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President's Message

The New Year is off to a great start, with hopefully enough cold weather to kill off the bugs, but not enough to kill our tropical plants.

We are pleased to see so many of our folks moving back into the neighborhood after being flooded during Harvey. Watching the "for sale" listings on HAR.com is always interesting, to see what homes are on the market after being remodeled or to be torn down. Home sales are one signal of a healthy neighborhood, indicating that our homes and area amenities such as excellent schools are attracting new families to live here.

That's why we emphasize how YOU are an important part of keeping Marilyn Estates an attractive place! Two reminders:

- 1) If you are doing ANY construction or work on your property that will be seen from the street, or, by your neighbor, you MUST get approval from our Architectural Control Committee BEFORE the work has begun. That includes getting a new roof or sidewalk, or repainting.
- 2) Because Houston has NO zoning, our Deed Restrictions are the ONLY thing that keeps our neighborhood safe from non-compliant use. For example, would you want your next-door neighbor's home to become a veterinary clinic, with the front yard paved over for a parking lot? Um, NO.

Texas state law requires that Deed Restrictions be enforced across all properties in the neighborhood they cover, or the restrictions may actually be nullified. That's why keeping your property maintained is so important, and why our industrious Deed Restriction Enforcement Committee will send you a notice if you are not in compliance. For instance, my husband was aggravated when we got a notice about rotting/torn-up wood and mildew on the brick by our garage doors. But we fixed it and it looks much better now. Thanks to the Committee for being the push to fix it.

Fun news

We are working to organize a spring social to get everyone together, to welcome our neighbors back after flooding repairs and to welcome new neighbors who have moved in. Watch for notices about this event, probably coming in April. Let me know if you'd like to help!

Finally, if you are on Facebook and not a member of the closed Marilyn Estates Facebook page, please send me an email and I will add you. We post a lot of good, timely neighborhood info there.

Happy 2019 to all.

CJ Yeoman
cjyeoman@sbcglobal.net

**Our Next Meeting is
Monday, April 29, 2019**

7 PM

**Jewish Community Center
5601 S. Braeswood Blvd.**

Remembering Sam Camp, a Good Neighbor

Sam Camp, who served Marilyn Estates for many years as a block director, has died. "He exemplified what being a good neighbor meant," said President CJ Yeoman.

Maintenance Committee Chairman Linda Miner remembered Sam as a "gentleman," adding that "he wanted everyone to be happy."



Sam's biggest role in the association over several years was as chairman of the Maintenance Committee. He improved the medians on South Braeswood in the 5400 and 5500 blocks, leading a tree planting and changing out the old wooden subdivision signs with attractive monument signs. (The same signs were eventually added on Chimney Rock as well.)

Taking time to be dedicated to the good appearance and well-being of our neighborhood is something to aspire to. We appreciate all the hard work Sam Camp did for Marilyn Estates to help keep it a subdivision where we can all be proud to live.

Sam Camp with new Marilyn Estates sign, January 2012

Welcome Committee

In January I visited the homes of new Marilyn Estates neighbors at: 9719 Checkerboard, 5431 Paisley, 5434 Valkeith, 5422 Lymbar and 5423 Yarwell. None of the residents were home, so I left a copy of the December 2018 *Marilyn Estates Gazette* and a letter of welcome in their mail boxes. The welcome letter directs the newcomers to contact me and set up a time to meet. It also lets them know I have a welcome gift bag to give them courtesy of our MEA and some of our local merchants. I was happy to visit with Piper Butler and Claude Thomas (5431 Paisley) and present them with a gift bag.

To date, we have secured donations for our welcome bags from Belden's, La Fresca Pizza, Walgreen's, Lowe's and Avalon Insurance Agency/Debbie Gehring. If anyone has contacts with local businesses that might make donations for these gift bags, please let me know.

Susan Gubitz
MEA Welcome Committee

West Point Texas Tamale Tailgate

The West Point Parents Club of Houston is an organization of volunteers dedicated to providing support and encouragement to Texas Cadets attending the United States Military Academy at West Point.



Save the date for...

Marilyn Estates Spring Social!

Sunday, April 7th 3-5 pm

Checkerboard Cul-de-sac

We plan on having lots of prizes from neighborhood businesses, light refreshments and activities for the kiddos. Sarah Davis, Dist. 134 TX State Rep. will attend. If you can help with any of these or would like to be part of the planning committee, please contact either Elizabeth Santikos (281-788-3220) or Jennifer Costner (214-542-3158). It will be a fun day!



