

MARCH 2012

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The weather is warming up and Spring is about to be upon us! With Spring comes spring cleaning, home maintenance, and a sprinkle of Spring Break fun.

This year, the annual Glen Laurel Garage Sale is set for Saturday, April 14th. If Mother Nature decides otherwise, the rain date is scheduled for Saturday, April 21st. This would be the perfect opportunity to clear out some of those unwanted items that have been taking up valuable real estate! Notices will be placed at the entrances and advertisements will be placed in local newspapers to attract treasure hunters. A couple of tips for selling your items at the Garage Sale:

1. Put prices on everything. The price should be on top of an item, not on the bottom.
2. As a general rule of thumb, price items about a quarter or third of what they would cost new.
3. If you have a number of items that are missing pieces or broken, put it in a FREE box with a note "broken - good for parts" or something similar.

Also, don't forget to give your home a check-up along with its annual spring cleaning. Preventive maintenance is crucial to the value of your home and will save you the headache and cost of emergency repairs in the long run. Check out The Slacker's Guide to Spring Home Maintenance article on page 2 for tips!



On the note of home repairs, it is no news that the fences along the perimeter of the community (W. Airport, Burney Road, Florence Road, and Mason Street) are in an absolute state of disrepair. Although not part of the actual building improvement, the fences are still part of the property and the homeowner's responsibility. Based on comments and responses from the Annual Meeting, the residents of Glen Laurel, your neighbors, are sick and tired of seeing the continued deterioration of the fences. It not only reflects badly upon the homeowner, but also on the community as a whole. Once again, we are requesting residents with fences along the community perimeter to repair or replace your fences immediately! For residents with interior lots, if your fences are in need of repair/replacement, we are requesting the same from you. We all have the responsibility to maintain the overall aesthetics of Glen Laurel. For the few that have repaired or replaced your fences, we have noticed and applaud your efforts.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Terri Salter with MASC Austin Properties at 713.776.1771 or [tsalter@mascapi.com](mailto:tsalter@mascapi.com). As always, volunteers are needed and residents are invited to monthly meetings that are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7PM.

Thanks,

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

### March activities:

#### Tuesday, March 13

4:30pm Baseball (soph) Vs Clements

7:00pm Baseball (jv) Vs Clements  
7:00pm Baseball (varsity) Vs Clements

#### Thursday, March 15

4:30pm Baseball (soph) Vs Dulles  
7:00pm Baseball (jv) Vs Dulles  
7:00pm Baseball (varsity) Vs Dulles

#### Friday, March 16

4:00pm Baseball (sophomore) Vs Sealy (jv)

#### Saturday, March 17

2:30pm Baseball (varsity) Vs Hightower  
7:00pm Baseball (jv) Vs Hightower

#### Monday, March 19

4:30pm Baseball (soph) Vs Austin  
6:00pm Stuco Mtg.  
7:00pm Baseball (jv) Vs Austin

#### Tuesday, March 20

5:30pm Soccer Boys (varsity) Vs Austin  
5:30pm Soccer Var Girls Vs Fb Austin  
5:30pm Softball (jv 5:30pm/varsity 7:00pm) Vs Austin  
6:30pm Band Incoming Freshman Mtg.  
7:00pm Baseball (varsity) Vs Austin

#### Wednesday, March 21

4:00pm Jr High Girls Track Meet  
(continued on page 4)

# THE SLACKERS' GUIDE TO SPRING HOME MAINTENANCE

## OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE

### Divert Water

Gutters do their job best when clean. Check yours for foliage build-up, particularly if trees hover over the roof. The rainy season is a prime time to ensure all drainage areas remain unblocked by leaves and/or debris. Trapped moisture can leave a house susceptible to moss and mildew and cause major damage to your roof and walls. While you're at it, make sure the downspout is clean and pointing 2-2 1/2 feet away from foundation walls.



### Retain the Roof

It's easy to take for granted the one thing that shields you from the elements. But doing so could cost you unnecessary repair costs. Be diligent about roof maintenance. After the next rainy day, inspect your ceiling for wet spots. Ask a licensed professional to inspect your roof for wear and tear. If the shingles are curling, buckling or crackling, it's time to replace the roof.



### Check Your Paint Job

Look for chipped, cracked paint along the exterior of your home. The worst thing you can do is leave wood exposed, because that's when it will begin to rot. Scrape off any failing paint. Sand it down so there are no rough edges, prime the bare wood surface and paint it with a high quality paint product. Don't wait until siding accumulates too much dirt. Brighten up the house with a good power washing.



