

OCTOBER 2011

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Time is flying by and the holidays will be here before you know it! But before we get to the turkeys and tree trimmings, please check out the Halloween Safety Tips in this issue and see how we can keep Halloween night fun and safe for our lil' monsters.

Below are other upcoming activities and events in our community.

### New Trash & Recycling Bins

Cart delivery will begin on October 10. Residents will receive a 95-gallon grey garbage cart and a 65-gallon green recycle cart, unless different sizes were requested. Residents should begin to use the carts as soon as they receive them. However, please DO NOT put your trash out before 6:00PM on the night before regularly scheduled pick-up days.

### Annual Assessments

It is that time of year again... Annual Assessments. Moans and groans, yes, we know.... However, please keep in mind that your assessment dollars are spent and reinvested into your community. Much of the dollars spent are in maintaining our vast common areas, lakes, and community pool. Even with rising costs, your 2012 assessments will remain unchanged. Assessments are due upon receipt of invoice and will become delinquent on January 31, 2012. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Terri Salter with MASC Austin Properties at [tsalter@mascapi.com](mailto:tsalter@mascapi.com) or 713.776.1771.

### Annual Homeowners Association Meeting

Our annual HOA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Eldridge Park Conference Center, which is located at 2511 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land, TX. One position on the Board is open for election and is for a three-year term. In order to have a successful meeting, we need to establish quorum, which is a minimum of 71 households participating in the voting process. Year after year, it is an unfortunate fact that we were unable to establish quorum, unable to get just 10% of a total of 717 households in our community to participate. Is it not time that this change?

If you have not been involved, or have been unable to get involved, THIS IS THE TIME! Proxies have been sent and will be coming to you in the mail. If you are not able to attend and vote at the meeting, PLEASE complete and submit your proxies to Austin Properties prior to the meeting date. Submission of your proxy can be in person, mail, fax (713.776.1777), or scan/email. This is YOUR community. Get involved, participate, and make a difference!



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/campuses/khs/default.cfm>

Phone #: 281-634-2300

### October activities:

#### Cougar Football

10/7 – vs Marshall @ Hall 7PM

10/22 – vs Hightower @ Hall 7PM

10/29 – vs Elkins @ Hall 7PM

10/26 – End of 1st Nine week period

#### 10/26 – Parent workshops;

9th grade – STARR EOC Info (commons) 6:30PM

10th – 12th grade – College Entrance Exams/Strategies for Student Success (library) 6:30PM

**SCHOOL HOURS: 7:30 AM - 2:30 PM**

### Sugar Land Middle School

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-3080

### October activities:

#### Titan Football

**8A**

10/4 – vs Crockett @ Crockett 5PM

10/11 – vs Bowie @ SLMS (Kempner Std) 5PM

10/25 – vs Garcia @ Garcia 5PM

**8B**

10/3 – vs Crockett @ Crockett 5PM

10/10 – vs Bowiew @ SLMS (Kempner Std) 5PM

10/24 – vs Garcia @ Garcia 5PM

*(Continued on page 4)*

## PREVENTING THE FLU

Flu is a serious contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urges you to take the following actions to protect yourself and others from influenza (the flu):

### Take time to get a flu vaccine

The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. While there are many different flu viruses, the flu vaccine protects against the three viruses that research suggests will be most common. The 2011-2012 vaccine will protect against an influenza A H3N2 virus, an influenza B virus and the H1N1 virus that emerged in 2009 to cause a pandemic.

Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine as soon as the 2011-2012 vaccines are available. Vaccination of high risk persons is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness. People at high risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and people 65 years and older. Vaccination also is important for health care workers, and other people who live with or care for high risk people to keep from spreading flu to high risk people.

Children younger than 6 months are at high risk of serious flu illness, but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for them should be vaccinated instead.

### Take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Also, wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth as germs spread this way. Lastly, try to avoid close contact with sick people.

If you are sick with flu-like illness, the CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities.

### Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them

If you get the flu, antiviral drugs can treat your illness. Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics. They are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaled powder) and are not available over-the-counter. Antiviral drugs can make illness milder and shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent serious flu complications.

Flu-like symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people also may have vomiting and diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

Visit CDC's website to find out what to do if you get sick with the flu and how to care for someone at home who is sick with the flu. The CDC can be found online at: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

### 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 08/31/11 98.89% collected with \$149,359.03 total assets.

### TOP 4 DEED RESTRICTIONS:

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

# YARD OF THE MONTH SEASON ENDS

Even with the drought conditions we have had over the past Summer, the Board saw some shining stars during our Yard of the Month season. We would like to thank all of you who

went that extra mile to ensure that your yard was well kept; it was not an easy thing to do under the circumstances. Congratulations to all our winners!