One tradition of the Club is an annual *Texas Tamale Tailgate*. We like to call it "T3". The Club provides a Texas barbeque and tamale dinner with all of the trimmings, along with music, decorations and camaraderie for nearly 600 Cadets from all over the USA. That is about 15% of the entire student body of Cadets at the Academy.



This year T3 occurred after Army defeated Miami University in an overtime football game on October 21, 2018. It is recognized as the premier volunteer-supported West Point events in the lives of the Cadets. The tailgate party gives local parents of Cadets the opportunity to recognize cadets from all over the country for their service while providing some down-home hospitality and Texas cooking, many of whom have never seen or tasted a tamale before.

The Club is fortunate to have the support of many local sponsors that volunteer time, food, support, transportation and funding to pull off this big event that is in its 35th year. HEB, Buc-ee's, Southwest Airlines, Walmart, Texas Tamale Company, The Texans, Astros and Dallas Cowboys are a few companies that provide their time, energy, products and resources for Texas Tamale Tailgate. Over 80 volunteers traveled from Houston to West Point to staff and run T3 this year.

Annually, there are about 25 to 32 Cadets from the Greater Houston area that receive an appointment to the United States Military Academy, one of the largest contingents from any city in the United States. The tailgate is the West Point Parents Club of Houston small way of saying, "Thank You" for their sacrifices. Local Marilyn Estates residents Wendy and John Polisini are past Presidents of the Club and T3 volunteers.

Security Report

Meet Harris County Deputy Constable Corporal Michael Lee

Michael Lee has been with the Harris County Constables for more than 10 years. Along with a partner, he has been patrolling Marilyn Estates for three years. During each day he is on duty, Corporal Lee makes numerous rounds through Marilyn Estates and Barkley Square. Our subdivision is the smallest and safest in this area. Corporal Lee has many reminders to keep your property safe.

- 1 - Surveillance cameras, well lighted homes, and gates are an excellent deterrent to criminals.
- 2 - Whenever possible use your garage for overnight parking. If you must park in the driveway, be sure to lock your car. **DO NOT PARK YOUR CAR** in the street overnight.
- 3 - Don't let newspapers accumulate in front of your home. Ask neighbors to get them if you plan to be out-of-town.
- 4 - **VERY IMPORTANT**, to avoid kick in entries, make sure the door frame is steel and secured by 3 ½" steel screws.
- 5 - To let the constables know when you are on vacation, call 281-463-6666 or use the Vacation Watch link at <https://constablepct5.com/index.php/vacation-watch/>.

Marilyn Estates is coming back since the Hurricane Harvey flood; we have many new families with young children. Kolter Elementary will have a brand-new school building soon and Parker Elementary is fabulous. We encourage kids to play outside, so please drive carefully.

Corporal Lee partners with Deputy Evan Tollefson and Deputy Cindy Ramirez. They welcome your call; if you have questions or concerns call the dispatch at 281-463-6666.

Many thanks to Maury Sklar, our devoted Security Director for more than 15 years, who has spent time to make our security program seamless and successful.



Marilyn Estate Association Minutes: Quarterly Meeting Jewish Community Center Monday, January 28, 2019

President C.J. Yeoman began the meeting at 7:03 pm. Minutes were approved from the October meeting as written.

Kenya Burrell-VanWormer, the 2018 President of HAR, was the guest speaker. She shared some data on the current market in Marilyn Estates, Meyerland and the city. Kenya also discussed the importance of curb appeal, and how that extends to the interior as well as the exterior of homes.



Be sure to know when
heavy trash day is.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Robert Gehring reviewed the 2019 Budget. He reported that he has been able to reinvest one of our CDs into a higher yielding account, and that two more CDs will mature soon and he expects to be able to do the same with them.

Architectural Control: Nancy Hixon reported that there are still some homes that will be raised.

Maintenance: Linda Miner reported that the trees on the Braeswood median need to be maintained. There is one dead tree that needs to be removed, three diseased trees that need to be treated, and several trees that need to be pruned. In all there are 45 trees on the median. LNC/Embark has given us a very reasonable price, and the work will be done soon.



Be a good neighbor and
pick up trash when you
can.

Security: Maury Sklar reported that the neighborhood has been very quiet. There have been no break-ins in the past quarter. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of the Vacation Watch service that the constables offer. The number for the Constables is 281-463-6666.

Welcoming Committee: Susan Gubitz's report was read. She attempted to visit five new neighbors but none were home. She left letters of welcome and was later able to give out one gift bag. Susan would welcome additional helpers on her committee.

