# Sugar Mill Connections

**4** JULY 2012

ISSUE

# Meetings

Meetings are held at: Sugar Land First United Methodist Church 431 Eldridge Road Sugar Land, TX 77478

Architectural Control Committee Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in Room 608.

Lake Committee Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in room 600.

Board of Directors Meetings are held the third Monday of each month in room 600.

HOA Annual Meeting is held the last Tuesday in March of each year.

For more information, please contact Terri Salter at MASC Austin Properties, Inc. at: (713) 776-1771 or tsalter@mascapi.com.



# From The Board:

The Board of Directors would like to thank John Randall for being a valued member of the Board of Directors and the Architectural Control Committee for many years! The Randall Family is relocating to New Territory and we are sorry to see them move on – yet we must thank them for their service to our community and are keenly aware that John and Kathleen will be a continuing model of service in and around the City of Sugar Land!

The Board has approved the continued renovation of the community fences. Fencing repairs and replacement are a large part of our budget each year. Damage to the fences from the elements are taken into account when we are budgeting for fencing - but there are other factors that effect our fences that we would like to bring to your focus: homeowner planted trees, shrubs, and vines near and on the fences. We would like to ask each resident to take the time to walk his or her fence line they share with the community fence. Please make sure that you can walk behind any shrubs or trees – the pressure from this vegetation causes damage to the fence and we ask for your cooperation in trimming. removal and maintenance of your side of the fence.

And now a word concerning the Architectural Control Committee or the ACC. The ACC is one of the more important committees for our community as the ACC restrictions are very complex. It is essential that the restrictive covenants or deed restrictions be enforced uniformly, fairly and consistently. All ACC meetings are open to all residents. Each resident received in their real estate closing package a copy of the Deed Restrictions and signed a paper confirming receipt of these documents and by signing that paper we all agreed to abide by these restrictive covenants. These covenants are designed to maintain the value and aesthetics of our community.

The ACC is a volunteer committee of fellow residents who dedicate themselves to reviewing

submissions from members so that the community retains its character and there are not changes to homes made that would adversely effect property values (for example, a daisy yellow house with fuchsia shutters or that whimsical oil can chicken). The committee should not be viewed as the "taste police" nor are they responsible for seeing that the approved changes abide by City of Sugar Land codes. All building additions, plumbing changes, swimming pools, etc. are subject to approval by the City of Sugar Land, – the ACC is responsible to see that the additions/paint color/landscape changes are compatible with the Deed Restrictions. If there is a violation of the Deed Restrictions by homeowners that have not been approved by the ACC, our property management company - MASC Austin Properties, Inc. will address the issue with the homeowners

The guidelines established in our community along with the deed restrictions provide that any change to the property that can be seen from the street or lake be submitted to the ACC for review. If a change to the property is NOT submitted to the ACC and violates the Deed Restrictions it can be costly and frustrating to everyone involved. When there is a violation of Deed Restrictions and MASC Austin Properties, Inc. sends a letter to the homeowner, the Board of Directors would like to ask for each residents understanding and compliance as we strive to make Sugar Mill the community that we all want it to be – secure, maintained and a great place to live.

The Fort Bend County Primary Run-off Election is scheduled for July 31st. Please participate in the electoral process and vote for the candidate of your choice.

Thanks,

Sugar Mill's Board of Directors

# Sugar Mill 2012 Pool Schedules

### 7TH STREET POOL

#### $\underline{06/04/2012 - 08/19/2012}$

MONDAYS	CLOSED FOR CLEANING		
Tuesdays	10:30 am - 8:00 pm		
Wednesdays	12:00 pm - 9:00 pm		
Thursdays	10:30 am - 8:00 pm		
Fridays	12:00 pm - 9:00 pm		
Saturdays	10:30 am - 8:00 pm		
Sundays	1:00 pm - 8:00 pm		
Exceptions:			

