

POA MEETINGS

The POA meetings are conducted at the Sugar Land First United Sugar Land Methodist Church, 431 Eldridge Road., Sugar Land, TX 77478. Meetings will be held in Room 600, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting dates are:

- May 1, 2018
- June 5, 2018
- No meeting in July and August
- September 4, 2018
- October 2, 2018
- November 6, 2018
- December 4, 2018

VEPOA OFFICERS

Greg Waleke, President **Bob Vacek, Treasurer**
Tarn Springbob, Vice President **Sue Frewin, Secretary**

VEPOA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

MASC Austin Properties, Inc., 713-776-1771
Cindy Valdez, Property Manager, cvaldez@mascapi.com

Venetian Estates

c/o MASC Austin Properties, Inc.
945 Eldridge Road
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

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A PUBLICATION FROM THE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
FOR THE RESIDENTS OF VENETIAN ESTATES

www.venetianestates.org

Spring/Summer 2018



M A I N S A I L ©

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Greg Waleke

As I'm writing this, spring has finally arrived. One of my favorite poems as a kid was:

Spring has sprung, the grass has griz,

I wonder where the flowers is

I grew up in Detroit, so springtime was not always accompanied by flowers. Not so in our Venetian Estates! Take a walk and look at some of the lovely landscaping our neighbors have put in. There are plenty of flowers to be seen.

That's one of the things that make our neighborhood so special. The big oak trees with the flowers underneath

just scream beauty. That of course, helps maintain the home values in our neighborhood. Everyone wants to live somewhere that is so inviting.

So, if you're not one of the people taking a morning or evening walk, give it a try. There's plenty of beautiful landscaping and houses to be seen. And stop and take a minute to talk to a neighbor. You'll see why we have the reputation of being one of the friendliest neighborhoods. It'll make you appreciate our neighborhood even more.

I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood. Have a great summer!

NOTE: If you would like to be on our email list, please send your email address, name and street address to: vetrustees@yahoo.com.

SUGAR LAND LAUNCHES 311 CONTACT CENTER

Citizens ask, and the city answers from its newly created 311 Contact Center.

311 is a single, one-stop point of contact designed to make it easier for residents to know who to contact for assistance with non-emergency, city-related questions, and requests for services and also provides the ability for residents to track the progress of their requests.

311 is staffed by customer service ambassadors who are trained in customer service and are equipped with a comprehensive knowledge of city services. The ambassadors aim to identify the best way to assist with general questions or service requests during residents' first interaction with the city.

Customer service has continually ranked among the community's top priorities in its recurring Citizen Satisfaction Survey. An organizational emphasis on customer service and communications resulted in some of the largest percentage increases in satisfaction levels above the national average in the most recent survey.

311 is the result of the city's customer service strategic project that began in 2013 and tasked city staff members from across the city organization with analyzing the city's customer service practices, as well as industry best practices. The effort led to a recommendation that the city create the 311 Contact Center to focus on continuous improvement of the city's customer service delivery.

Residents can call 311 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding city holidays. An after-hours answering service assists with and dispatches urgent calls to city staff members in the evenings and on the weekends, allowing residents to reach a live person 24/7.

Residents have the option to submit questions and requests to 311 day and night using a variety of communication technology:

- By phone, call 3-1-1 or 281-275-2900 (the 10-digit number for outside of the city's corporate limits).
- Email 311@sugarlandtx.gov.
- Submit a request via MySugarLand, the city mobile app that can be downloaded at <http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/80/Mobile-App-Download>.
- Visit the 311 Contact Center webpage at www.sugarlandtx.gov/311.

In preparation for the official launch of 311, the customer service ambassadors supported the city's response to Hurricane Harvey and other severe weather events, as well as the December annexation of the Greatwood and New Territory communities.

For more information about 311, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/311.

VE COFFEE

The spring coffee was held at the home of Bruce and Pat Lowrie. Everyone enjoyed mingling in their recently renovated kitchen which is just beautiful. Thank you to the Lowries for graciously hosting our event in your home.

The organizers of the coffee were Terry Beckham, Carol Tralie, and Susan Uselton. They planned and arranged all the food, coffee and supplies. Many thanks to Angie Schultz and Susan Marbestone for their contributions that



By Marcie McCutchen

helped round out the menu. Thank you Glenn McCutchen for making new signs for the event.

The Lemon Blueberry French was a big hit. Several attendees asked for the recipe which is provided on Page 2. We

are so fortunate to have friends and neighbors that are always willing to help with our parties. If you would like to volunteer in the future please send an email to marcie.mccutchen@gmail.com. We are also in search of a neighbor to host the Fall Dinner in October.



SEE INSERT FOR INFORMATION ON THE VENETIAN ESTATES 2018 FISHING TOURNAMENT

CITY LIASON

By Ralph Twiss

Sugar Land has many avenues to answer your questions and keep up with the news of the city.

