

SEPTEMBER 2012

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Board Meeting Location Change

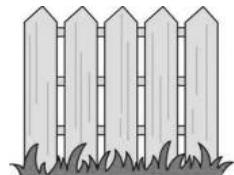
Please note: the monthly Board Meetings will now be held at the Sugar Land First United Methodist Church in room 608 (431 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land, TX 77478)

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

School is back in session. **Please be sure to watch out for school zones!!** Reduce your speed when you are in a school zone, watch out for children walking in and around school zones and remember do not use your cell phone while driving through a school zone, you can get a ticket.

The Burney Road improvement project to widen it from two lanes to a four lane divided boulevard began earlier this year and construction is scheduled to be completed in April of 2013. Due to the ongoing construction motorists, are advised to **use caution in the construction zone and watch for detour signs** as these may change with the different phases of the project.

Several months ago a group of concerned home owners attended a regular monthly meeting and expressed their concerns in regards to the bordering fences along West Airport Boulevard and Burney Road. The Board of Directors continues to work in conjunction with several of these residents and the neighborhood's attorney in order to realistically handle the issue of the fences that border along West Airport Boulevard, Burney Road, Florence Road and Mason Road. Some of the issues that have been discussed include the ambiguity of ownership of these fences and the amount of funding it would take in order to fix or replace the fencing in addition to any legal expenses. Needless to say, the condition of these fences does not help the attractiveness of our neighborhood and everyone involved wants to see this resolved in as timely a manner as possible.



In addition to the fencing, we as a neighborhood are facing several other issues for which we need the assistance of our community. As many of you know the annual HOA dues have been at \$425 a year for over 5 years now. At this point in time we do not have the funds set aside to cover the cost of fence repair and we will be looking into the collection of a special assessment to cover those costs. In order to be able to collect this special assessment we will need the vote of our homeowners. In addition, we will be reviewing the steps necessary to increase the annual HOA dues. Even though we have a collection rate of 98%, the amount of funds collected throughout the year is reaching a point where it will no longer be enough to run the regular "day to day" operation of our community. Unfortunately over the years our expenses have not remained at the same cost like our annual dues.

The lakes in our neighborhood also remain a concern for our residents. As stated earlier, the Glen Laurel HOA does not own the lakes and therefore we cannot pursue any action in regards to their condition. The three lakes in our community are owned by the Burney Road MUD District, to which we all pay taxes to each year. This year there are two MUD Board positions that will come up for election on November 6, 2012. If you are interested in running for a board position on the MUD District please contact the MUD District or Fort Bend County for election information. If there are no candidate applications received for the open positions then the MUD Board can cancel the election.

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Glen Laurel
Homeowners Association

SCHOOL NEWS

Kempner High School

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-2300

Kempner Brigade Dance Team

The **Kempner** Brigade Dance Team will be having their Fall Dance Clinic at KHS on Saturday, September 29th, 9:00AM - 1:00PM. The clinic will be for children ages 4 and up. A t-shirt and snack will be provided. Cost is \$30 per child in advance, \$35 at the door. For more information contact Carrie Gutierrez: 281-313-1610; carrieag@entouch.net.

Family Access Account

If you are not on Family Access, please sign up to receive a Family Access login. Due to budget constraints (and the cost of postage), the school is going to try and keep campus communications to families in electronic format such as the phone call out and email send out processes. These processes are sent to families who are enrolled in the FBISD Family Access system. Families who had Family Access last year in FBISD do not need to renew anything unless your information has changed. To create a Family Access account, please go to the link below or go to the FBISD homepage and click on Family Access on the left hand side.
<http://www.fortbendisd.com/departments/technology/family-access>

Sugar Land Middle School

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-3080

(continued on page 4)

AROUND TOWN

Local Garden Club To Hold Garden Art And Plant Sale

Sugar Land Garden Club is hosting its 14th annual Garden Art and Plant Sale on Saturday, September 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Sugar Lakes Clubhouse, 930 Sugar Lakes Drive. For more information visit sugarlandgardenclub.org or call 281-491-9609. Admission is free. Sugar Land Garden Club is a 150+ member, 501(c)(3) organization that supports a variety of state-wide and community horticultural projects. The club also offers two scholarships to horticultural students each year. The Garden Art and Plant Sale is one of two major fundraisers that support the club's charitable endeavors. The club is celebrating its 80th year in 2012.