Communications: If you are unable to receive your quarterly *Marilyn Estates Gazette* by email, please let us know so we can make sure you get a hard copy. Also, after 10 years, *Gazette* editor Michael Strickland will be discontinuing his work on the newsletter and is looking for a volunteer to take over the job. Contact Marge Mayer or CJ for information.

Deed Restriction Enforcement: Linda reported that the situation is much improved since last year. There have been 15 notices sent out that have not been resolved, but three are currently being worked on. Eight notices that were sent out have been resolved.

There was no old business.

New Business:

Marilyn Estates will have a Spring Social on Sunday, April 7, from 2-4 pm. The exact location has not yet been determined.

Block Director changes:

- Debbie Gehring will replace Justin Turner for Burdine and Checkerboard.
- Janice Fastow will replace Ed Fastow for 5400 Valkeith.
- 5400 Queensloch is in need of a new Director.

The issue of sidewalk width was addressed. Originally the sidewalks in the city were all required to be 4' wide. Several years ago, the city changed the required width to be 5'. When the 5400 block was repaved, the sidewalks were replaced with 5'. Anyone who wants to replace their sidewalks now must put in 5'. However, Maplewood and Meyerland have both filed variance letters with the city stating that they approve of residents replacing 4' sidewalks with 4' sidewalks, so they don't have to incur the additional expense of a 5' sidewalk. Marilyn Estates is trying to decide if we want to file a similar variance letter, since there are several residents in the 5500 block who are ready to replace their own sidewalks, and there is no expectation that the 5500 block will have their sidewalks replaced in the foreseeable future by the city. After much discussion and varying viewpoints, a motion was made and passed to do an email vote of the 5500 block owners to determine if they prefer that sidewalk replacements be required to be 5' wide or if a variance letter should be filed allowing individual owners to decide if they want 4' or 5' wide sidewalks. Door prizes were given out and the meeting was adjourned.



Avalon Insurance Agency



9660 Hillcroft Suite 240 - Houston TX 77096

Debbie Gehring

(O) 713-283-5202 (F) 866-929-5850

Debbie@Avaloninsuranceagency.com

As an independent insurance agent we can offer the right coverages with the personal touch you would expect from your neighborhood insurance agent. Call us for a free quote or visit our website www.Avaloninsuranceagency.com

Resident of Marilyn Estates for 40 years

Yards of The Quarter

Many thanks to our YOTQ Committee who diligently patrols Marilyn Estates looking for the most attractive front yards.

A friendly reminder, to qualify for YOTQ, we must be able to see your address from the street. This is primarily for safety. Should anyone need an emergency response from the constable, fire department or ambulance, time is imperative, they must be able to identify your home from their vehicles.

5439 Wigton	5507 Wigton	5415 Cheena	5503 Cheena	5411 Lymbar
5511 Lymbar	5507 Braeswood	9714 Braesmont	9706 Chimney Rock	5439 Paisley
9707 Oasis	9711 Kit	9707 Checkerboard St.	9702 Burdine St	9723 Atwell Dr.
5422 Queensloch	5515 Queensloch	5447 Rutherglenn	5527 Rutherglenn	5511 Valkeith
5402 Valkeith	5523 Dumfries	5447 Dumfries	5527 Yarwell	5419 Yarwell

Treasurer's Report

By Robert Gehring
Marilyn Estates Association
Q4 - Financial Summary 2018

INCOME	2018
Security Assessment	\$107,199
Dues	\$32,587
Fees – Refinance	\$300
Fees – Resale Certificate	\$525
Fees - Transfer	\$3,825
Advertising	\$225
Interest Income	\$438
Other	\$97
TOTAL INCOME	\$145,196
EXPENSES	
Security	\$107,914
Lawn Service:	
Contractual	\$11,256
Flower Planting	\$1,987
Maintenance	\$638
Contingency	\$0
Insurance	\$4,562
Legal Fees	\$4,042
Tax Preparation	\$900
Admin	\$554
Newsletter	\$960
Website	\$0
Constant Contact (email marketing)	\$413
Socials	\$0
Bank Charges	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$133,225
NET INCOME	\$11,971
BALANCE SHEET	
Chase Operating Acct as of 12/31/2018	43,958
Chase Savings Acct as of 12/31/2018	\$40,799
Fidelity Investment Account:	
JP Morgan CD @ 2.60%, matures 1/16/2019	\$100,000
Chase CD 18 mo.\$43K .25% 2/5/2019	\$43,958
Chase CD 13 mo.\$40K .25% 5/15/2019	\$40,799
TOTAL ASSETS	\$269,514