Exceptions:			
Monday	6/25/2012	CLOSED	
Tuesday	6/26/2012	CLOSED	

### LAKE CENTER POOL

06/04/2012 - 08/26/2012	
MONDAYS	10:30 am - 8:00 pm
Tuesdays	CLOSED FOR CLEANING
Wednesdays	10:30 am - 8:00 pm
Thursdays	12:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Fridays	10:30 am - 8:00 pm
Saturdays	12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Sundays	🔵 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm
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#### LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Saturday9/1/2012Sunday9/2/2012Monday9/3/2012

12:00 pm - 9:00 pm 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm 10:30 am - 8:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: TWO LIFEGUARDS WILL BE ON DUTY AT ALL TIMES POOL IS SCHEDULED TO BE OPEN

# To Your Health:

A report in Mental Health and Physical Activity, shows that people who get 150 minutes a week of moderate exercise (or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise) feel less fatigue during the day and sleep better at night.

Researchers studied 3,081 men and women between the ages of 18 and 85 to determine nighttime sleep patterns. Those who met these National Institute of Health exercise guidelines were less likely to report sleepiness during the day, less likely to experience leg cramps while sleeping, and less likely to have difficulty concentrating when tired. The doctors also concluded that those who were more active during the day fell asleep faster at night.

## Lake Committee June View of the Month!



Drum roll please! The June, 2012 Lake Committee View of the Month goes to Harry & Peggy Schippers, at 1210 Lake Estates. They will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Lowe's donated by Vicki Haislup with Weichert, Realtors-Wayne Murray Properties. Congrats Harry and Peggy!

### A Quilt Show-"Putting the Pieces Together"

The Coastal Prairie Quilt Guild presents a stunning patchwork and quilting experience. The show features 200+ quilts (judged and non-judged) on display. Viewers can meet guest artist Irena Bluhm and honored guild member Joan Nilsen. There will be special exhibits: the Quilts of Valor, the "Name That Tune" Challenge, and the Fairy Godmother Challenge. Miniature quilts will be on display for bidding or outright purchase.

For the first time there will be a scrapbook challenge. Shoppers will enjoy the merchants mall. "Interactive exhibits" beckon viewer participation, such as the Christmas tree ornament exchange. Place an ornament on our tree and take one in its place. The show is open to the public. Admission: \$8 for both days; \$6 if arriving by bus; \$6 for groups of 10 or more. This would be a great opportunity as an outing for seniors or stitchery groups... or anyone who enjoys handwork. Sugar Mill resident and guild member Rosemary Herron invites you to attend.

Location: Stafford Centre, 10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX From Friday, Sept 7 (10 am - 6 pm) to Saturday, Sept 8 (10 am - 5 pm). Free convenient parking. For more information about the show - visiting or exhibiting - visit the website cpqg.org or contact Marsha Yeager at: marshayeager@yahoo.com.

# Marion's Fishing Corner

A few lines about lines.

Have you been to the local tackle store and stood in the fishing line aisle? Wow. The selection is amazing. There are several different kinds of monofilament lines, several brands of fluorocarbon lines, and numerous brands of braided "superlines". Then you have a selection of "fused" lines and coated, or "co-polymer" lines. The list goes on and on. Each line is advertised as having it's own set of qualities or characteristics that make it your best choice. Some of the lines, especially the co-polymers, are said to combine the best qualities of several lines.

For the purpose of this article, I'd like to concentrate on the three basic types of fishing lines: original monofilament, fluorocarbon, and braided line. These are the most commonly used lines and I'd like to give my opinions on each.

Still the most widely used of all fishing lines, monofilament has been around forever. This is the most economical to purchase, and does a satisfactory job with most moving baits such as crankbaits, topwaters, and spinnerbaits. Mono has a considerable amount of "stretch" when setting the hook, which can sometimes be an advantage, and sometimes detrimental. On the plus side, the amount of stretch will sometimes allow a bass to engulf a crankbait a little deeper in it's mouth before the angler pulls the line tight. This can result in a higher hooking percentage. On the down side, that same amount of stretch can prevent the angler from getting a good, solid hookset when a fish hits the bait at the end of a long cast. Reduced sensitivity is also a result of a stretchy line. So does the good outweigh the bad? The fisherman will have to decide.

