

DECEMBER 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart. ~Washington Irving

Christmas time is here again and even though each of us may have different cultural traditions, Christmas means fellowship, feasting, giving, receiving and a time of good cheer.

As we celebrate with our families we can show our children that there is more to Christmas than just receiving gifts. In these tough times, shelters are needing your donation help more than ever. Items such as gently used clothing, shoes, toys and blankets are just a few of the things needed. Most shelters are always looking for volunteers. Contact the shelters in your area to donate your items or your time.

Some of the shelters in our area include:

Star of Hope Homeless Shelter	713-748-0700
Star of Hope Women & Family Center	713-222-2220
Salvation Army Houston Family Residence	713-650-6530
Houston Area Women's Center	713-528-2121
U.S. Veterans Initiative	832-203-1626
Volunteers of America	713-400-3400
Houston Food Bank	713-752-2582

Don't forget to have your home decorated for our annual Christmas Decorating Contest!! Judging will be conducted during the evening hours on December 15th, 16th & 17th. Six prizes will be awarded based on the following themes, best use of lights, most creative/festive, best children's theme, most traditional, most holiday spirit and best winter wonder land. Winners will receive a \$50.00 gift card.

The Board of Directors would like to thank Councilman Don Smithers and Assistant City Manager Karen Daly for attending our Annual meeting last month. We appreciate them taking the time to speak with our residents regarding various things that are going on in the city of Sugar Land including the new ballpark, waste water treatment facility and expansion of Burney Road and answering questions from our residents. Additionally we would like to thank Officer James Reider for bringing us up to date on crime rate in our area and providing us with information on what to do if we see criminal activity going on.

We would also like to thank those of our residents who attended the annual meeting. Several of the topics discussed during the meeting included the condition of the fences along West Airport Blvd., the condition and status of our lakes and the amenity improvements that been done over the past year. Discussion also included a treasurer's report showing our revenues versus the rising cost of our expenses.

Wishing all of our residents and their families a wonderful holiday season, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Glen Laurel HOA Board of Directors

"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.

SCHOOL NEWS

Kempner High School

Web site:

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

Phone #:281-634-2300

Final Exam Schedule for 2011-2012

FIRST DAY December 13, 2011 and May 25, 2012

7:30 – 8:15 1st period review

8:20 – 9:05 2nd period review

9:10 – 9:55 3rd period review

10:00 – 10:50 4th period review

10:55 – 12:25 5th period review and lunch

12:30 – 2:30 6th PERIOD EXAM

SECOND DAY December 14, 2011 and May 29, 2012*

7:30 – 9:35 2nd PERIOD EXAM

9:40 – 11:40 4TH PERIOD EXAM

11:40 – 1:10* (lunch is later) 5th period lunch/class

1:15 – 2:30 7th period review

THIRD DAY December 15, 2011 and May 30, 2012*

7:30 – 9:35 3rd PERIOD EXAM

9:40 – 11:45 5th PERIOD EXAM

11:45 EARLY DISMISSAL (no meals served in cafeteria)

FOURTH DAY December 16, 2011 and May 31, 2012*

7:30 - 9:35 1st PERIOD EXAM

9:40 - 11:45 7th PERIOD EXAM

11:45 EARLY DISMISSAL (no meals served in cafeteria)

*Exemption activity required these dates

Please note that final exams may not be taken early. If a student is absent on the day of an exam, he/she will receive a zero for the final exam grade until it is made up.

(continued on page 4)

HOLIDAY LIGHTS & ELECTRICAL DECORATION SAFETY TIPS

Decorative lights and other electrical decorations add to the splendor of the season. They can however increase the risks of fire and electrical injuries if not used safely. Follow some basic safety guidelines to help prevent serious electrical and fire hazards as you decorate your home and yard this season.



- Maintain your holiday lights-inspect holiday lights and electrical decorations each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- Do not overload electrical outlets - do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe.
- Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.
- Always purchase electrical decorations and lights from reputable retailers that you trust.
- Before decorating, determine how many outlets are available and where they are located. Plan your displays accordingly.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.
- Follow the manufacturer's use and care instructions that accompany electrical decorations.
- Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.
- Do not mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Make sure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or device being used.
- Never use an extension cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way.
- Turn off and unplug all decorations before leaving the house or going to sleep.
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.