### Cut Shrubs and Trees

Trim overgrown trees and hedges away from your home to discourage the growth of mildew and moisture. Branches should be at least 7 feet away from the exterior of your house to prolong the life of your siding and roof. Get rid of out-of-control vines, as they can help crack siding and allow moisture and pests entry into your home.



### Love Your Lawn

Rake up the excess leaves you didn't get around to last fall. Too many can suffocate your grass and stop it from growing. Pull up weeds, and remove foliage  
(continued on page 4)

### 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 01/31/12 85.25% collected with \$305,030.82 total assets.

### TOP 4 DEED RESTRICTIONS:

1. Mildew
2. Lawn maintenance
3. Miscellaneous items stored in public view
4. Trash receptacles

# DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME REMINDER

It's that time again! Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 11, 2012 at 2:00am. Please remember to move your clocks ahead 1 hour ("Spring forward, fall

back") before going to sleep the night before.



## 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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Your Glen Laurel Neighbor

**281-271-8595**

www.MeeksLawFirmLLC.com  
245 Commerce Green Blvd. Ste. 110  
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**Damon Meeks**  
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Mediator,  
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- Is Your Home **GREEN** with Algae?
- Is Your Driveway, Patio or Pool Deck **BLACK** with Mildew?
- Have You Gotten One of **THOSE** Letters from Your HOA?
- Have the Spider Pods and Mud Dobbers Taken Over **YOUR** Home?

**281-277-4013**

## SCHOOL NEWS

**Thursday, March 22**

7:00am Nhs Meeting

2:30pm Nhs Meeting

3:30pm Jv/fr Boys Track Ranger  
Relays

3:30pm Track Girls JV Meet

### Sugar Land Middle School

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-3080

NCLB Report Cards for the state as a whole, the district, and each of the district's campuses are now available on the district's web site at this link:

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

NCLB Report Cards for the state as a whole, all school districts and charter schools, and all campuses are also available on the Texas Education Agency's NCLB web site at

[http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=4638&menu\\_id=798](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=4638&menu_id=798).

### Sugar Mill Elementary

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-4440

Did you know that all students in grades 3 - 5 have the opportunity to participate in the statewide Texas Bluebonnet Reading Program? Check out the list at <http://www.txla.org/reading-lists>. Be sure to "Look What We're Reading" in the Library under the Resources Link to include the library read-alouds to your child's daily log!

*(continued on page 6)*

## THE SLACKERS' GUIDE (CONTINUED)

from the lawn, shrubs and any plants. Pull up dead flowers and replace them with a low-maintenance variety such as pansies, begonias or mums.

### INDOOR MAINTENANCE

#### Keep the Air Fresh

With warm, sticky days ahead, do yourself a favor and give your air conditioning unit a little TLC. Not only does it cool you down, but an efficient air conditioner removes moisture and humidity from your home, which in excess, can damage its foundation. So if you aren't changing air filters monthly, start now. A unit free of dust and dirt runs more efficiently, saving you money on your energy bill. While you're there, check hose connections for leaks. Make sure the drain pans are draining freely. If you suspect a problem, contact a certified technician.

#### Watch Windows and Doors

Investigate all doors and windows for leaks and drafts, particularly near the corners. Look for peeling and chipping paint, which can signal water intrusion. Seal any open areas between the frame and the wall to keep out water, which can deteriorate building materials. Neglecting these tasks can open up potential for environmental hazards like mold growth, experts say.

#### Control Pests

Keep garbage and debris under control around the exterior of your home. Inside, check the house for entrances and gaps where mice and insects may be tempted to come through. Seal up cracks, even if you just did so in the winter. Mulching the yard this spring? Use a liner underneath. It's good to keep a barrier between your mulch and your home.

#### Take a Peek at the Plumbing

Except for a coffee maker, anything dripping in your house is a bad sign. Check for leaking faucets or sweating pipes, clogged drains and faulty water drainage systems. On laundry day, look at the washing machine hoses for bulges, cracks or dampness. Check under the kitchen sink for leaks, and make note of wetness around the dishwasher. Inspect your water heater for leaks and corrosion.

#### Tackle the Tiles

While you're in spring-cleaning mode, pay attention to worn grout between floor tiles in the bathroom or kitchen. A small crack in the grout or caulk can lead to an expensive repair later. If necessary, re-seal as soon as possible. For the bath, get into the habit of wiping down shower walls and tub after each use to eliminate soap and scum build-up.



# SPRING BREAK SAFETY TIPS

From Officer Eric Babnew

**On the road.** Buckle up! Also take turns behind the wheel, and whoever sits shotgun should stay awake to keep the driver company. Make sure everyone has a valid driver's license and the vehicle registration is in the car before driving off. The most common cause of death of U.S. citizens overseas, other than natural causes, is by motor vehicle accident. Students traveling abroad should be aware that standards of safety overseas are different from those in the United States.

