# Glen Laurel

# Connections

### JULY 2012

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### Next Board Meeting

The Board will take recess from the July meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 9th, 2012 @ 7 PM at First United Methodist Church (431 Eldridge Road) room 609.

### **Message From The Board**

Summer is in full swing and we hope you are enjoying your summer breaks and vacations! With more kids out at play during the summer months, please pay extra attention and remember to watch your speed when driving through the neighborhood.

If you have not noticed already, the Burney Road Expansion project has begun. The improvements include upgrading the existing two lane asphalt, open ditch roadway to a four-lane, divided boulevard curb, and gutter concrete roadway cross section. The limits of the project are from Voss Road to Old Richmond Road. Construction is expected to take approximately 11 months to complete. Motorists are advised to use caution in the construction zone and watch for detour signage.

There has been an increasing number of complaints about owners not picking up after their pets and pets running at large in the neighborhood. Residents, be a responsible pet owner and courteous to your neighbors by picking up after your pets and by keeping your pets on leashes outside your property. Below is an excerpt from the City of Sugar Land Code of Ordinances that our pet owners should be aware of:



#### Sec. 3-12. Running at large prohibited. (Ord. No. 1722, § 1, 12-16-2008)

(a) It is unlawful for an owner or person having control of an animal to allow an animal to be running at large.

(b) It is unlawful for an owner or person having control of an animal to fail to take the acts necessary to prevent an animal from running at large.

- (c) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the animal is:
  - 1. A specially trained dog that is being used with or without a leash by a blind or doof individual to aid them within the aity:
  - or deaf individual to aid them within the city;
  - 2. In attendance at a formal training class and is under the direct supervision of the owner during the entire class.
  - 3. Within a vehicle being driven or parked; or

4. Inside a designated off-leash animal recreation area owned or leased by the city.

#### Sec. 3-13. Animal waste disposal. (Ord. No. 1722, § 1, 12-16-2008)

(a) It is unlawful for an owner or person having control of an animal to permit the animal to defecate on private property unless the person immediately removes and properly disposes of the feces.

(b) It is unlawful for an owner or person having control of an animal to walk the animal on private property without carrying at all times a suitable container or other suitable instrument for the removal and disposal of animal feces.

(c) Prior to filing a complaint with the city, the person whose property has been defecated on must give written notice to the owner or person having control of the animal that the animal defecated on the property and the owner or person having control of the animal failed to immediately remove and properly dispose of the feces. *(continued on page 2)* 



### SCHOOL NEWS

#### Kempner High School

Web site: http://www.fortbendisd.com/campu ses/khs/default.cfm Phone #:281-634-2300

#### July activities:

July 23 - Volleyball Open Gym July 24 - Volleyball Open Gym July 25 - Volleyball Open Gym July 26 - Volleyball Open Gym

KHS Summer Hours are Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m with lunch approximately 12:30-1:30. Normal school hours will resume on Monday, July 30th. Fish camp will be held on Wednesday, August 1, 2012 from 9:1:00 p.m.

Registration for the 2012- 2013 school year will take place August 2, 2012 through August 23, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Kempner High School.

Kempner High School – along with three other Fort Bend campuses – were informed this year that College Now will be offered through Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) for the 2012-2013 school year. This change has resulted in a change in procedures and an increase in price. For more details, visit www.fortbendisd.com.

#### Sugar Land Middle School Web site:

http://www.fortbendisd.com/campu ses/slms/default.cfm Phone #: 281-634-3080

Summer Registration Dates July 24th - 26th 8:00AM – 12:00PM 2:00 – 5:00PM August 6th - 23rd 8:00AM - 12:00 (continued on page 4)

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD (CONTINUED)

A copy of the written notice must be presented to the city at the time of filing the complaint.

(d) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the animal is a specially trained dog that is being used by a blind individual.

(e) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that the animal defecates upon private property owned by the owner or person having control of the animal.

In our last monthly meeting, Mr. Roy Hailey from Butler|Hailey was in attendance and provided the Board and residents advice on our perimeter fences. Due to the ambiguity of the ownership of the perimeter fences outlined in the Declaration of Conditions, and Restrictions, the Board is pursuing the option to have surveys conducted on all the perimeter fences. The surveys will take time, but will provide us answers and allow us to take the necessary actions to bring the fences back to acceptable standards. With no further discussions of the perimeter fences to be conducted until completion of the survey, the Board will take recess from the July monthly meeting for family time and vacation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Terri Salter with MASC Austin Properties at tsalter@mascapi.com.