We have the websites, www.sugarlandtx.gov, [www.pubinfo@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:pubinfo@sugarlandtx.gov), and now by telephone dial 311

for answers to your questions, excluding any 911 Emergencies. The 311 number is open daily for your calls. The city also posts information on the Nextdoor Venetian Estates site, if you are a member.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

By James Wong

The role of ACC is to protect the integrity of neighborhood property values by monitoring and ensuring all exterior changes and improvements to your property are within the VE Deed Restrictions and ACC Guidelines. All exterior work on your property is reviewed by the ACC including, but not limited to: paint, landscaping, outdoor lighting, window replacement, roofing, driveway, fence, bulkhead, dock repairs/replacement, play equipment, patio and patio covers, etc.

is to the lakes” and “avoid any drainage to adjacent properties”. Also, Sections 2 and 3 have curb and gutters with inlets that created problems for some homeowners during Harvey. Sections 1 and 2 have area drains. The inlets/drainage catch the water, but still drain back to the lake. Therefore, it is imperative they be kept as clean as possible. Yard debris, such as leaves and grass clippings, can clog the pipe. Ask your yard personnel to avoid blowing debris into them.

Two issues we have had this year are drainage and exterior lighting. First, drainage has always been a major component of our unique neighborhood. But after the unprecedented rainfall associated with Hurricane Harvey, the Architectural Control Committee has been more vigilant about reviewing/approving any exterior modifications and/or new construction to ensure that the “drainage

Second, “external flood lighting attached to the dwelling must be directed downward and shielded so as not to illuminate adjacent properties or not create hot glare spots on the water visible to neighbors.”

See Application for New Home Construction, Addition, Remodels and Pools for more information.

LEMON BLUEBERRY FRENCH TOAST

1	loaf challah bread sliced 3/4 inch slices thick
3/4 pound	fresh or frozen blueberries, rinsed
1	lemon, zested
1 2/3 cups	sugar
6 ounces	unsalted butter, melted
1 cup	lemon juice, freshly squeezed
6 eggs	
3 cups	buttermilk
	Demera sugar, optional



Spray a 9 by 13 baking dish with cooking spray. Layer half the bread, being careful not to overlap. Sprinkle berries and lemon zest evenly over the top. Lay remaining bread over the berries.

Make Custard: Whisk together sugar, butter, lemon juice, eggs, buttermilk and pour over bread.

LET STAND OVERNIGHT BEFORE BAKING.

Sprinkle with demera sugar (optional) before baking in oven at 350 until puffed and brown, 45 minutes to an hour. Let stand at least 10 minutes before cutting.

SUGAR LAND'S MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sugar Land's Memorial Day Celebration will be held on **Monday, May 28, 2018**, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, Sugar Land Memorial Park, 15300 University Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479.

The City of Sugar Land will honor the brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces for their selfless service by hosting its 9th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. This event is free and open to the public.

The program includes:

- patriotic music

BACKYARD LIGHTING

There was discussion at last month's meeting regarding some backyard lights that are too bright. In our Deed Restrictions on the subject of lighting, please see below:

Section 2.18 Lighting

Decorative, recreation (fishing) or security lighting is permissible on any Lot as long as such lighting is approved by the Architectural Control Committee and

- free educational and commemorative activities
- on-site military exhibits
- flag ceremony
- food will be available for purchase by a local on-site vendor.

In addition, the official ceremony will include tributes from members of the community and words of remembrance from our local veterans. For more information, visit City of Sugar Land website at SugarlandTX.gov

does not constitute an annoyance to adjacent low owners. All-night duration lighting in the backyard, on bulkheads and/or piers is discouraged, but is permissible as long as such lighting does not constitute an annoyance to adjacent Lot Owners.

We ask all residents to be respectful of their neighbors and also make sure to have your lighting approved by the Architectural Control Committee.

FIGHT THE BITE (MOSQUITO CONTROL)

Mosquito control in Sugar Land requires participation on the part of both the City of Sugar Land and its residents.

Larvacide Treatments/Mosquito Trapping

Larvacide application is taking place citywide in order to help eliminate mosquito breeding sites.

Mosquito trapping operations will be done to track mosquito populations around the city.

Mosquito Spraying

Mosquito spraying is expected to resume on Friday nights in April 2018, as necessary.

Protect yourself, your family and your pets. Your best defense is to practice these habits, known as the “**Four Ds**”:

1. Use insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
2. Dress in long sleeves and long pants when you are outside.

3. Stay indoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
4. Drain standing water where mosquitoes breed. Common breeding sites include old tires, flowerpots and clogged rain gutters.

Additionally, you can help protect your family and community by eliminating standing water in and around your home:

- Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpots, or trash containers. Check inside and outside your home.
- Tightly cover water storage containers (buckets, cisterns, rain barrels) so that mosquitoes cannot get inside to lay eggs.
- For containers without lids, use wire mesh with holes smaller than an adult mosquito.

For more helpful suggestions, please log onto: <https://www.cdc.gov>