Fluorocarbon lines have become all the rage recently. This is a clear line, similar to mono, but with considerably less stretch. This translates into more sensitivity and stronger hooksets when working bottom-bumping baits like worms and jigs. Fluorocarbon is a dense line that actually sinks. This quality allows crankbaits to run a little deeper in the water column than when using other lines. Another advantage of fluorocarbon is the fact that it is virtually invisible under water. Many fishermen are adamant about being as stealthy as possible in their pursuit of the largemouth bass, and they feel more confident in a clear line that is not likely to be seen by their quarry. Whether or not gamefish are spooked by non-transparent lines is a hotly debated subject among avid anglers.

And finally, a few thoughts about my favorite, the braided "superlines". These lines have zero stretch, which makes them the most sensitive of all lines by far. I especially like braided line for all my slow-moving bottom baits. With these baits, feeling the bottom and feeling the cover that you are fishing is of utmost importance. The slightest "tap" is easily detected and transmitted through the rod to your hands. Getting a powerful hookset in deep water on a long cast is also a lot easier than with other lines. On the downside, braided lines are not transparent at all and are most visible under water. To get around this disadvantage, I like to tie about 36 inches of a quality fluorocarbon leader material to my braid, and then add my worm or jig to the fluoro. With this setup, I feel confident that I will not spook any line-wary bass. A simple uni-to-uni knot or improved Albright knot does an excellent job of connecting the two lines. Instructions for each knot are usually included in a new box of line.

So whatever is your style of fishing, there are lines out there that are made for it. Just do a little research and I'm sure you will find one that fits your needs.

Remember to CATCH AND RELEASE, because a bass is to valuable of a resource to catch just once.

# Good Luck, Marion June 2012

Article written by Marion Raska who has lived in Sugar Mill and fished on Misty Lake for over 18 years.

## Water Saving Tips From The City of Sugar Land

Install water saving showerheads An effective water saving showerhead should have a flow rate of 3 gallons or less a minute. Standard showerheads use from 5 to 10 gallons a minute.

Displacement devices in the toilet Several types of displacement devices can be used in toilets, but they should not be used in the newer, lower water use toilets that use less than 3.5 gallons per flush.

Install faucet aerators The standard faucet flow rate is 5 gallons a minute. A low flow aerator can reduce this flow to approximately 2.5 gallons a minute while still providing adequate water for washing and rinsing.

<u>Change water use patterns</u> The washing machine and dishwasher should only be used when fully loaded.

Examine personal water use habits Simply change water use habits for tooth brushing, shaving, washing hands or taking a shower. Instead of allowing the tap water to run continuously, run the tap only when rinsing.

Find and repair water leaks Leaks can easily account for 10 percent of water bills. Toilets are notorious for hidden or silent leaks because leaks are seldom noticed unless the toilet "runs" after each flush.

Use efficient outside watering practices Plant native vegetation. Water grass only when needed if grass springs up after being walked on it does not need water. When watering, water slowly and deeply. Water during early morning hours to minimize water loss by evaporation and discourage disease.

### City Of Sugar Land's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

Sugar Land residents are encouraged to participate in an update to the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan.

Residents may visit www.sugarlandtx.gov/pedbike to take a survey, provide feedback, complete an online mapping activity, sign up for e-mail updates and learn about future public meetings. The meetings are typically held at City Hall, 2700 Town Center Blvd. North.

The updated plan will identify a network of pedestrian and bicycle routes throughout Sugar Land. The intent is to utilize existing and future routes for both recreational and mobility-related purposes. Based on public feedback, the plan should address the following:

\* Identify origins and destinations

\* Determine where better connections are needed

\* Specify how connections should be made (i.e., on-street, off-street)

\* Identify preferred route types (i.e., trails, bike lanes, shared lanes)

\* Improve challenging crossings such as U.S. Highway 59, State Highway 6, U.S. Highway 90A, the Brazos River and the railroad.

