

JUNE 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

First off, congratulations to all the recent graduates! We hope that all your hard work pays off and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

With summer now upon us, the Board is pleased to announce that improvements to the pool area are complete. Improvements include additional canopy-shaded areas as well as new picnic tables and chairs. No worries sun-lovers, the open areas have also been expanded for you to take in the rays! We hope that the improvements will enable our residents to maximize their time, use, and enjoyment at the pool. Please remember that a 2011 GL Pool Tag is required for each member of a household (unless under the age of 5) to enter the pool area. Pool tags can be purchased at \$2 per tag from Austin Properties.

In continued efforts to beautify our community, all columns and monuments in our neighborhood were power-washed this past month. Fences continue to be a major issue as many have fallen apart, are falling apart, or are hanging on by a vine...literally. Iron fences along the lakes are not excluded as many are in need of a good coat of paint. We are asking all residents to please maintain their fences as per deed restrictions stipulated for each section. Covenants and deed restrictions can be found at www.glenlaurel.net or by contacting Terri Salter at 713.776.1771. Given the weather trends we have experienced lately, let's take full advantage of it and get a few home repairs done. While it may seem like a daunting task to undertake, but as one saying goes, "let's buckle on in, sing, as we tackle that thing that couldn't be done, and we'll do it!"

As always, homeowners are always welcome at our monthly meeting and volunteers are needed. Questions, comments, and/or any feedback are also greatly appreciated. Whether by phone or mail, by email or in person, let's all stay connected and continue our mission in making Glen Laurel beautiful and safe place for our families and all.

Board of Directors

YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS!

Even with the severe drought that our neighborhood has seen over the past 90 or so days, the following residents are to be commended for their dedication and discipline in maintaining their blooms and blades. Our hats off to you all! Winners for the month of May are as follows:

Section I:	2022 Avana Glen Lane
Section II:	14123 Shamrock Park Lane
Section III:	14010 Sandy Springs Lane
Section IV:	14214 Hidden Meadow Drive
Section V:	14107 Becket Woods Lane
Section VI:	2306 Ashley Ridge Court
Section VII:	13923 Blue Vista Drive
Section VIII:	2407 Dolan Lake Drive
The Reserves:	13923 Abbey Lane

Yard of the Month winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate from the Home Depot, a lovely sign placed in front of your award winning yard, and the bragging right for the month!



Section I

Section II

Section III



Section IV

Section V

Section VI



Section VII

Section VIII

The Reserve

"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.

This month's featured resident is Bryce Ritzen of the United States Marine Corps. Bryce enlisted in the military at the young age of 17, due to his passion for serving his country. Thank you Bryce for your military service, you are truly a Home Town Hero!

Bryce's story can be found on page 5.

SCHOOL NEWS

SUMMER READING LIST KEMPNER HIGH SCHOOL

PreAP English I

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
Mythology by Edith Hamilton

PreAP English II

Inherit the Wind by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee
Malory's Le Morte d'Arthur by Keith Baines (ISBN number is 0-451-62567-6)

AP English III

Dune by Frank Hebert
No Country for Old Men by Cormac McCarthy

AP English IV

Life of Pi by Yann Martel
A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

English IV College Now

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

FBISD SUMMER READING LIST SIXTH GRADE

Students are required to read two selections from the list below before entering sixth grade GT classes. They will be assessed on summer reading within the first six weeks of school. These selections are recommended for all students. * denotes nonfiction

Contemporary

Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan
Heaven by Angela Johnson
The Conch Bearer by Chitra Divakaruni
La Linea by Ann Jaramillo
Iqbal by Francesco D'Adamo
The Dream Bearer by Walter Dean Myers
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

(continued on page 4)

IN AND AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

LOST & FOUND ANIMALS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD & CITY ORDINANCES FOR PET OWNERS

Did you lose a pet or find one? If the animal has an identification tag with a phone number, please call the owner to reunite the animal with its owner. If you have a pet that does not have a identification tag please get one! An identification tag with at least the animals name and your phone number would help who ever finds your pet to return it to you.