Concert/Performing Arts Venue Coming To Sugar Land

The Sugar Land Development Corporation and Sugar Land City Council approved on Aug. 7 a Letter of Intent with ACE Sugar Land, LLC, for the development of a future concert and performing arts facility. The agreement defines the terms of a public/private partnership for a 6,500-seat concert and performing arts facility in Sugar Land. The venue's proposed location is a 21-acre site near the intersection of U.S. Highway 59 and University Boulevard, an area that will include a larger mixed-use development within an area of Telfair identified for commercial, office and entertainment purposes. No time line has been set for completion of the project.

National Night Out

National Night Out is a community police awareness-raising event meant to increase awareness about police programs in communities, such as drug prevention, town watch, neighborhood watch, and other anti-crime efforts. While the rest of the country observes the event on the first Tuesday of August, Texas uses the alternate date of Tuesday, October 2, 2012, to avoid hot weather. Local neighborhoods will join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the annual National Night Out (NNO) crime and drug prevention event from 6-9 p.m.



Pretty In Pink Charity Event Slated For October 19th

Methodist Sugar Land Hospital and the Fort Bend Junior Service League have partnered with Breast Surgeons – Dr. Sandra Templeton and Dr. Kelly Dempsey to present Pretty In Pink – Town Square - a charity event benefitting Fort Bend residents in the fight against Cancer. 100% of proceeds donated will stay within the community to assist patients with personal costs associated with cancer. The event will take place at the Sugar Land Town Square on Friday, October 19, 2012 from 6 - 10 p.m. The Keynote Speaker will be former Central Fort Bend Chamber Alliance president and Breast Cancer Survivor, Gail Parker. She will share how her optimism helped her stay positive while battling breast cancer.

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 07/31/12 99.08% collected with \$180,625.72 total assets.

TOP 4 DEED RESTRICTIONS:

1. Lawn Maintenance
2. Mildew
3. Paint
4. Miscellaneous Items

CRIME PREVENTION-THINK LIKE A BURGLAR

Lucky me, this homeowner always leaves at 8AM and arrives home at 6PM. Never fails.
Cool...there is a key underneath the flower pot.



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- 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

SLMS Book Club

Students, are you interested in reading new books, learning about e-books, creating your own book trailers, and networking with friends? Stop by the library to pick up information about the SLMS book club, starting September 18!

Author Crystal Allen

Crystal Allen, author of the book, How Lamar's Bad Prank Won a Bubba-Sized Trophy, will be visiting 6th grade ELA classes in the library on Friday, October 5.

Book Fair

Southwest Book Company will host the fall book fair Monday, November 5 through Friday, November 9. Parent volunteers are needed! See Mrs. Hansen in the library to sign up.

Sugar Mill Elementary

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

Bluebonnet Reading Program

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

Barrington Place Elementary

Web site:
<http://www.fortbendisd.com/campuses/bpe/about.cfm>
Phone #: 281-634-4040

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LOWERING YOUR UTILITY BILL

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the typical American family spends over \$1,600.00 a year on utilities. Here's how to stay cool and keep utility bills reasonable:

1 Have a professional install extra insulation. This can be expensive, but it doesn't have to be, especially considering that attics and the areas around utility pipes can be some of the biggest energy escapes in your home. These areas are usually tucked out of sight anyway, so the insulation doesn't have to be pretty, it just has to be effective. Not only does it keep in warm air when it's cold, it keeps in cool air when it's hot.

2 Put the thermostat on a program. Give the air conditioner a break during the work day. Shifting the settings to allow higher daytime temperatures could cut the average household's electric bill by \$180 a year, according to Energy Star.



3 Sealing off gaps. Weather stripping, heat-safe tape, and caulk are the tools a home service professional can use to seal gaps in your home. The Department of Energy estimates that only 10% of air loss in a typical house comes from windows, whereas 15% comes from ducts and 13% comes from plumbing leading outside or to other uninsulated areas.

4 Change light bulbs. Swapping incandescent bulbs for compact fluorescents can cut a home electric bill. Changing an incandescent bulb for a CFL saves \$35 in energy costs over the projected 10-year life of the bulb. Not only do CFLs use less energy than conventional bulbs, but they also generate less heat.

5 Turn them off. To save money, do a nightly sweep through the house to make sure all your electric devices are turned off before you go to bed. It may be a pain, but the

savings from simply turning everything off can add up quickly. It takes about \$9 per year to run just one compact fluorescent light bulb through the night, \$21 for a conventional bulb and \$35 for a big ceiling fan on high. The savings can add up!

6 Avoid chores. The hotter the space, the harder an air conditioner must work to keep things cool. Limit the use of heat-generating appliances such as the oven, dishwasher and clothes dryer during the daytime hours when temperatures are hottest - that just makes more of a load for your air conditioner.

