

APRIL 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself"

- Joseph Campbell

HOME TOWN HERO

The Board of Directors is asking residents to submit articles spotlighting interesting members of our community. If you know of a person that is currently or has in the past had an interesting story, career, or military service please submit to Austin Properties for review and a possible article in the new Glen Laurel Connections.

Please submit your articles to Austin Properties by the 15th of each month, for the article to appear in the following month's newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Austin Properties at: (713) 776-1771.

April is here and spring is in the air! Now is the time to work on those front yards to make them ready for our Yard of the Month contest which will begin in May. Be sure to start mowing and edging your yards along with planting beautiful flowers and grass fertilization. When planting flowers consider flowers, shrubs, vines and trees that are native to the Gulf Coast area, these plants will be easier to maintain and will be able to survive our unique weather patterns. You can find tips and advise online at many different web sites such as www.texasgardeningtips.com, www.texasgardener.com, or www.texasnaturecoast.com. A little bit of effort can go a long way to making your yard "Yard of the Month."

Reminder, on trash and recycle pick up days the cans need to be removed and stored **out of site** after they have been emptied. Trash cans sitting at the curb for days at a time does not add to the curb appeal of your house or our neighborhood.

It has been noted that there have been several dogs roaming the neighborhood. **Please make sure that your pets have a collar on them that has an ID tag with at least the pets name and your phone number.** This way if they are found by a neighbor on the next street over, down the block or even Sugar Land Animal Control you can be contacted so that you can retrieve your pet.



As of February we have collected 89% of our 2012 HOA dues. If you have not yet paid your annual HOA dues please mail them or drop them by Austin Properties **as soon as possible to avoid further interest charges from accruing.** Please contact Austin Properties if you have an issue with paying your HOA dues, the board is willing to work with you in getting this assessment paid.

We are looking for home owners to volunteer some of their time to our community. We have positions open for newsletter and website, beautification and landscaping, ACC and deed restrictions, lake, pool and recreations committees. **Please invest some of your time into your neighborhood; the more involvement from our community members the stronger our neighborhood is.** If you are interested and have some time to dedicate to your community please e-mail Terri Salter at tsalter@mascapi.com. We are always looking for involvement from our homeowners.

Monthly HOA meetings are conducted on the second Thursday of each month at Austin Properties at 7PM and homeowners are always welcome!!

Thanks,

Glen Laurel HOA Board of Directors

SCHOOL NEWS

Kempner High School

Web site:

<http://www.fortbendisd.com/campus/khs/default.cfm>

Phone #: 281-634-2300

APRIL activities:

April 9 – Track Girls JV/V Meet;
Boys 23-5a & 23-5 District Meet
April 10 – Track Girls JV/V Meet;
Baseball vs Dulles; Choir Concert
April 12 – Track Girls JV/V
April 13 – Baseball vs Hightower;
Softball vs Hightower
April 14 – Baseball vs Marshall
April 17 – Baseball vs Travis;
Softball vs Austin
April 20 – Baseball vs Elkins;
Softball vs Elkins
April 27 – Baseball vs Willowridge

Check out the campus website under the news section for the full events calendar

Sugar Land Middle School

Web site:

<http://www.fortbendisd.com/campus/slms/default.cfm>

Phone #: 281-634-3080

APRIL activities:

Titan Tutorials:
Monday/Wednesday
8:15 – 8:45 AM
Every day in Advisory
8:50 – 9:20 AM

Sugar Mill Elementary

Web site:

<http://www.fortbendisd.com/campus/sme/default.cfm>

Phone #: 281-634-4440

APRIL activities:

Every Friday is Sparkler Sprit Day – wear your school spirit shirt

GARAGE SALE TIME!

It's that time again, time for Glen Laurel's annual community wide garage sale. This year's garage sale will be held on April 14; if it happens to rain that weekend then it will be on April 21. Take advantage of the free advertising, we will place neighborhood garage sale advertisements in local area newspapers and publications.