If an animal that is found has a rabies tag from a veterinarian, you can call that vet to have them contact the owners to notify them that their animal has been found. If the animal has no tags at all you can report it to Animal Services either by calling 281-275-2364 or logging on line at http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/public_works/animal_services/index.asp and filling out the form under the lost and found tab. If you do not wish to keep the animal until it is reunited with the owner you can take it to Animal Services located at 101 Gillingham Lane, Sugar Land, TX 77498.

At this time, the City of Sugar Land does not require pets to be registered with the city, however it is required that your pets wear a current rabies tag at all times.

When you are walking your pet please remember that your pet should be on a leash. Also it is a city ordinance that if your pet defecates on private property it must be immediately removed. In other words if your pet goes poop in someone else's yard you have to pick it up. Your local stores have products available for this purpose.

DAILY CRIME REPORT A SERVICE OF THE SUGAR LAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

You can find the daily crime report on the city's website at http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/police/services/daily_crime_report/index.asp. It is an easy-to-use online tool for residents and visitors to access crime and police report information within Sugar Land.

For questions about the information

provided on the crime map please call the Crime Prevention Unit at 281-275-2500. In addition to the daily crime report the city has a crime activity form on line at https://svrch13.sugarlandtx.gov:5202/forms/police/cid/form_crime_activity.asp. Individuals with information on a criminal offense are encouraged to utilize this online form. You will be asked to describe the criminal activity, when it is occurring or occurred, the location (address) of the occurrence, if you know the person(s) involved, their name, a description of them and other relevant information.

The Crime Prevention Unit also has a lot of useful information online for the residents of Sugar Land. You can find it on the city's web site, on the police department's page under crime prevention.

SUGAR LAND GREAT BOOKS - JUNE MEETINGS

June 21st and 22nd. Whether you enjoy classic literature or a gritty crime novel, Fort Bend County Libraries invites you to share that love of reading with other book lovers at one of First Colony Branch Library's book clubs. These book clubs meet monthly at the library, located at 2121 Austin Parkway in Sugar Land, and new members are always welcome.

Members of the Sugar Land Great Books Adult Discussion Group meet on the third Tuesday of the month to discuss classic literature. The June 21 book club discussion, which will begin at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room, will be on *Lord of Misrule*, an award-winning novel written by Jaimy Gordon.

A variety of genres are discussed at the First Colony Book Group, which meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month, beginning at 1:30 pm, in the Conference Room. The discussion on June 22 will be on Sara Houghteling's debut novel, *Pictures at an Exhibition*.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

It is no news that street parking is a nuisance in many neighborhoods, including ours.

Although it may be convenient, street parking makes our neighborhood look cluttered and trashy. In addition, it creates obstructions and visual impairments to drivers, putting our residents, especially our children, in harm's way. Residents, please make use and fully utilize your garage and driveways! However, if it is absolutely necessary for you or your guests to park in the streets, below are a few parking etiquettes to follow:



- Don't block fire hydrants, STOP signs, or park too far from the curb. It's the law....
- Don't park in front of your neighbor's house.
- Don't park on the grass. We want the lawns looking fabulous for Yard of the Month!
- Don't park your vehicle perpendicular to the curbs. This is rampant in our neighborhood cul-de-sacs.
- Park on one side of the street to allow ample space for emergency vehicles to pass through.
- Park facing with the flow of traffic. Parking against the flow of traffic could earn you a citation. Be warned!

Also, please remember that per deed restrictions, commercial vehicles, trailers, inoperable automobiles, campers, boats, commercial use trucks, self-propelled or towable equipment or machinery of any sort may NOT be stored, parked, or kept on any driveway or in the street in the neighborhood.