## Need Legal Help?

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

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Mediator,  
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## SCHOOL NEWS

### 7A

10/4 – vs Crockett @ SLMS  
(Kempner Std) 5PM  
10/11 – vs Bowie @ Bowie 5PM  
10/25 – vs Garcia @ SLMS  
(Kempner Std) 5PM

### 7B

10/3 – vs Crockett @ SLMS  
(Kempner Std) 5PM  
10/10 – vs Bowie @ Bowie 5PM  
10/24 – vs Garcia @ SLMS  
(Kempner Std) 5PM

### Titan Volleyball

10/6 – vs Fort Settlement @ Fort  
Settlement 5PM  
10/13 – vs Bowie @ SLMS 5PM  
10/20 – vs Crockett @ Crockett  
5PM  
10/24 – vs Dulles @ SLMS 5PM

10/26 – End of 1st Nine week  
period

### Titan Tutorials:

Monday/Wednesday  
8:10 – 8:50 AM  
Every day in Advisory  
8:55 – 9:30 AM

**SCHOOL HOURS: 8:55 AM -  
3:55 PM**

### Sugar Mill Elementary

Web site:  
<http://www.fortbendisd.com/campuses/sme/default.cfm>  
Phone #: 281-634-4440

### October activities:

10/6 – Parent/teacher  
conferences  
10/29 – Sparker Fair

Every Friday is Sparkler Sprit Day  
– wear your school spirit shirt  
*(Continued on page 6)*

## PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT, MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

By Vijay Kane.

The Annual Enrollment Period for Medicare Advantage plans and PDPs (Prescription Drug Plans or Medicare Part D) starts on October 15th. If you are eligible, start getting educated and enroll. Since Medicare does not cover everything, consider Medicare Supplement Plans (Med Supp) which are completely different from Medicare Advantage Plans. You can only choose one.

Another important part of retirement planning is protecting your savings and investments from the wild gyrations of the stock market. Due to the uncertainty of the global economic conditions, the stock market will be extremely volatile. This is a good time to cash out of Stocks and Mutual Funds.

October is CD (Certificate of Deposit) renewal month. Interest rates offered by most banks on short duration CDs range from 0.3% to 0.5%. This is not keeping up with inflation. The buying power of the dollar has diminished. The CD is now referred to as Certificate of Depreciation. The perfect Safe Money alternative to CD is a Fixed or an Indexed Annuity. Fixed

Annuities are paying interest rates in the range of 2.25% to 4.0%. Also, all interest earned is tax deferred until it is withdrawn. Interest earned in a Bank CD is taxable. If you cash out a Non-Qualified Annuity prior to age 59 ½, the IRS charges a penalty of 10% on the interest earned. Even after paying a 10% penalty, the interest earned in an Annuity is significantly higher than the interest earned in a Bank CD. The death benefit from an Annuity can bypass probate. Annuities can also offer a guaranteed lifetime stream of income.

Indexed Annuities are linked to Stock Market Indices (e.g. S&P 500, DJIA, NASDAQ, etc.). They offer the opportunity to earn attractive interest rates if the stock market (and the S&P 500 Index) performs well during a 12 month period. If the stock market drops, the Annuity account value will have NO LOSS. These products are very safe and very popular. They can also be used for IRA, ROTH IRA, SEP IRA and Rollover IRA accounts.

For 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.

## FALL FIX-IT TIME

As we move into the fall season and the weather begins to cool down it's the ideal time to begin your Fall fix-it projects.

### Fences

With the severe drought conditions that we have experienced this year we see that many of the fences in the neighborhood are now leaning. This is a result of the ground around your fence post drying up. The dryer the ground the more wiggly your posts will be. If your post is set in dirt you can straighten the post up and then tamp some dirt or gravel in around the post to hold the post in a straightened position. If the post is set in concrete you may need to use something fine enough to go in around the post and concrete to

hold the post in a straightened position. Don't forget to replace any broken pickets. A little bit of regular maintenance on your fence can help you from having to replace it all together.

### Mailboxes

For those of you who do not have the group mailboxes, you are responsible for the upkeep of your box. For ACC guidelines on mailboxes please check the deed restriction requirements for the section you live in. You can find the deed restriction guidelines on our web site or by contacting Austin Properties. If your mailbox is on a stake shared with your neighbors then both of you are *(continued on page 5)*

## FALL FIX-IT TIME (continued)

responsible for it, sharing the cost of repairing or replacing. For our homeowners who have the decorative mailboxes you can find replacement mailboxes or replacement parts at Perfection Wholesale, 713-937-4575, [www.perfectionwholesale.com](http://www.perfectionwholesale.com).