With a garage sale you can sell some of those items you have been thinking of getting rid of and that have been taking up space in your house or garage. Not only do you free up some space, but you can make a little money!

If you do decide to have a garage sale, don't let it turn into a losing situation - be safe! Following are few tips to consider:

- *set up your sale area **AWAY** from immediate entrances to your home
- *recruit some help, don't try to do it all alone, you need to be able to watch your customers AND keep an eye on your home, vehicles and property
- ***Lock ALL doors and windows to your home** while your attention is diverted to the sale
- *keep watch of your children; consider getting a baby sitter for the duration of you sale to help you with the children
- ***DO NOT** allow any customers to use your bathroom, know where the nearest public restrooms are so you are able to direct them to that location
- ***DO NOT** take personal checks, direct customers to the nearest ATM or bank
- *have your goods organized and priced in advance, know what your inventory is and where it is located
- ***DO NOT** leave your cash box, purse, phone, iPod or other personal items in view
- *If there are items you don't want to sell in close proximity to those you do then clearly mark them as NOT FOR SALE

COMMUNITY LAKE CONCERNS

Residents, unless you are contracted by the Glen Laurel Homeowners Association for lake management services, no resident or guest is allowed past the shore lines. This means... no swimming, no boating, no tubing, no wading, etc. Fishing is permitted and according to some, "There are some mighty big ones in there!!"

With regards to the installation of bulkheads at the three community lakes, we remain at a standstill. The erosion at the lakes continues to worsen and the lakes
(continued on page 5)

TRASH REMINDER

Reminder! The new poly carts delivered by the City of Sugar Land must be stored behind the fence or in the garage so that they are not visible to the public.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As of 02/29/12 89.82% collected with \$302,792.42 total assets

TOP 4 DEED RESTRICTIONS:

1. Lawn maintenance
2. Mildew
4. Trash receptacles
5. Fences

CRIME PREVENTION-THINK LIKE A BURGLAR

They're out of town this week. They told me so on Facebook. The calendar on the refrigerator tells me when their next vacation is... and my next visit...



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- Have the Spider Pods and Mud Dobbers Taken Over **YOUR** Home?

281-277-4013

SCHOOL NEWS

Barrington Place Elementary

Web site:

<http://www.fortbendisd.com/campuses/bpe/about.cfm>

Phone #: 281-634-4040

APRIL activities:

April 24 – 4th and 5th Grade STAAR Math Test

April 25 – 3rd and 4th Grade STAAR Reading Test

April 26 – 5th Grade STAAR Science

MAY activities:

May 1 – Pre-Kindergarten registration

School Board Trustee Election May 12th.

Voters in Fort Bend ISD will go to the polls on May 12 to elect trustees in three positions. Early voting dates are April 30 through May 8.

The three positions that will be on the ballot are:

Position 2, candidate must reside within the west side of the district,

Position 6, candidate must reside within the east side of the district,

Position 7, candidate must reside within the east side of the district to fill the one year unexpired term.

For more election information, go to:

<http://www.fortbendisd.com/governance/board/board-elections>

Extended Day Program Now Offers Parents Choice of Online Tuition Payment

Fort Bend ISD families with children currently enrolled in the Extended Day Program (EDP) *(continued on page 6)*

YARD OF THE MONTH GUIDELINES



Beginning in May and extending through August, nine homes will be selected each month (one for each Sections 1 through 8 and The Reserve) to be recognized for the efforts of homeowners who take pride in their homes and landscape. Winners will receive a \$25 gift card, a sign placed in the yard, and bragging rights for the entire month

Judging criteria includes the overall appearance, tidiness and neatness of front of the property. General guidelines are as follows:

- **Lawns:** healthy grass with no bare spots or excessive weeds. Grass is mowed and edged. Grass around foundations, fences, driveways, and sidewalks are trimmed. The yard is free of debris.
- **Landscape & Flowerbeds:** Flowerbeds are free of weeds and edged. Flowers are deadheaded and dead plants are removed. Trees and shrubs are pruned. Use of color and originality/creativity.
- **Walkways & Driveways:** Walkways and driveways are clean and free of debris, dirt, trash, and clutter including containers or yard products or tools.
- **Aesthetics:** Landscape exemplifies a unified, simple and balanced design that is neat and natural and overall enhances curb appeal.