Account Receivable:

-14 homeowners are past due - total delinquent = \$13,778.24

-6 homeowners are past due more than 1 year

Home Sales:

* 33 homes have sold in 2018

* 17 total home sales in 2017

Harris County Judge Hidalgo Launches Community-Wide Survey on Local Government

Survey is a Key Component of Judge Hidalgo's Signature Civic Engagement Program, Talking Transition: Harris County

Harris County, TX - Judge Lina Hidalgo announced today that she is launching a community-wide survey online as part of Talking Transition: Harris County, a civic engagement program designed to help shape the first year of her administration.



The first program of its kind in Harris County, Talking Transition will provide a forum for residents to discuss the issues that matter most to them, learn about the county government and budget, and weigh in on pressing public policy matters.

"Talking Transition is an initiative that invites Harris County residents to engage with their local government. We want residents to understand how Harris County government works and to feel connected to their county government," said **Judge Hidalgo**. "This is also an opportunity for my administration to learn from community members as we shape our policy agenda moving forward, so we can make sure our government works for everyone."

The survey is designed to elicit public feedback on several essential issues, such the quality of early childhood education to the availability of reliable public transportation options. Harris County residents will also be able to express their opinions on how storm recovery resources should be prioritized.

The online survey is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#), [Arabic](#), and [Vietnamese](#). Additionally, teams of canvassers will spread out across Harris County with the survey starting Tuesday, January 29.

The survey launch is the first part of Judge Hidalgo's signature civic engagement program, which will feature a variety of ways for Harris County residents to interact with and learn more about their local government. Other core components include:

Transparency Project: Announcements throughout the County will provide easily-digestible information about how county government works along with statistics intended to make people eager to learn more.

Offered at a seven locations around Harris County, **Civic Saturdays** are a series of full-day public events happening on consecutive Saturdays. The first Civic Saturday will take place early February and will be announced soon. Civic Saturdays will be comprised of

- **Civic School:** Features classroom-style lessons where Harris County residents learn how County government works.
- **Town Halls:** A large gathering organized around a specific policy area that will give residents a chance to share new ideas for improving their communities and to hear from others.
- **Action Plan Workshops:** Smaller working groups for thought leaders and people who have devoted time to specific issues to focus on how to best realize community-driven ideas through County government.

A full description of Talking Transition is available online at <https://www.talkingtransition.us/>. All Talking Transitions events will be free and open to the public. Talking Transition: Harris County is an initiative of Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo with support from Houston Endowment, Ford Foundation, and Episcopal Health Foundation.

Dear Friends in Marilyn Estates,

Many District C residents have reached out to my office to report missed or delayed recycling and heavy trash pickup. This has been a major issue city-wide over the past few months, and I want to share with you some background on why the delays are happening and what the Solid Waste Department is doing to get us back on schedule.

Why is this happening?

- Unfortunately, the City of Houston's fleet of automated recycling pickup trucks is aging and some sustained damage during Hurricane Harvey. This has led to hundreds of hours of equipment downtime as the trucks are repaired.
- Another challenge is the impact a nation-wide skilled labor shortage has had on Houston. The department is in dire need of new truck mechanics as well as experienced CDL drivers.
- In addition, many homeowners' garbage and recycling bins were washed away during Hurricane Harvey. This has created a backlog for the delivery of new bins.
- Finally, Solid Waste is experiencing the annual increase in volume that they see immediately following the holidays, which has further contributed to the delays.

What is the City doing about it?

- Council purchased new trucks in December 2018, which are scheduled to be delivered throughout 2019/ 20 will arrive in February, 12 in May, and 26 in August.
- On Wednesday, January 23rd, Council authorized the department to contract out the collection of 10 daily recycling routes at the Northwest Service Center for the next year, as well as temporarily renting 5 additional trucks which can substitute in when existing trucks are down for maintenance. These temporary items will assist us in filling in the gap until the backlog is eliminated.
- Although the majority of City of Houston departments remain under a hiring freeze, Mayor Turner has lifted this restriction for Solid Waste so that they may hire these direly-needed truck drivers and mechanics. The City of Houston hosted a Job Fair on January 9th to recruit new workers. To apply for one of these positions, please visit: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/houston.
- Mayor Turner has also asked any Public Works Department employees with a CDL driver license to be temporarily reallocated to Solid Waste in the interim until the City can hire more experienced truck drivers.
- The department has had existing staff working overtime on weekends to try to catch up.
- Mayor Turner is asking the department, 311 operators, and Council Members to keep his office apprised of all missed and delayed pickups so that he and his team can personally track them.
- The Solid Waste Department's facebook page has daily information on what routes are being picked up each day: www.facebook.com/houstonssolidwaste/
- Regularly-scheduled pickups are projected to resume within approximately 60 days.