7 Maintain and clean your appliances. If your vents are caked in dust, they probably aren't running at their maximum efficiency. Likewise, replace or clean the filter on your air conditioner and consider having a professional drain the sediment from your water heater as often as their user manuals say you should. Appliances last longer when they're well-maintained, and it could reduce your utility bill as well.

8 Consider upgrading your appliances. Many state and local governments and some utility companies offer financial incentives for homeowners to upgrade their appliances to newer, more energy-efficient models. These incentives usually take the form of rebate checks for homeowners who can provide proof of purchase. To save money, you can find incentives offered by checking the online Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency at www.dsireusa.org.

Lastly, some utility companies offer a free home energy audit to customers. It'll clue you into areas where you could trim your energy use.

BOARD UPDATE (CONTINUED)

The Board is always looking for volunteers! If you have any time to spare and would like to lend a hand in your community please join us at our regular monthly meetings which are on the second Thursday of each month at 7PM. Please note that we are now meeting at the Sugar Land Methodist Church Room 608. Early reminder....our annual meeting is coming up and your participation is needed! Details to be announced in next month's newsletter.

Glen Laurel's Board of Directors.

YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS!

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



Section I
2015 Avana Glen



Section II
2210 Keeran Point Ct



Section III
14003 Imperial Canyon



Section IV
14206 Valley Bend Ct



Section V
14231 Silver Glade



Section VI
2307 Cool Springs



Section VII
13818 Blue Vista



Section VIII
13811 Blue Vista



The Reserve
13703 Saxony

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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Cindy Perez
cindy@glenlaurel.net

Secretary/Treasurer
Linda Le
Linda@glenlaurel.net

Property Manager
Terri Salter
tsalter@mascapi.com

SCHOOL NEWS

2012-2013 BPE Rainy Day Dismissal Procedures

A "rainy day dismissal" will be held if the following conditions are present.

1. Moderate to severe rain is present at 2:45 p.m. We will continue with a normal dismissal day if light drizzle or light rain occurs.
2. Anytime lightning occurs at 2:45.
3. The temperature is below 65 degrees and precipitation is present at 2:45.
4. Weather Watches or Warnings are issued for Fort Bend County at 2:45.

Parents are urged to take the initiative and monitor the weather forecast and make a plan before your student leaves for school. If appropriate, make sure you child is equipped with the necessary rain gear. Although the school will do its best to make sound decisions concerning dismissal, they cannot control the weather. All decisions about dismissal will be made at 2:45 for the safety and smooth dismissal of students.

In addition, the school requests that you avoid calling the school between 2:40 and 3:00 to change your child's route home. No changes in dismissal will be made after 2:40 p.m. If your child is a walker or biker, they must have a "Rainy Day Plan" on file with their homeroom teacher. Please make sure your child is aware of their "Rainy Day Plan".

LIFE INSURANCE: MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

By Vijay Kane

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month. It is time to perform an insurance checkup. Let's answer a few questions: Does your employer offer life insurance? Do you have your own life insurance policy? Is the death benefit adequate? What kind of policy do you own? Do you fully understand your contract? Is the beneficiary designation up-to-date?

If you have dependents, you should own a life insurance policy. It is a vital piece of the financial planning process. Studies have shown that most people are grossly underinsured. Death of a bread winner of a family at an early age can be financially devastating. Widows experience a lot of financial hardship because of inadequate life insurance on their spouses. It is a good idea to purchase a policy when you are young and healthy. Term policies offer maximum protection for the least amount of premium compared to Cash Value policies. For young families with small children, a 25 to 30 year level term policy can be adequate and affordable. The premium is guaranteed for the duration. By the end of this term, if your home is paid off, 401k and IRA accounts have large balances, net worth has grown, and children are no longer dependents, you can discontinue the policy.

Policies with Cash Value are called Whole Life, Universal Life, Variable Universal Life, Indexed Universal Life, etc. They are able to offer a guaranteed death benefit until age 120. They have a savings plan bundled with life insurance. The value of this savings account is called "Cash Value" which grows with time. Policyholders can take a loan from the Cash Value if necessary. They also have a Long Term Care rider available. Their premiums are several times higher than level term plans.



Another type of level term is called ROP TERM (Return of Premium Term). It offers a full return of all premium paid at the end of the term (15, 20, or 30 years).

Always shop around and compare plans and features. Work with experienced, independent insurance agents who represent several companies. The agent should work for you, not for the insurance company. For all life insurance policies, the Death Benefit amount paid to the beneficiary is free from federal income tax.

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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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**.

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