Please consider providing your feedback to the plan.

# July Is National Grilling Month

With summer in full swing, it seems appropriate that July is "National Grilling Month." And in celebration, here are some safe grilling tips to ensure you and your family enjoy the summer grilling season safely.

Food poisoning leads to an astounding 300,000 hospitalizations each year, many in the summer months where the increased temperatures allow bacteria to grow at faster rates, increasing the chance of getting ill.

So, take the necessary precautions to ensure you don't become one of those statistics. Here are five barbeque basics that can help reduce your risk of getting a foodborne illness.

#### 1. WASHING HANDS

Wash your hands with warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds before and after handling any food to ensure your mittens are germ free and to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. By following this one rule you can dramatically reduce your risk of foodborne illness. Don't have a source of clean water available where you're eating? Bring along some hand sanitizer or wipes. It's just that simple.

#### 2. KEEP IT COOL

Don't take out food that needs to be refrigerated only to sit for an hour after you're done prepping other items. Keep perishable foods in the refrigerator until the very minute you need to use them. By doing so, you'll keep bacteria growth at bay and prevent potential illness.

3. RAW AND COOKED FOODS DON'T MIX At a family picnic or pool-side grilling party it's all about

being together with those you care about. But two things that should ALWAYS be separated are raw and cooked foods. Cross-contamination is a big culprit in foodborne illness so be sure to keep raw foods away from cooked and prepared food sources. Do this by



keeping raw meat, poultry, and seafood in separate containers and by using separate cooking utensils for raw and prepared foods. Also, avoid serving foods on plates or dishes that had raw food on it at any time. Instead, have a separate clean plate and utensils for foods that are ready to be served.

#### 4. KEEP TEMPERATURES IN CHECK

While you can't control those hot summer temperatures, one climate you can control is the climate that you're food is contained in. As a general rule, remember to keep cold foods below 40 degrees Fahrenheit and hot foods above 140 degrees Fahrenheit until served. To ensure these temperatures are met be sure to use a thermometer, have plenty of ice and a cooler to place cold items in as well as aluminum foil wraps and insulated containers for warm foods.

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### Sugar Mill's Board of Directors:

Name	Position	Contact #	Email Address
Bill Cure	President	281-491-9536	bill.cure@gmail.com
<b>Robert Sheffield</b>	Vice-President	281-242-0453	rsheffield81@comcast.net
Hank Ochel	Treasurer	214-293-4376	hank_ochel@me.com
Debra Blesener	Secretary	713-628-6991	debrablesener@gmail.com
Open	Asst. Secretary		
-	, ,		

**Terri Salter** 

**Property Manager** 

Sugar Land Dispatch 281-275-2525 Sugar Land Police 281-275-2020 Sugar Land Fire Dept 281-275-2851 Sugar Land City Hall 281-275-2700 Sugar Land Library 281-277-8934 Sugar Land Post Office 800-275-8777 Police, Fire, Ambulance 911 Sherriff's Department 281-341-4700 **Crime Stoppers** 281-342-8477 Kempner High School 281-634-2300 Sugar Land Middle School 281-634-3080 Sugar Mill Elementary 281-634-4440 Fort Bend ISD 281-634-1000 Animal Control 281-275-2596

MASC Austin Properties, Inc. 13726 Florence Road Sugar Land, TX 77498

# Testing Your Soil



Soil can be as dull as dirt. But for brilliant and bountiful plants, you'll want to test your soil's pH.

Here's how you can help your soil be the best it can be.

#### Good soil gives plants energy

Just like people must digest nutrients from food to grow, plants must absorb nutrients from soil to thrive. Soil pH and soil texture influence the types of nutrients that are available for plants to scarf up and use for energy.

