

NOVEMBER 2011

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

November is here, the year is almost over, and Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner! We hope that this past year has been a good one for all of our residents.



Over the past several years the Board of Directors has worked hard at improving the assets of our neighborhood, the look of our neighborhood and the communication of what is going on in our neighborhood to our residents. Improvements have been made to our Pool facilities, our park area and equipment and our landscaped area around the neighborhood. We hope that everyone has had a chance to enjoy the updated amenities.

We are always looking for **more community involvement** and welcome any and all residents of Glen Laurel to join us at our monthly meetings. All of the current Board members are **volunteers**; each of us has a full time job and families yet we made the commitment to dedicate some of our spare time to fulfilling the duties of a Board of Directors to service our community. We try our best to address the concerns brought to our attention by our residents.

In September the Board and our property management representative attended a meeting of the Burney Road Municipal Utility District. Our objective was to obtain the correct information in regards to our community lakes and what course the MUD District intends to take in regards to the lake and their current condition.

**Mark your calendars!** The HOA annual meeting is set for Thursday, November 10th at 7PM in the Conference Center at Eldridge Park, 2511 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land, TX. The Board of Directors has extended invitations to City Councilman Don Smithers and the MUD District to attend the meeting. Your notice of the 2011 annual meeting should have already been in your mailbox along with your voting proxy. Keep in mind that attendance at the annual meeting is important in many ways, it is your forum to bring your questions and concerns to the Board of Directors, it is your opportunity to elect a candidate for the position open for election, it is your time to participate and be involved in your community. If you do not plan to or are unable to attend the annual meeting **PLEASE** make sure that you submit your proxies to Austin Properties **PRIOR** to the November 10th meeting. Proxies can be submitted either in person at Austin Properties, on Florence Road, by mail, by fax to 713-776-1777 or by e-mail to [tsalter@mascapi.com](mailto:tsalter@mascapi.com). Your proxy is your vote, it is your voice, make sure you use it. We hope to see you there.

**Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!**

Thanks,

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

### **November activities:**

November 1 thru 30th – Band, Region Listenings

November 3, 10 & 17 – Band, After School Rehearsal

November 7 thru 9 – Winter Guard Clinic

November 10 – 2012 Winter Guard Tryouts

November 12 & 19 – Winter Guard Rehearsal

November 15 – FBISD Military Academy Night, 6-8:30 pm, Board Room

November 23 thru 25 Thanksgiving Holidays

### Sugar Land Middle School

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-3080

### **November activities:**

November 4 – Science Fair Packet due

November 11 & 12 – Band Region Auditions

November 14 – Symphonic Band Sectionals

November 15 – FBISD Military Academy Night, 6-8:30 pm, Board Room

November 18 – 19 Band Region Clinic & Concert

November 23 thru 25 Thanksgiving Holidays

Titan Tutorials:

Monday/Wednesday 8:15 – 8:45 AM

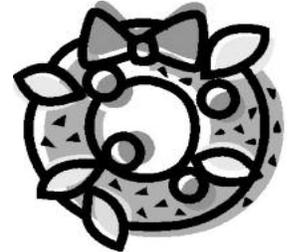
*(continued on page 4)*

# FOURTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

This year we will be our 4th annual Christmas Decoration Contest!

Six prizes awarded to the winning homes based on the following themes:

- 1) Best use of lights
- 2) Most creative/festive
- 3) Best children's theme (children's choice)
- 4) Most traditional
- 5) Most Holiday Spirit
- 6) Best winter wonderland



Residents who wish to participate must have their homes decorated by December 12th. Winners will receive a \$50.00 gift card to Home Depot.

The following rules apply:

- \* Judging will occur on the 15th, 16th & 17th and entrants must have their lights on by 6:30 p.m.
- \* House numbers must be clearly marked for the judges to see
- \* 1st place winner is not eligible to win 1st place again the following year for the same theme, but can be considered for a different theme
- \* All decisions of the judges are official and final
- \* Residents who are not current on their association dues will not be eligible to win

Judging criteria:

- \* Attractive use of light and color
- \* Originality and creativity
- \* Use of lighted and non-lighted decorations (i.e. lawn ornaments, tree ornaments, mailbox covers, etc.)
- \* Overall effect

**We look forward to seeing all the festively decorated homes this year!**



### **TRASH REMINDER**

Reminder! Please do not put your trash out before 6:00 PM on the night before the regularly scheduled pickup day. Trash on your curb does not enhance the curb appeal of your house or our neighborhood.



### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

As of 09/30/11 98.93% collected with \$143,545.01 total assets

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

1. Fences
2. Lawn maintenance
3. Dead shrubbery
4. Miscellaneous items stored in public view

# DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Its Fall back time! On November 6, 2011 we return to Standard Time (ST) beginning at 2:00 am local time. Don't forget to turn clocks back by one hour, ideally at

bedtime on the Saturday 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  
Sugar Land, TX 77478



**Damon Meeks**  
Attorney,  
Mediator,  
Arbitrator

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## SCHOOL NEWS

Every day in Advisory 8:50 – 9:20 AM

### Sugar Mill Elementary

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-4440

### **November activities:**

November 23 thru 25  
Thanksgiving Holidays

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

### Barrington Place Elementary

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-4040

### **November activities:**

November 23 thru 25  
Thanksgiving Holidays

### Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Nov 14 - 06:00 PM

### Community Connect Conference

The annual Community Connect Conference, sponsored by FBISD's Volunteer & Partnerships, Title 1, and Special Education departments will feature sessions led by Fort Bend ISD educators and area professionals in the fields of:

Academics

Parenting Skills

College Readiness

*(continued on page 6)*

## REMINDER ABOUT THE NEW GARBAGE & RECYCLING CANS

By now, all in our community should have received their new garbage and recycle cans. If you are not using them yet please start! If you need a different can size you can request one by calling 713-726-7370. The normal fee of \$25 for a can change will be waived by the city if your request is received by November 30th. Trash and recycling can exchanges will begin on November 7th.

Our trash collection days remain the same, Monday and Thursday of the week. Please be sure that your can is placed at the base of the curb on the street with the handles facing away from the street so

that the lid opens to the street, no earlier than 6PM the night before the pick up day. Please refer to the booklet that you received with your cans or [www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste](http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste) for further information on the new garbage service and expanded recycling service.

We have had a few inquires regarding the storage of the new garbage and recycling cans. The cans must be stored out of public view as per the deed restrictions. The two most common places for everyone would either be behind your back yard fence or inside your garage.

## HOW TO STOP UNWANTED MAIL

What can you do about the growing pile of unwanted mail in your mailbox and unwelcome telemarketers on your phone? Actually, there's a lot you can do:

- Tell companies you do business with to remove your name from customer lists they rent or sell to others. Look for information on how to opt out of marketing lists on sales materials, order forms, and websites.

- Use the services provided by the Direct Marketing Association to remove your name from most national telemarketing, mail, and e-mail lists.

- If you decide that you don't want to receive prescreened offers of credit and insurance, you have two choices: You can opt out of receiving them for five years or opt out of receiving them permanently. To opt out for five years: Call toll-free 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688) or visit [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com). The phone number and website are operated by the major consumer reporting companies.

To opt out permanently: You may begin the permanent Opt-Out process online at [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com). To complete your request, you must return the signed

Permanent Opt-Out Election form, which will be provided after you initiate your online request.



- Under U.S. Postal Service rules, it is illegal to send mail that looks like it is from a government agency when it isn't. It is also illegal to send mail that looks like a bill when nothing was ordered, unless it clearly states that it is not a bill. Report violations of this rule to the USPS.

Tired of unwanted e-mail filling up your inbox? You can opt out of most unsolicited e-mail lists by going to the "unsubscribe" button, usually found at the bottom of the message. Some senders make the button difficult to find, so you may have to do some searching.

In addition, the Direct Marketing Association lets you opt out of receiving unsolicited commercial mail from many national companies for five years. You can register with this service for a small fee, but your registration only applies to organizations that use the association's Mail Preference Service. To register go to [www.dmchoice.org](http://www.dmchoice.org).

# GOING GREEN

“Going Green,” a relatively new term, means practicing an environmentally friendly and ecologically responsible lifestyle as well as making decisions to help protect the environment and sustain natural resources. There are lots of reasons to consider going green—too much trash, greenhouse gases, air and water pollution, damage to the ozone layer, and saving money.

For example, switching all the light bulbs in a home from conventional incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs could save about \$40 over the life of the bulb. Other examples include:

- Turning your thermostat down two degrees in winter and up two degrees in summer.
- Making sure your walls and ceilings are well insulated.
- Replacing bathroom and kitchen faucets with lowflow models.

## Buying Green

Buying environmentally friendly products is also an important step in going green. Many such products can be identified by the Energy Star Logo ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)) or the Green Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval, found at [www.goodhousekeeping.com](http://www.goodhousekeeping.com).

You can also choose to buy organic or locally produced food and eco-friendly clothing. For more information

about national standards covering organic food, go the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service at [www.ams.usda.gov](http://www.ams.usda.gov).



There are no national standards for organic clothing, but some fabrics to consider include organic cotton, bark cloth, and organic wool.