FLAG DAY

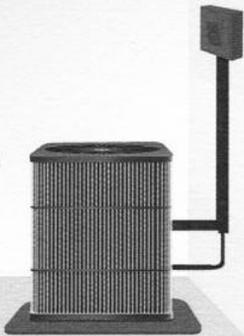
In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened that day by resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; in August 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

Flag Day is not an official federal holiday, though on June 14, 1937, Pennsylvania became the first (and only) state to celebrate Flag Day as a state holiday. Title 36 of the US Code, is the official statute on Flag Day; however, it is at the President's discretion to officially proclaim the observance.

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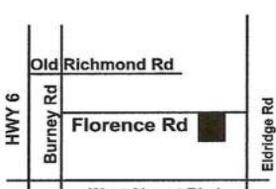
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SCHOOL NEWS

**Phineas Gage* by John Fleischman
The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt

Classic

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
The Wizard of Oz (Puffin Classics version) by L. Frank Baum

FBISD SUMMER READING LIST SEVENTH GRADE

Students are required to read two selections from the list before entering seventh grade PreAP or GT classes. They will be assessed on summer reading within the first six weeks of school. These selections are recommended for all students.
* denotes nonfiction

Contemporary

**A Life in the Wild* by Pamela S. Turner
Bull Rider by Suzanne Morgan Williams
Good Enough by Paula Yoo
**Almost Astronauts* by Tanya Lee Stone
Day of Tears by Julius Lester
**Isaac's Storm* by Erik Larson
A Step From Heaven by An Na
Everlost by Neal Shusterman
Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Classic

The Secret Garden (Puffin Classics Version) by Frances Hodgson Burnett
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Puffin Classics version) by Jules Verne

FBISD SUMMER READING LIST EIGHTH GRADE

Students are required to read two
(continued on page 6)

SOLICITORS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

From time to time I have had the knock on the door from someone soliciting. Solicitors either ask you to make a donation for an organization or to purchase an item for fundraising efforts.

The city of Sugar Land has ordinances that solicitors have to abide by, such as the person soliciting must obtain a license issued by the city prior to any solicitation activities. This license would be issued to that specific person, it should have their name and picture on it. Blanket or group licensing is not permitted. It is your right to ask any person who comes to your door to solicit for their license. They are required to wear the license at all times while soliciting in the city. Soliciting is NOT allowed between the hours of 8:00 PM and 9:00 AM and they are not allowed to knock on any other door other than your primary entrance to your house i.e. your front door.

If you get that knock on the door from a solicitor be careful, do not allow that person entry into your home. You can ask who they are and what they want without actually opening your door. You have the right to tell them to leave your property. And if you have any issue with that person you have the right to report them to the police department. If at any point in time you feel that you are in danger you can call the police.

If you wish to listen to them then step outside on your porch and close your door behind you, do not leave it open so that they may look into your home. It may be a good idea to take a phone outside with you as a precaution. Do not tell the solicitor any personal information regarding you and your family, including things like your daily schedule or how many family members there are in your household or how old your kids are.

You are not required to purchase anything that a solicitor is selling. The city of Sugar Land has a No Solicitation Registry; this registry lets the person soliciting know



that you do not wish for them to come to your door. If you wish to put your address on the No Solicitation Registry you must complete the form online at: https://svrch13.sugarlandtx.gov:5202/forms/community_dev/solicitation/index.asp. If you have any questions about this form you can call 281-275-2266. The no solicitation registry will be provided to solicitors upon receiving a license.

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GLEN LAUREL MARKET
INFORMATION



The Greater Houston Housing Market has changed from April 2010 to April 2011 as shown below according to the Houston Association of Realtors HAR:

Total property sales: -12.0% Total active listings: +5.8%
Total dollar volume: -12.8% Total pending sales: -18.8%

Selling a home in today's market takes longer time and requires a competitive approach in pricing and condition. If you intend to sell your home, consult Jutta for an honest and professional assessment.

Call Jutta - 281-799-0410



Jutta Miskow, Realtor GRI CNE ASP
Remax Elite
281-799-0410
Fax: 281-271-8147
Email: JuttaMiskow@Earthlink.net

I make it happen, you make it home!