As always, we are looking for homeowners to volunteer some of their time to the community. Open positions are aplenty; just let us know how you would like to help out.

# LAWN WATERING TIPS

• Water Early in the Morning. Evaporation loss can be 60 percent higher during the day, so water during the cool, early morning hours to minimize water loss by evaporation and discourage diseases. Early morning is the best time to water, because wind and temperatures are usually the lowest of the day, which allows water to be applied evenly.

• Avoid watering on windy days. When the wind is blowing, precious water is carried off in the wind. This reduces the amount of water your lawn and garden receives and necessitate longer irrigation times and greater water volumes.

• **Don't over water.** Remember, overwatering makes plants prone to pests; reduces the water supply; and contributes to storm water runoff, which pollutes our water systems.

• Give your lawn just what it needs. You can have a fuller lawn and healthier plants and conserve precious water by giving your lawn just what it needs. When watering the lawn, allow water to slowly soak down into the roots where it will do the most good, then don't water again until the leaves begin to curl. Frequent, light sprinklings evaporate quickly and do not encourage a deep, healthy root system to develop.

#### 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 05/31/12 97.62% collected with \$238,125.92 total assets.

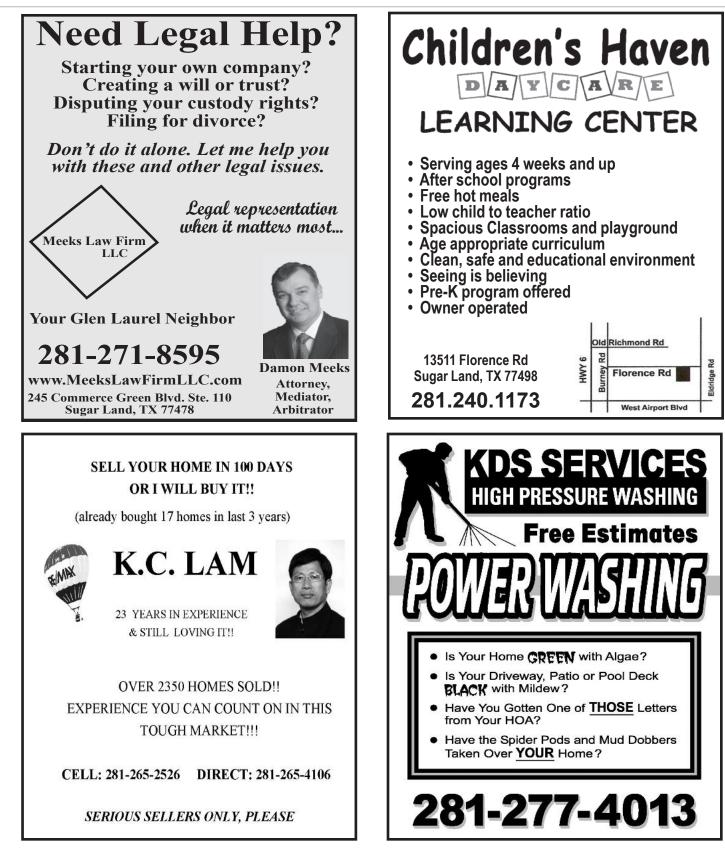
#### **TOP 4 DEED RESTRICTIONS:**

- 1. Lawn Maintenance
- 2. Mildew
- 3. Miscellaneous Items
- 4. Trash Receptacles

# CRIME PREVENTION-THINK LIKE A BURGLAR

Those bushes next to the front door and side windows are lush and overgrown. Perfect place for me to hide and work...





### SCHOOL NEWS

During the summer through September 1, the Texas Heart Institute is offering FREE heart screenings for FBISD students who were in grades 5-8 for the 2011-2012 school year at the Texas Medical Center. If you are interested in learning more about the testing or scheduling an appointment, please call 713.218.2112 or email CCAA@Texasheart.org.