Thanks to the Electrical Safety Foundation International for this helpful information.

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 10/31/11 99.035 collected with \$136,168.70 total assets.

TOP 4 DEED RESTRICTIONS:

1. Poly cart containers
2. Fence repair
3. Lawn maintenance
4. Miscellaneous items stored in public view

NEW YEAR'S EVE ON THE SQUARE



Mark your calendars now for this year's New Year's Eve on The Square celebration, December 31, 2011, at Sugar Land Town Square. You will

not want to miss the state of the art, live 3D light show that includes a special midnight countdown! Details can be found at www.sugarlandtx.gov.

Need Legal Help?

Starting your own company?
Creating a will or trust?
Disputing your custody rights?
Filing for divorce?

Don't do it alone. Let me help you with these and other legal issues.



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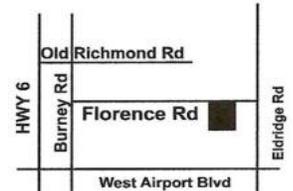
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SCHOOL NEWS

Sugar Land Middle School

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-3080

Science Fair Deadlines

Now – Jan. 12

Work on Project Perform experimentation, collect data, work on boards

Jan. 6

Rough Draft Rough draft of project due- optional. Students may submit a rough draft and set-up a conference time with their teacher for feedback and advice.

Jan 9

Final drafts due/Class Presentations Students will present their projects to the class.

Jan. 13

SLMS Science Fair Students who wish to enter their project may participate in the school fair.

Sugar Mill Elementary

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-4440

Barrington Place Elementary

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-4040

December 16th - Holiday Parties!

Winter break will be from December 17th to January 2nd.

USA Fit Marathon benefitting the Fort Bend Education Foundation

The City of Sugar Land once
(continued on page 6)

SAFETY TIPS FOR SHOPPING DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

As we all get into the hustle and bustle of shopping during the holiday season, shopping can present a unique danger. By taking a few preventative measures you can help keep your holiday season joyous. Following are some tips that can help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season.

- √ Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- √ Stay alert to your surroundings.
- √ Dress casually and comfortably and avoid wearing expensive jewelry. Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- √ Always carry your Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- √ Avoid carrying large amounts of cash and keep your cash in your front pocket. Pay for purchases with a credit card when possible.
- √ Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused. Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- √ Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas.
- √ Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- √ Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- √ Plan your shopping trip carefully. Know where you are going and what routes you will take to get there. Let someone know where you are going and what route you are taking. Additionally, let them know when you expect to return.
- √ When You Are Driving - Keep all your doors locked at all times, choose a well-lit and traveled route even if you believe it is out of your way, never allow your full tank to become less than half full.
- √ Park in a well-lit area, ALWAYS lock all your doors.
- √ Remove all electronic items, such as calculators, radar detectors, and all packages from your car. Place them in the trunk or glove compartment, out of sight.
- √ Look around the parking lot for suspicious persons before you get out of your car. If you don't feel safe, stay in the car or drive away.
- √ Have your car key in hand, ready to unlock your door.
- √ Check the parking lot for suspicious people and look around before you exit the store. If you feel unsafe, always ask the store security to assist you to your car.
- √ Check underneath, in front and in back, front and rear passenger seats inside of your car before you enter it.
- √ If you are parked near a van or other vehicle with a covered cargo area, it is a good idea to return to the store and ask a security officer to accompany you.

When shopping online, look for signs that the website protects your sensitive data. On the web page where you enter your credit card or other personal information, look for an "s" after http in the web address of that page. Encryption is a security measure that scrambles data as it traverses the Internet. Also make sure there is a tiny closed padlock in the address bar, or on the lower right corner of the window.

Lastly, don't make it easy for would-be thieves by leaving packages on your porch. Consider having your packages delivered to your workplace or to friends/relatives that are at home all day, to prevent your packages from being stolen from your porch.

If you have any questions on how to prevent crime from occurring, please contact the Sugar Land Police Department's Crime Prevention Office at 281-275-2575.

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1–2” from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.



FACTS

!One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

!Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they have a higher chance to be deadly.

!A heat source too close to the tree causes one in every five of the fires.

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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STAYING SAFE

Check your tires. While the legal limit is 2/32 of an inch of tread depth, consider replacing tires when the tread reaches 4/32 of an inch in depth. The small difference in tread can make a big difference in braking distance.