What should I do in the meantime?

- If your bin isn't picked up on your regularly-scheduled day, please report the situation to 311@houstontx.gov and cc: DistrictC@houstontx.gov. Please be sure to include your name, address, and what your normal pickup day is. Our office will share with the department and with the Mayor's Office.
- Stay informed by continuing to check the department's facebook page for daily updates on when your neighborhood's pickup will take place.

Please know that I share your frustration on the delay of these core City services. My team is monitoring the situation closely and will distribute any updates we receive from the department.

Sincerely,
Ellen

Ellen R. Cohen
City of Houston Mayor Pro Tem
Council Member, District C

Neighborhood News

JCC Installs New Floodgates

Our neighboring Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center has installed a pair of retractable floodgates to protect its facility from future floods. The gates will work in conjunction with a new concrete barrier added to the ornamental fence in front of the main building that surrounds the playground and garden down below.

The floodgates are similar to those installed in buildings throughout the Texas Medical Center after Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. The new system is activated by the onrush of high floodwaters.

Read the entire story in the *Jewish Herald Voice* at <http://jhvonline.com/floodgates-to-protect-jcc-during-future-weather-events-p25452-96.htm>.

Marilyn Estates Association Officers

President, C.J. Yeoman
713-729-8442 cjyeoman@sbcglobal.net

Vice President, Martin Stalnaker
713-721-2752 mstalnaker@acumenpc.com

Treasurer, Robert Gehring
281-773-7135 treasurymea@outlook.com

Recording Secretary, Susan Sides
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Corresponding Secretary, Martha Eaves
713-256-3484 marthaeaves@gmail.com

Parliamentarian, Ed Fastow
713-553-7399 efastow@sbcglobal.net

Marilyn Estates Association Committees

Architectural Control

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Nancy Hixon 713-728-9386 nshixon@att.net

Debra Suhl 713-728-3935 dlsuhl@me.com

Curt Taylor 303-722-3352 curtant@hotmail.com

Contact Information

Marilyn Estates

P.O. Box 35144, Houston, TX 77235

www.marilynestates.com

Harris County Constable 281-463-6666

For a direct link for vacation watch contact: constablepct5.com

Marilyn Estates Association Block Directors

5400 Lympbar - Linda Miner 713-826-8077 lindaminer999@att.net

5500 Lympbar - Rande Smolensky 713-729-9682 ransmo@aol.com

5400 Cheena - **We need a volunteer for this position.**

5500 Cheena - **We need a volunteer for this position.**

5400 Wigton - Doug Irr 713-295-0539 dmi2x@hotmail.com

5500 Wigton - Michael Bryant 713-504-2700 mbryant29@gmail.com

5400 Yarwell - Jim Taylor 832-269-1500 j.stay@hotmail.com

5500 Yarwell - Sam Musachia 713-721-7033 sam.musachia@sbcglobal.net

5400 Dumfries - Elizabeth Santikos 281-788-3220 esantikos@yahoo.com

5500 Dumfries - Linda Maraldo 713-729-7086 lmaraldo@sbcglobal.net

5400 Valkeith - Janice Fastow 713-553-7399 jfastow@sbcglobo.net

5500 Valkeith - Julie Fordes 832-969-8349 fordes.julie@gmail.com

5400 Rutherglenn - Ginger Flannery 713-723-2016 ginflannery@yahoo.com

5500 Rutherglenn - David Karesh 832-562-5519 kareshjunk@gmail.com

5400 Queensloch - **We need a volunteer for this position.**

5500 Queensloch - Mary Johnson 713-729-6392 nanaluluinhouston@comcast.net

Paisley/Chimney Rock - Maury Sklar 713-728-8821 masklar@swbell.net

Braesmont/Kit/Oasis - **We need a volunteer for this position.**

Atwell /South Braeswood - Diane Gardner 832-876-1234 dianenativetexan@gmail.com

Burdine/Checkerboard - Debbie Gehring 713-927-8934 Debbie_g7482@hotmail.com