#### Sugar Mill Elementary

Web site: http://www.fortbendisd.com/camp uses/sme/default.cfm Phone #: 281-634-4440

#### Barrington Place Elementary Web site:

http://www.fortbendisd.com/camp uses/bpe/about.cfm Phone #: 281-634-4040

All incoming Kindergarten students will participate in a readiness screening during the month of August. Your child will not be placed into a Kindergarten classroom until the screening has been conducted. Please see the dates and times listed below for the screening.

Tuesday, August 7th 9:00-11:00 Last Name begins with A-L 12:00- 2:00 Last Name begins with M-Z

Wednesday, August 8th 9:00-11:00 Last Name begins with M-Z 12:00-2:00 Last Name begins with A-L

#### Sales Tax Holiday

In 2012, Texas shoppers get a break from state and local sales *(continued on page 6)* 

## TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE WHILE YOU ARE ON VACATION

There are many things to consider when going on vacation no matter what time of year it is. Generally summer time is the most popular time of the year that many families take their vacations because their kids are not attending school. You and I know that and so do the burglars out there. Here are a few steps you can take to help keep your home and your belongings safer while you are gone.

The Sugar Land Police department has a House Watch Registration program. The program is intended to be a deterrent to illegal entry of the residence; it is a good crime prevention tool. The program is designed to provide homeowners a means of having their residence checked periodically by an officer when they are away from home on vacation or an extended weekend. In order to participate in the program, а homeowner either calls 281.275.2500 or goes by the Police Department or completes the on-line form before their vacations begins.

The homeowner must be away from his/her residence for more than three (3) days and must not have anyone staying at the home while he/she is away. Homes can be placed on house watch for a maximum of three (3) weeks.

\* Keep Your Lips Sealed - Be cautious of who you tell about your departure. One innocent comment could lead to a disaster. Don't risk it. It's okay to let a trusted neighbor know when and where you are going just don't broadcast it to your whole neighborhood.

\* Just In Time - Fake potential burglars into thinking you are home. Use an electrical timer in several different rooms throughout your house. Hook it up to lights, televisions and radios and set them to turn off and on at different times. Adjust the timer's setting to your normal routine. This will throw off the fact that there isn't anyone home.



\*The Obvious - Make sure that everything is locked up and secure before heading out on your summertime excursion. Double check sheds, windows, garage doors and any other opportunistic niche a robber might get into.

\* Snail Mail - It is also a good idea to get the post office to hold your mail while you are away. Or let a trusted neighbor collect your mail for you as well as newspapers.

\* Magic Box - Keep valuables such as <u>jewelry</u> and important documents in a safe deposit box. You might also consider keeping a video diary of all of your belongings. This may prove useful in getting your belongings back if something were to happen to them.

\* Who is it? - An unanswered phone might tip off a prowler that no one is home. Turn the ringer to the phone off while away and most definitely don't vocalize your departure on your answering machine message.

\* Perpetual Motion - Keep the curve balls coming with an outdoor light with a motion sensor. If the light were to come on while prowling around your house a robber would assume someone is home and get out of the vicinity ASAP!

\* Oven Ware - Before heading out make sure you cut off your electricity, gas and water to avoid potential flooding, gas leakage or fire. It sounds a bit rash but it is always better to be safe than sorry.

\* Sound the Alarm - It might be a good *(continued on page 5)* 

# HOME SAFETY TIPS (CONTINUED)

idea to call your home security company and tip them off about your plans. This way the company will know where you are and how to reach you if something does occur. Notify local law enforcement as well so they can keep an extra eye on your home. the sunscreen and fill up the car because you are now ready for your summer vacation.

#### It's time to gather up the kids, grab

## YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS!

Please join us in congratulating our July 2012 Yard of the Month Winners!



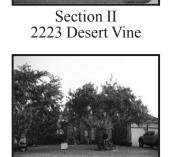
Section I 1911 Wellsley Court



Section IV 14207 Valley Bend



Section VII 14018 Blue Vista



Section V 14107 Silver Glade



Section VIII 14014 Sea Myrtle



Section III 14030 Sandy Springs



Section VI 2347 Cool Springs



The Reserve 1926 Lincoln Crest

### 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)

GL Homeowners Association Board of Directors

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> Vice-President Carter Boone carter@glenlaurel.net

> Secretary/Treasurer Linda Le Linda@glenlaurel.net

Property Manger Terri Salter tsalter@mascapi.com

### SCHOOL NEWS

taxes on Aug. 17, 18 and 19 ---the state's annual tax holiday. Lay-away plans can be used again this year to take advantage of the sales tax holiday. As in previous years, the law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. Texas families also get a sales tax break on most school supplies priced at less than \$100 purchased for use by a student in an elementary or secondary school.