The following rules will apply:

- Winners must be current with their association dues.
- The same property cannot be awarded more than once in any calendar year.
- Award duration is for a single calendar month from the first day of the month to the last day of the same month.
- Only the front yard, as viewed from the street or adjacent sidewalk, will be judged. Backyards will not be considered.
- No plastic, silk or artificial plants will be considered, only authentic live plants.
- Homes, fences, porches and patios on the property are required to be in good repair with no deterioration or damage.
- Current Board Members and voting members are not eligible.
- Judges decisions are final and at the discretion of the Board and voting members.

The Glen Laurel Homeowners Association encourages residents to take pride in their homes and neighborhood. We look to celebrate those who do a superior job in maintaining their yards in such a way that they enhance the overall curb appeal of the entire community. Happy gardening!

JOIN THE SHARKS SWIM TEAM

Registration starts April 1st for the **Sugar Land Sharks Swim Team!** We are Sugar Land's oldest swim team. We are a family-oriented team, where the importance of molding future adults is valued over the attainment of athletic skills, or of winning of meets. The opportunity to "swim with the Sharks" is offered to all residents of Sugar Land, not just those of certain neighborhoods or swimming skill level. Kids from 3 to 18 (cannot turn 19 before May 31) improve their swim strokes in May and compete in weekly meets in June and July. Our swimmers are trained by the coach of the Kempner High School swim team along with several high school or college swimmers from the area. Each new swimmer must be able to swim the length of the pool when practices start in May. For more information, go to www.SugarLandSharks.org.

COMMUNITY LAKE CONCERNS (CONTINUED)

are, quite frankly, **DANGEROUS**. Yet, we as a community are unable to do anything as we do NOT own the lakes. Ownership of the lakes is under the Burney Road Municipal Utility District (Burney Road MUD).

Last September, the Glen Laurel Board of Directors met with the Burney Road MUD to obtain information about our community lakes and what course the Burney Road MUD intends to take to address the conditions of the lakes. The Burney Road MUD indicated that the issue has been a recurring topic at their meetings and that the erosion occurring at our lakes is not isolated to our community alone, but is also occurring at neighboring communities of Gannoway Lakes, Eldridge Lakes, and a portion of Ashford Lakes. These subdivisions are also under the Burney Road MUD taxing authority.

In a 2010 presentation made available to Glen Laurel, the Burney Road MUD estimated a cost of \$1.52 million to bulkhead the three lakes in Glen Laurel and two lakes in Ashford Lakes as well as repairs to the three dry retention areas in Glen Laurel. Approximately 70% of the cost would be allocated to Glen Laurel. Assuming a 3% annual inflation factor, this would result in a bill of \$1.61 million for Glen Laurel; that is \$2,246 per house. We simply do not have the upfront funding to complete the repairs even if we did own the lakes and detention areas. Under the Burney Road MUD, the cost of the project would be funded by the issuance of bonds and paid off with real estate taxes levied through the Burney Road MUD. If the Burney Road MUD is to fund the repair and bulkhead of our lakes, in fairness, the MUD would also have to fund the repair and bulkhead of the lakes in all subdivisions under their jurisdiction.

It is the Glen Laurel Board of Directors' understanding that the Burney Road MUD is currently seeking to dissolve the Municipal Utility District itself. Upon dissolution of the Burney Road MUD, the City of Sugar Land would assume control and ownership of all assets and liabilities of the Burney Road MUD. However, in order for the dissolution of the Burney Road MUD and assumption by the City of Sugar Land to occur, the balance of all outstanding bonds issued by the Burney Road MUD are to be paid down to a level acceptable to the City of Sugar Land. As such, the Burney Road MUD is not pursuing any capital improvement projects in the district in efforts to dissolve. No estimated time has been provided as to when the dissolution may occur.