## Reusing and Recycling

Other good ways to go green include reusing products, instead of throwing them away, and recycling items made of materials such as glass, metal, plastic, or paper.

It is estimated that 75% of our waste is recyclable, and most of the U.S. population has access to curbside or recycling programs. It is easy to safely dispose of many products. Others, such as car batteries, cell phones, televisions, paints, oils, and solvents, require special handling. Many of these products can be donated or recycled through local government recycling centers and hazardous household item collection days, charitable organizations, or even electronics retailers.

For more information about safely disposing of products that contain hazardous ingredients, visit the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) website: [www.epa.gov/epawaste](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste).

# 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  
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[cindy@glenlaurel.net](mailto:cindy@glenlaurel.net)

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Fax: 281-271-8147  
Email: [JuttaMiskow@Earthlink.net](mailto:JuttaMiskow@Earthlink.net)

## STAYING WELL

# WATER

There are many reasons to drink plenty of water each day. Water helps prevents dehydration, cleans the body, and promotes healing. Also, lack of water is the #1 trigger for daytime fatigue.

## SCHOOL NEWS

Health & Wellness  
Personal Growth  
Special Needs

When: Friday, November 11, 2011

Time: 8:00-12:30

Where: Sugar Land Baptist Church

Who: Parents, volunteers, community members

Registration Fee: \$10.00.  
(Breakfast and childcare for under school-age children included.)

### Fort Bend ISD Skyward Family Access

This innovative tool is designed to provide parents/legal guardians access to "real time" information about their student's education. For more information on accessing your child's gradebook, attendance, and more, go to <http://www.fortbendisd.com/departments/technology/family-access> and follow the instructions for registration.

### FBISD Parent and Student Handbook

Did you know that there is a Student/Parent Handbook available? The handbook was developed to provide you with general information regarding District procedures and guidelines about a variety of topics of interest to Fort Bend ISD parents and students. For more information, visit [www.fortbendisd.com](http://www.fortbendisd.com) and click on the Quick Links section to download the handbook.

## MEDICARE ADVANTAGE AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG

Under the Medicare Advantage (MA) program, health plans are offered by private insurance companies. MA plans must cover all Part A and Part B benefits offered by Original Medicare. Many plans also cover Part D prescription drug benefits. Most also offer additional benefits not covered under Medicare e.g., dental, vision, hearing, podiatrist and chiropractic services. Most plans are available for a small or no monthly premium. To be eligible, beneficiaries must be entitled to Medicare Part A, enrolled in Part B and continue to pay Part B monthly premium of \$115.40. Most people who file for Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits at age 65 are eligible for Part B. Individuals with disabilities who are under 65 are automatically enrolled in Part B. Upon being eligible, it is always a good idea to enroll in Part B. The penalty for not enrolling in a timely manner results in an increased premium.

There are several types of MA plans: HMO, PPO, SNP, PFFS, MSA, 1876 Cost Plans, PACE, etc. Beneficiaries who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid are considered "dual eligible" individuals. Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program (PDP) was introduced on Jan 1, 2006. Part D plans are available as: Stand-alone PDP, Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug (MA-PD) plan and Cost-PD plan. The eligibility requirements are similar to the MA plans. Medicare beneficiaries may be enrolled in only one MA plan and only one Part D plan at a time. Enrolling in a stand-alone PDP

can be done with either of the following: Original Medicare, PFFS plan without Part D, MSA or 1876 Cost Plan.



The MA Initial Coverage Election Period (ICEP) and Part D Initial Election Period (IEP) are available to individuals who are newly eligible for MA plans. The ICEP begins 3 months before the individual's first entitlement to both Medicare Part A & B and ends 3 months after. During the Annual Election Period (AEP): Oct 15 to Dec 7, beneficiaries may add, drop, or change MA or PDP. Any disenrollment may be done during the MADP period: Jan 1 to Feb 14.

Medigap or Medicare Supplement Insurance (MedSup) policy is a private health insurance designed to supplement and fill "gaps" in Original Medicare. This is completely different than an MA plan. It does not cover Medicare benefits but works with Original Medicare. It is available with a premium and cannot be sold to anyone having an MA plan.

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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### QUICK TIP

With rates at historical lows, it may be time to refinance. Consider refinancing your mortgage if you can get a rate that is at least one percentage point lower than your existing mortgage rate and if you plan to keep the new mortgage for several years. When comparing mortgages, don't forget to include the extra fees you must pay for the new mortgage.

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
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- ☞ Breast MRI
- ☞ MRI Guided Biopsy
- ☞ Ultrasound Biopsy
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*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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