### Gutters and Siding

Fall is a good time to have your gutters cleaned out. As the trees start to lose their leaves those leaves fill up your gutters and prevent any rain fall from flowing freely through them and out of the downspouts. Clogged gutters can cause many problems including rotting fascia boards, leaky roofs, sagging driveways due to pooling water, ruined landscaping and insects. It is recommended that you clean your gutters at least once every three months, and more frequently if leafy trees hang over your roof. If you aren't comfortable doing it yourself, most landscaping companies provide this service for a nominal fee. It is also a good idea to replace old, rusted or defective gutters, even though this can get expensive. Gutter guards and screens might likewise not be a bad investment.

Typically, siding options of today are great in that once installed, the siding requires little to no maintenance. Even so, you should still understand the right way to take care of your siding so it will remain beautiful and strong for its lifetime. Keep in mind that every material used for siding is taken care of slightly different. Look up care tips for

the type of siding that is on your house and follow them to keep your house in good condition.



### Windows

It helps if you undertake a thorough inspection of your windows every season. Check the condition of the window frame and sash. The sun can cause certain areas of the frame to become brittle and warp. Check for signs of moisture in double or triple-paned windows. This indicates that the seal has failed and has to be replaced. A failed seal reduces the insulation capacity of your windows. If you have weather stripping on your windows, check the condition during inspection. Make arrangements for replacement if the stripping has worn out. Check for any gaps between the window casing and wall. These can be filled with a latex caulk.

Gaps around your window allow air to come in and encourage loss of warm air from within. This reduces the energy efficiency of your home. It also creates higher energy costs for you. Replace all worn out rubber seals. This helps to reduce air and water leaks. It also helps to secure the window in place. Use spray-form insulation or caulk to help you seal your windows.

You can read more fix-it tips and advice at [www.doityourself.com](http://www.doityourself.com).

## 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 WELL

# 6 OZS.

The Mayo Clinic suggests that we keep our daily meat consumption to 6 ounces a day. Consider substituting plant proteins into your diet, such as beans, peas and lentils.

## SCHOOL NEWS

**SCHOOL HOURS: 8:10 AM - 3:00 PM**

### Barrington Place Elementary

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-4040

### **October activities:**

10/6 – Parent/teacher conferences

**SCHOOL HOURS: 8:10 AM - 3:00 PM**

### **FORT BEND ISD WEATHER HOTLINE**

As we all know, weather on the Gulf Coast of Texas can be anything but predictable! Be prepared by calling Fort Bend ISD's Severe Weather Hotline - at 281.634.INFO (281.634.4636) for any schedule changes that may occur because of the weather.

### **TAKS Exit Retest Dates Set for 2011-2012 School Year**

Fort Bend ISD students who did not pass all subject areas of the TAKS exit test will have four opportunities to retest during the 2011 – 2012 school year. The test dates are:

October 18 – 21, 2011

March 5, 7, 8 and 9, 2012

April 24 – 27, 2012

July 9 – 12, 2012

With the exception of the March test window, English Language Arts will be administered the first day of testing, mathematics on the second day, science on the third day, and social studies on the last day of each test window. More information can be found at [www.fortbend.k12.tx.us/testing/](http://www.fortbend.k12.tx.us/testing/).

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween is an exciting time of year for kids, and to help ensure they have a safe holiday, here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

### **All Dressed Up**

Plan costumes that are bright and reflective and make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.

Also, consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.

Because masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives. Hats should fit properly to prevent them from sliding over eyes.

When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories look for those with a label clearly indicating they are flame resistant.

If a sword, cane, or stick is a part of your child's costume, make sure it is not sharp or too long. A child may be easily hurt by these accessories if they stumble or trip.

Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts. Also, teach children how to call 9-1-1 if they have an emergency or become lost.

### **Carving A Niche**

Small children should never carve pumpkins. Children can draw a face with markers, then parents can do the cutting.

Consider using a flashlight or glow stick instead of a candle to light your pumpkin. If you do use a candle, a votive candle is safest. Candlelit pumpkins should be placed on a sturdy table, away from curtains and other flammable objects, and should never be left unattended.



### **Home Safe Home**

To keep homes safe for visiting trick-or-treaters, parents should remove from the entryway and front yard anything a child could trip over such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations. Parents should also check outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs. Wet leaves should be swept from sidewalks and steps. Restrain pets so they do not inadvertently jump on or bite a trick-or-treater.

### **On The Trick-Or-Treat Trail**

A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds. If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return home.

Because pedestrian injuries are the most common injuries to children on Halloween, remind trick-or-treaters to stay in a group and communicate where they will be going. Everyone should carry a cell phone for quick communication.



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### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON NOVEMBER 6TH!**

You know the old saying: *Spring forward, Fall back.* It helps us to remember how Daylight Savings Time affects our clocks twice each year. Daylight Savings Time will revert to Standard Time on Sunday, November 6. Time changes in the U.S. take place at 2:00 a.m. local time. Remember to set your clock!

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:

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- ✂ Stereotactic Biopsy



Schedule your  
mammogram at the  
Sugar Plum Market  
November 3, 4 and 5

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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