The Glen Laurel Board of Directors has also discussed the lake issue with the City of Sugar Land. According to the City of Sugar Land, the City will not take ownership of the lakes in its current condition. Further, the City will not take ownership of lakes built for aesthetic purposes and not drainage. The City of Sugar Land has deemed the three Glen Laurel lakes to be only of the aesthetic kind.

Confused? Frustrated? So are we. Many have griped about the lakes, none have yet to contribute. With a three-member Board of Directors, our voice is only a silent whisper, but together with 717 households, we can make our voice be heard. The Board has in the past and continues to rally for volunteers to form a lake committee to head the charge of our lakes. If you have any time to spare, please step up to the plate and invest some time in YOUR community. A minute or two is still better than nothing.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergencies	911
City Hall	281-275-2700
Councilman/Mayor	281-275-2710
Fire Department	281-275-2851
Fire Dept. Non-emergency	281-275-2500
Police Department	281-275-2525
Public Works/Street Lights	281-275-2450
Ordinance/City Code	281-275-2370
Sugar Land Animal Control	281-275-2750
Animal Control Alternate	281-275-2364
Auto Registration	281-341-3710
Crime Stoppers	281-342-8477
Driver's License	281-232-4334
Health Department	281-342-6414
Fort Bend ISD	281-634-1000
Sheriff's Department	281-341-4700
Social Services	281-342-7300
Voter Registration	281-341-8670

Hospitals:

24HR Emergency Center	281-277-0911
Memorial Herman S.L.	281-725-5000
Methodist Health Center	281-274-7000
Oak Bend Medical Center	281-342-2811
S.L. Medical Center	281-274-6600

Misc:

Poison Control	800-764-7661
Sugar Land Library	281-277-8934
Sugar Land Post Office	800-275-8777
Recycling Center	281-342-5226

MASC Austin Properties Inc.
13726 Florence Road
Sugar Land, TX 77498
713-776-1771
713-776-1777 (fax)

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tsalter@mascapi.com

SCHOOL NEWS

(continued from page 4)

now have the option of paying their child's monthly tuition online through RevTrak, beginning with the April 2012 payment.

Families interested in using the online payment option must first be enrolled in Family Access. Families can obtain Family Access enrollment forms from the EDP Site Coordinator or ADA Clerk at their child's school. The form must be completed and returned in person to their school's ADA Clerk with a copy of their current Driver's License. (Families are asked to allow 5-7 business days for their access to be set up for use.)

Through Family Access, FBISD families may also access their child's school records, keep track of payments made to the Extended Day Program, print copies of payment receipts and access information regarding registration for enrollment into the summer and fall EDP programs.

There is a \$2.50 transaction fee per child associated with the online payment option, and the monthly tuition must be paid in full on the first of each month. Families who choose not to take part in the online payment option may still pay their child's tuition with a check or money order.

For more information, please contact the EDP Site Coordinator at your child's school or contact the EDP main office at extendedday@fortbendisd.com or 281-634-4220.

401K ROLLOVERS AND PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

By Vijay Kane.

401K ROLLOVERS AND PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

If you participated in a 401K plan through your job, you have the option to do a rollover of the 401K account to an IRA. The new account is called a Rollover IRA. It is a tax free and penalty free transfer of the 401K account to your IRA. Generally, this privilege is available upon termination of employment or upon retirement. Some employers may allow IN SERVICE Distributions.

It is always a good idea to do the rollover because it gives you the opportunity to choose and diversify among several options not available in the 401K plan. A Rollover IRA account can be opened using any one of these options: Bank CDs, Mutual Funds, Self-Directed Stock Portfolios, Variable Annuities, Fixed or Indexed Annuities. Indexed Annuities offer a perfect compromise between guarantee of principal and growth linked to a stock market index (e.g. S&P 500, DJIA, etc.). Over the last 13 year period, the performance of Indexed Annuities is much better than Mutual Funds or CDs.