#### **School Immunizations**

Immunizations are an important part of protecting your child's, your family's, and your community's health, and state law requires students in Texas schools to be immunized against certain vaccine-preventable diseases. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) would like to stress the importance of getting these required vaccines at the earliest possible time, to avoid the backto-school immunization rush. Please be aware that students without the proper

documentation of the required vaccinations or a valid exemption will not be allowed to attend school. To determine the specific vaccines that will be required for your child, please visit the DSHS Immunization Branch website at www.ImmunizeTexas.com or call the Immunization Branch Customer Service number at: (800) 252-9152.

# SAVING PLANS FOR COLLEGE EDUCATION

By Vijay Kane

The cost of higher education has been going up at a rate which is much higher than the rate of inflation. Accumulating adequate funds to cover the cost related to college education has become a challenging task for parents. What is the best way to save for college?

Most financial advisors recommend 529 plans offered by Mutual Fund companies. Most plans are age-based portfolios. The company creates a fund which is a conglomerate of several funds that range in objective from conservative to aggressive. The percentage allocation is adjusted every year to make a portfolio more conservative as the child gets closer to the target age. Most plan accounts can be opened with a \$50 automatic monthly investment. Maximum contribution limits vary by state (e.g. plans administered by Virginia 529 have a maximum contribution limit of \$350,000). Individuals can contribute up to \$13,000 (\$26,000 for married couples) per year per beneficiary. They can also make up to 5 years of contributions, i.e. \$65,000 (\$130,000 for married couples) in one calendar year. In that case, no further contributions can be made in the first 5 years. Residents of any state can open an account with a plan administered by any state. The child can attend an educational

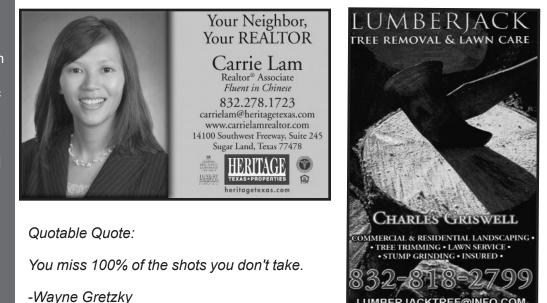
institution after high school in any state. There are no federal tax deductions on contributions to 529 plans. The growth or earnings in the



account can be withdrawn tax free so long as the funds are used for college or posthigh school education. Many investors flocked to the 529 plans when they were introduced by Mutual Fund companies in 2006. Unfortunately, they have been a major disappointment. After 5-6 years, account values have experienced virtually no net growth in value due to the poor performance of the stock market. These plans also have many restrictions related to making changes in allocation. It is still unclear whether having these plans will be a hindrance to qualifying for financial aid.

If you do not trust the stock market, a great alternative to the 529 plan is a Non-Qualified Fixed or Indexed Annuity purchased in the name of the parents. It offers a guarantee of principal and a fixed interest rate.

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.



LUMBERJACKTREE@INFO.COM

# BACK PAIN? NECK PAIN?

The Spine Center at Methodist Sugar Land Hospital is the comprehensive, coordinated option for you in Fort Bend County.

For back and neck pain, there's only one premier choice — Methodist Sugar Land Hospital's Spine Center. Whether you've had pain for just a few days or several long years, you'll find everything you need to diagnose and treat your condition in a convenient location, with access to premier spine specialists and a complete range of treatment options.

Getting started is easy. We will guide you through a customized treatment plan, with expedited access to world-class neurologists, neurosurgeons, orthopedic spine surgeons and interventional pain specialists. Plus, physical therapy, occupational/hand therapy, and the most advanced imaging and surgical technologies in the world are available on-site.

Stop enduring pain. Call or email today and begin your personal treatment plan. 281-313-BACK (2225) or SpineCenter@tmhs.org.

#### Metholist Methodist

Sugar Land Hospital" Spine Center

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