SCHOOL NEWS

again welcomes the USA FIT Marathon/Half Marathon benefitting the Fort Bend Education Foundation. The races will be held on January 29th, 2012. The USA FIT Marathon has donated \$34,000 to the Foundation since 2010. The mission of this 501(c)(3) organization is to provide opportunities to enrich and enhance the quality of education for all Fort Bend ISD students. To read more about the Foundation, please go to www.fortbendisd.com

FBISD Family Literacy Program

FBISD's family literacy program helps families build the foundation for lifelong learning. The comprehensive program includes:

- ESL (English as a Second Language) for parents
- Homework assistance, tutoring, or early childhood education, while parents attend class
- Parent education classes
- Literacy-based activities for parents and children together
- Home visits

Current class locations:
Education Complex, Goodman Elementary, Ridgemont Early Childhood Center, & Townwest Elementary

All services are FREE! Classes offered both day and night. Call 281-634-1139 for more information.

MEDIGAP OR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT POLICIES

By Vijay Kane.

The Annual Election Period (AEP) for Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans (PDP) is Oct 15 to Dec 7, 2011. Many beneficiaries find these plans too restrictive. If necessary, they can disenroll during the period: Jan 1 to Feb 14, 2012 and go back to Original Medicare and also enroll in a stand- alone Part D PDP plan.

Medicare does not cover everything. A Medigap policy (also called Medicare Supplement Insurance or MedSup) is health insurance sold by private companies to fill gaps in Original Medicare coverage.

Medigap policies help pay your share of the cost of services covered by Medicare e.g. Part A coinsurance, 20% of Part B coinsurance, copayments or deductibles. They also offer other benefits and services e.g. 24 hour Nurse Hotline, Discounts for Vision, Prescription drugs, diabetes testing, respiratory supplies, access to amenities and fitness programs at health centers.

Insurance companies can only sell a "standardized" Medigap policy identified by letters A through N. Plan F is the most comprehensive and has the highest premium ranging from \$146 to \$166 per month. All policies are guaranteed renewable. Some plans offer coverage during travel outside the USA. They offer the freedom to choose doctors and hospitals that accept Medicare. In most cases there is no preauthorization required, no need for referrals and there are no networks (except certain plans).

The best time to buy this policy is during the 6 month open enrollment period which begins when you are both age 65 and enrolled in Medicare Part B. During this period the insurance company must sell you any Medigap policy it sells, must cover pre-existing conditions and cannot charge more due to health conditions. Also, an enrollment discount may be applied to the standard rate.

On another subject, it is time for some year-end tax planning. If your income for 2011 is high, you can sell some stocks or mutual funds for a loss by Dec 31st and claim up to \$3,000 per year loss on Schedule D. If you are self-employed, remember to send the last payment of the Estimated Tax with 1040 ES Voucher 4 to IRS by Jan 17, 2012.

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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DID YOU KNOW?

Under the Credit Card Disclosure Act of 2009, gift cards and other similar cards cannot expire within five years from the date they were activated unless the expiration date is clearly disclosed. The law also prohibits an inactivity fee on gift cards except in certain instances, such as if there has been no transaction for at least 12 months.

She was your college roommate. She was your maid of honor.
She could be your first friend with breast cancer.



STATE-OF-THE-ART BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSTICS:

- ☞ Digital Mammography
- ☞ Breast Ultrasound
- ☞ Breast MRI
- ☞ MRI Guided Biopsy
- ☞ Ultrasound Biopsy
- ☞ Stereotactic Biopsy

A special thank you to the Fort Bend Junior Service League members who are the faces of our Women's Health Campaign.

Reminding a friend to schedule a mammogram could save her life. According to The National Cancer Institute, the most effective ways to detect breast cancer early are getting a high-quality screening mammogram and having a clinical breast exam on a regular basis.

You can rest assured that at the Breast Center at Methodist Sugar Land Hospital you and your friend will receive the high-quality mammogram you need. It is the only full-service center of its kind in Fort Bend County that women can rely on for dedicated breast radiology expertise, state-of-the-art technology and compassionate care.

Call 281-242-PINK (7465) to schedule a mammogram at Methodist Sugar Land Hospital.

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