The procedure to do a rollover is as follows: Open an IRA account with a financial

institution or an insurance company. Complete the required paperwork from your previous employer. The company that holds the 401K will either send a check directly to your IRA or send a check to your address payable to the financial institution with your name on it.



If your age was 70½ in 2011, you must start the RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from 401K and other retirement plans by April 1, 2012 to avoid penalties. If you did not do it, do it as soon as possible. Thereafter, the distributions can be made annually before December 31st of each year. Many people prefer to receive them monthly by direct deposit to bank accounts.

If the Rollover IRA is held in Fixed and Indexed Annuities, you have the option of receiving a stream of income guaranteed for life. This option is not available with Mutual Fund and Stock Portfolios. The lifetime income benefits are RMD friendly.

For any questions or clarification you can call VIJAY KANE, M.S., FINANCIAL ADVISOR AND EDUCATOR at (281) 240-2666, 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. any day.



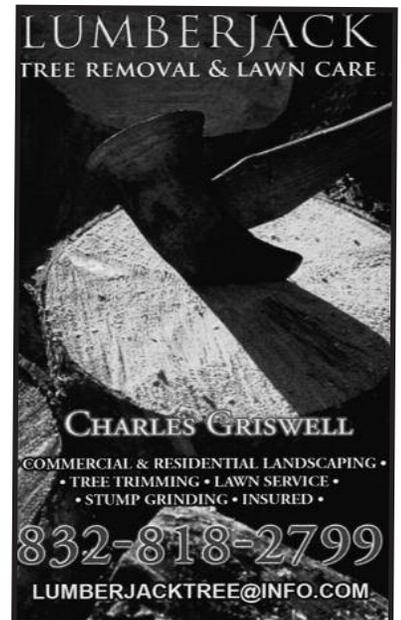
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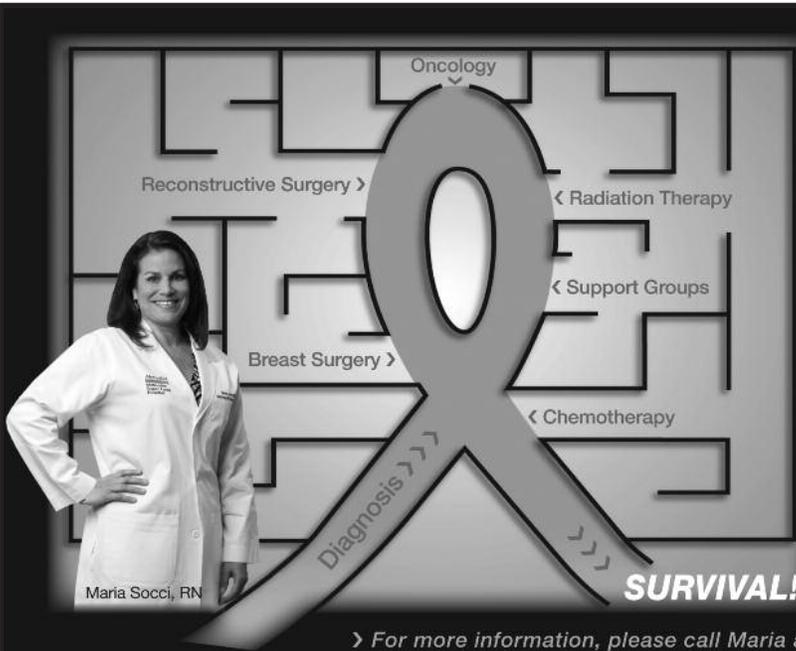


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- > For more information, please call Maria at 281-276-8989 or email MSocci@tmhs.org.
- > To schedule a mammogram at Methodist Sugar Land Hospital call 281-242-PINK (7465).

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