#### What's with pH?

Soil pH measures its degree of alkalinity or acidity on a scale from 0 to 14. Most plants grow best in soil with a neutral pH of 7, which is more of a goal than reality.

Different nutrients are available at different pH levels. Luckily, plants have evolved to thrive in all kinds of soils. So whatever your soil's pH level, there are plenty of plants that would like to call it home. For instance: Azaleas and rhododendrons grow best in acidic soil. Hellebores and clematis perennials thrive in slightly alkaline soil. When you plant a garden, you have two options: Pick plants that thrive in the soil you've got (the easy way), or amend your soil to change its pH (more work).

713-776-1771 / TSalter@mascapi.com

#### The importance of texture

Soil texture determines how your soil retains water and nutrients. If nutrients leach out of soil, they won't be around to feed your plants.

Clay and soil rich with organic matter hold water and nutrients better than sandy soils, even though some plants, like cosmos and blanket flowers, prefer a sandy home.

The best soil is a happy combination of sand, clay, silt, and organic matter from leaves or compost. This combo provides plenty of nutrients and encourages healthy root growth.

#### How to test your garden soil

Garden centers and hardware stores sell DIY soil test kits for \$5-\$7, which will give you a rough idea of your soil's pH and nutrient levels. But the most accurate way to test your soil is to send a handful to your county or state soil-testing laboratory, which you can locate through your local extension agent. The report, which typically costs \$10, will reveal your soil's: pH levels of vital nutrients, percentage of organic matter and recommendations for soil amendments

#### How to transform your soil

Transforming soil is a very slow process. Figure a year to 18 months. And the only way to know for sure that your soil has changed is to test it again.

To make soil less acidic, spread pulverized limestone; or put your fireplace ashes to work and spread them throughout your garden.

To make soil less alkaline, dig in aluminum sulfate and sulfur, which you can buy at garden centers.

To make sandy soil less porous, add organic matter (compost, manure, old grass clippings) or humus from the garden center.

To leaven heavy clay soil, add lots of compost (gotta start that compost pile). Never add a lot of sand, because clay+sand+water = concrete-like soil.









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#### ARTHA'S TIPS AND TRENDS TO HELP MAXIMIZE HOME BUYING AND SELLING

#### GARDEN TRENDS

Home gardening has become more than a hobby for many Americans in recent years. These ideas from DoltYourself.com can provide some guidance on how to create or upgrade your own garden.

Edible gardens — According to the National Gardening Association, vegetable gardening rose 20 percent in 2010 from 2009. Salad-type vegetables such as radishes, lettuce and spinach are common, but many gardeners also grow crop vegetables like potatoes, corn, beans and squash. These are easy to grow, they only need watering and some weeding before harvesting, and they can be stored and served in countless ways.

Go organic - Many gardeners use non-chemical fertilizers such as compost, compost teas and animal manure to help plants grow. Inexpensive and easy to use, compost can be created from yard refuse and home vegetable peelings. Compost teas are made by steeping compost to create a tea-like substance and animal manure that's allowed to compost for a year provides nutrients.

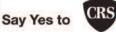
"Feel good" gardens - For some, gardens are a place for calm, quiet reflection. Water gardens include a pond or fountain to create a calm, serene environment, while sand or "zen" gardens are small enough to place on a desk or table and include different types of plants, rocks and sticks to mimic the natural environment.

Vertical gardens-New planting systems make it possible to insert vegetation into outside walls. Succulent plants are ideally suited to growing vertically since they often dwell on cliffs in nature and don't need much root space. Fruits like grapes and kiwi can grow along walls and fences. Some vegetables like beans, peas and some squashes can be trained up a trellis.

Whether used to grow food or to enjoy nature, gardens have evolved to reflect the changing lifestyles of American families.



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Source: Styled, Staged and Sold blog, Verticals and Horizontals, Inc





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Sugar Mill Specialist and Waterfront Specialist