**In hotels.** Reserve a room that's above the 1st floor but below the 6th floor. Why? First floor rooms are easier to break into, and rooms above the sixth floor are sometimes too high for fire ladders to reach. If safes are provided, definitely use them for any valuables you may have. Keep doors and sliding doors locked, and don't let anyone into your room unless you can trust them. Make a mental note of where the nearest fire exits and stairwells are located in case you need to evacuate.

**At the ATM.** Try to go the ATM in groups, but avoid getting overly complacent about safety just because you're traveling in numbers. Also try to go during daylight hours. When you approach the ATM, do a full 360 degree scan, looking completely around you to see if anyone is hanging out where they shouldn't be. When punching in your pin number, use your other hand to cover the keypad.

## 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 about the Sharks or to complete our online registration (starting April 1st) go to [www.SugarLandSharks.org](http://www.SugarLandSharks.org).

## 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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### WHY WALK?

A recent study found that brisk walking improved blood flow to the brain by as much as 15% in elderly women. The study included women aged 60 and older who walked for 30 to 50 minutes three or four times a week for three months.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Barrington Place Elementary

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-4040

2012-2013 Kindergarten registration will begin on April 9, 2012. Registration will be held daily from 8:30-11:30 and 1:00-2:30. We will hold evening kindergarten registration on April 10, 2011 from 6:00-7:30pm. Students must turn 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2012, to be eligible for Kindergarten. Along with the registration forms, the documents needed are: birth certificate, social security card, current immunization record, current deed or lease (or mortgage statement or tax assessment bill), current gas, water or electric bill, and parent photo ID.

PreKindergarten Registration will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 beginning at 8:30am.

PreKindergarten registration is on a first come, first serve basis. The first 50 parents in line will receive a number in order to determine eligibility for the program. Along with the registration forms, the documents needed are: birth certificate, social security card, current immunization record, current deed or lease (or mortgage statement or tax assessment bill), current gas, water or electric bill, and parent photo ID.

## TAX TIME. IRA DEADLINE IS HERE

By Vijay Kane.

IRA and ROTH accounts must be set up by April 17, 2012, even if you are filing an extension.

All contributions made to an IRA until April 17 can be credited for year 2011, so long as you instruct the financial institution.

Since interest rates on bank CDs and Money Market Accounts are at an all-time low, use other vehicles for IRAs: 1) Mutual Funds can offer opportunities for growth. Due to extreme volatility in the stock market their returns can be very unpredictable. 2) Variable Annuities offer death benefits along with potential growth. They are also loaded with fees and charges e.g. M&E (Mortality & Expense charge). 3) Fixed and Indexed Annuities may be a perfect compromise. They offer guarantee of principal and attractive interest rates (usually better than bank CDs) plus upfront bonuses. Several annuities have the ability to provide a guaranteed lifetime income stream.

Americans save less than anyone in the developed world. Life expectancy has increased significantly. Contributing to IRA or ROTH IRA is a great way to build a comfortable retirement nest egg. 40% of US households own an IRA but only 14% made contributions in 2010. If we fail to plan, we plan to fail.

Contribution limit for IRA is \$5,000 per

year (\$6,000 for age 50 and above). You must be under age 70½. It is easier and less painful to start automatic monthly contributions from the checking account by EFT. If your Tax filing status is single and Modified AGI is less than \$56,000 (\$90,000 if married/filing jointly), you can still deduct the IRA contribution even if you were covered by an employer retirement plan.

Contributions to a ROTH IRA can be made regardless of your age and are not deductible. If held until age 59½ and for 5 years, the entire value of the account can be withdrawn without any income tax (unlike a Traditional IRA). This is a great source of tax free income in the retirement years. Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) rules do not apply for ROTH IRAs while the owner is alive. You are not required to take distributions at any age. Contribution limit is \$5,000 (\$6,000 for 50 and over) if MAGI is less than \$107,000 (Single) and \$169,000 (Married/filing jointly).

There is no MAGI restriction on eligibility to convert a Traditional IRA to a ROTH IRA. So, people with MAGI higher than the limits can start a non-deductible traditional IRA and immediately convert it to a ROTH IRA.

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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Sugar Land, Texas 77478



### EXERCISE

Beginning a fitness routine is not always easy. But as you get older, having an active lifestyle becomes more and more important. Exercise can help you stay healthy, and increase your energy levels. No matter what your age is, or what your current health is like, everyone can benefit by moving more. Gain energy and feel stronger with regular exercise.

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Methodist Sugar Land Hospital - Conference Center

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Find more information online at: [www.glenlaurel.net](http://www.glenlaurel.net)



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