HOME TOWN HERO

CORPORAL BRYCE RITZEN

Bryce attended Barrington Place Elementary School, Sugar Land Middle School and graduated from Dulles High School in 2008. He played for Sugar Land Little League for many years and played football for Sugar Land Middle School. At Dulles High School, he was manager for the basketball team that went to the state championship game in Austin in 2008. Bryce worked at Food Town for three years where he was a favorite checkout clerk for folks in our neighborhood. He also coached youth basketball for three years at First United Methodist Church. Bryce wanted his players to believe that every game was important, so he would wear a suit and tie to every game! He was very dedicated to his 5th and 6th grade players. Bryce was also a member of PALS in high school. PALS allowed him to serve as a mentor to first grade students at Meadows



Elementary School. He also participated in many Habitat for Humanity projects as a PAL.

Bryce enlisted in the United States Marine Corps when he was 17 years old because he was very passionate about serving the country that he loves. He feels very lucky to be an American. He left for boot camp upon graduating from Dulles. Bryce has served one tour in Afghanistan and will be leaving for his second soon. He serves as a surface to surface missile launcher with the High

Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems. (HIMARS) He is currently stationed at Camp Pendleton, California with 5/11 Romeo Battery.

Bryce married Kaitlyn Gardner of Vista, California in May.

TAX DEADLINE IS GONE. NOW WHAT?

By Vijay Kane.

It is time to review and perform a financial checkup. If you owed a significant amount in taxes, adjust the withholding on the W-4 Form with the employer. If self-employed, are you claiming all the eligible deductions on Schedule C: advertising, office expenses, mileage, travel, meals and entertainment, licensing fees, business use of home, etc.? Tax preparers are extremely busy during tax season. They may not have the time or the incentive to probe deep into your business operation to identify all business expenses and deductions. Log your business expenses weekly and business miles daily. Be organized. Pay estimated tax quarterly. It is always better to get a refund from IRS. Check the last three years of tax returns. You may find errors and business expenses that you could have claimed. File form 1040X to

amend the returns. If you do not have proper receipts, do not claim a deduction. If you get audited, you may have to pay back taxes with a lot of interest. Keep the business records FOREVER!



Too many people are missing out on IRA, SEP IRA and ROTH IRA contributions. Remember to PAY YOURSELF FIRST. Make contributions monthly by automatic bank draft. Contributing \$5,000 to an IRA before the tax deadline is more difficult than saving \$416 per month during the year.

People have lost faith in the stock market due to the wild fluctuations of the last 10 to 15 years. They are investing in bank CDs
(continued on page 6)

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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BE PREPARED-HURRICANE SEASON

SCHOOL NEWS

selections from the list before entering eighth grade PreAP or GT classes. They will be assessed on summer reading within the first six weeks of school. These selections are recommended for all students. * denotes nonfiction

Contemporary

Buried Onions by Gary Soto

Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

**The Other Side of the Sky* by Farah Ahmed and Timim Ansary

**Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip Hoose

Romiette and Julio by Sharon Draper

**Three Cups of Tea The Young Reader's Edition* by Greg Mortenson and David Relin

**Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story* by Ben Carson and Cecil Murphy

Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind by Suzanne Fisher Staples

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson

Classic

King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table by Roger Lancelyn Green

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

Notable Quote:

I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves.

~Anna Quindlen
"Enough Bookshelves"

Are you prepared for hurricane season? The Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1st and ends on November 30th. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration along with the National Hurricane Center have a great web site to help you get prepared. Throughout this website, information has been provided regarding actions that you can take based on specific hurricane hazards. The most important thing that you can do is to be informed and prepared. Disaster prevention includes both being prepared as well as reducing damages. Disaster Prevention should include developing a family plan, creating a disaster supply kit, having a place to go, securing your home and having a pet plan. One of the most important decisions you will have to make is "Should I Evacuate?"

If you are asked to evacuate, you should do so without delay. But unless you live in a coastal or low-lying area, an area that floods frequently, or in manufactured housing, it is unlikely that emergency managers will ask you to evacuate. That means that it is important for you and your family to HAVE A PLAN that makes you as safe as possible in your home.

