamper-proof. Keep an eye out for suspicious characters and never invite strangers into your home. Teach your children not to entertain queries from strangers.

6. Do not share information about working or school hours. Teach family members to avoid telling people about schedules and routines. Do not put personal information online and never respond to voicemails.

7. The risk of accidents goes up when you are getting maintenance or repair work done. Ensure safety and precaution and be prepared to react quickly to accidents or injuries.

8. Do not attempt repair work of appliances involving undue risk. Many home accidents are the result of improper tampering with tools like lawnmowers and trimmers.

9. Maintain caution when driving vehicles in or out of your home. If you are backing the car up, watch out for children and pets on the road.

Make sure you don't leave stuff on stairs that may cause people to trip and fall. Be watchful when clearing snow from pathways that you do not heap it up in areas where people might walk.

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