Disaster prevention includes modifying your home to strengthen it against storms so that you can be as safe as possible. It also includes having the supplies on hand to weather the storm. The suggestions provided on the web

site are only guides. You should use common sense in your disaster prevention.



- DEVELOP A FAMILY PLAN - Your family's plan should be based on your vulnerability to the Hurricane Hazards. You should keep a written plan and share your plan with other friends or family.
- CREATE A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT - There are certain items you need to have regardless of where you ride out a hurricane. The disaster supply kit is a useful tool when you evacuate as well as making you as safe as possible in your home.
- SECURE YOUR HOME - There are things that you can do to make your home more secure and able to withstand stronger storms.
- ONLINE VULNERABILITY INFO - There are websites that can give you information about your communities' vulnerability to specific hazards. These include hurricanes as well as other weather related hazards.

For more information log on to:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/intro.shtml>

All information provided by NOAA and the National Hurricane Center.

TAX DEADLINE...

(continued from page 5)

(Certificate of Deposit) and Money Market Accounts. Since interest rates are so low, the inflation adjusted value of CD accounts is actually lower than the initial invested amount. So, CDs are now jokingly called: Certificates of Depreciation. The safe money alternatives to CDs are Fixed and Indexed Annuities. They offer much higher interest rates with upfront bonuses and also guaranteed lifetime income.

Spend some quality time thinking and planning your financial future. Discuss family finances with your spouse monthly. Keep

financial paperwork well-organized. Both spouses need to have a clear understanding of financial goals, savings, insurance policies, 401K, IRA and other investment paperwork. Make sure that the beneficiary designation on IRA, 401K and bank accounts is current.

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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*Rehab Services located in the Spine Center off Town Center Boulevard

Methodist Orthopaedic Specialists of Texas
1201 Brooks Street (and Hwy 6)
Sugar Land, Texas 77478
Mon - Thurs | 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Fri | 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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Find more information online at: www.glenlaurel.net

KIDS CORNER:

Critter Craze!

Held June 10th at the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land from 6:30 – 9 p.m. Bring the family and join the fun on Center Stage – Karaoke, appetizers and ice cream sundaes! Mix and mingle with a live animal collection, and witness the creation of creepy crawly concoctions by the Bug Chef. Spend an evening with the kids while making discoveries! Crafts, snacks, activities and fun for the whole family! Children must be accompanied by adults and adults must be accompanied by children. Limited cash bar for adults. Tickets - \$16; Members - \$10.



Sugar Land Superstar

Saturday June 11th in the Sugar Land Town Square. Sugar Land Superstar is back for its 6th summer and you don't want to miss it! Bring your lawn chair to the Plaza and enjoy Sugar Land's American Idol-like competition. A highly talented group of singers will perform and 5 will be named Finalists for the Aug. 13th competition. Plus, enjoy a performance by a previous Superstar contestant who will kick off the music off at 7:00 pm.

Red, White, and Bluefest

Held July 4th from 5:00pm to 10:00pm at Oytser Creek Park in Sugar Land. The atmosphere of Oyster Creek Park will come alive with vibrant fireworks at the City of Sugar Land's annual Red, White and Bluefest on Sunday, July 4th from 5 to 10 p.m. for the 25th year in a row. Before the spectacular 15 minute fireworks show there will be plenty of entertainment and activities for all ages to enjoy. All entertainment and activities are free and open to the public. A variety of local food vendors offering BBQ sandwiches, hot dogs, pizza, ice cream, funnel cakes and much more will be onsite selling these items for a nominal fee. The evening kicks off with classic patriotic songs performed by Rumble Seat Four Barbershop Quartet, followed by Tropicrew who is sure to get the crowd up and moving with their tropical rhythm grooves. Closing the evening will be Houston's primer party band, Fried Ice Cream, who blend the rich musical heritage of the Texas Gulf Coast with a unique performance style resulting in a dynamic sound and visual artistry. For more details, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov.