

## New Newsletter Design

We've given our community newsletter a fresh new look!

### FOR RESIDENTS

Our newsletter is for you the residents. It is designed to help keep you informed and to continue fostering more and better communication within the community.

If you have content that you would like to have published in an upcoming edition or have suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Terri Salter at MASC Austin Properties, Inc. at: (713) 776-1771 or [tsalter@mascap.com](mailto:tsalter@mascap.com).

We hope you enjoy the new design!

Board of Directors



[www.sugarmillhoa.net](http://www.sugarmillhoa.net)

## President's Corner:

**2012 is well under way now, and by now I think most of us have developed a "Love/Hate" relationship with the new trash cans and recycling containers that the City of Sugar Land has provided for all of Sugar Land.**

We "Love" them because they are all covered, on wheels and large enough to hold a good volume of trash and /or recyclable material. The "Hate" part of the relationship comes from the simple fact that they are so big and harder to store than the previous trashcans and recycled material containers that we are used to using. In addition, since there is a brand new schedule for the associated pick up days for all of the materials picked up by the City, this makes the process of adapting to the change a bit more difficult.

Here are a few simple guidelines to follow:

1. Please be certain to follow the new pick up days and guidelines and place your trash and other items to be picked up out no sooner than 7:00 PM the night before the scheduled pick up day ( listed to the right)
2. Place the Grey Trash container and Green recycle containers in the street with their wheels touching the curb and the arrows on top of the containers pointing into the street.
3. Leave about 3 or 4 feet between the cans on the days when both trash and recycling are picked up.
4. Return the trash and recycle containers to a storage location that is out of site from the street as soon as possible after the pick-up crews have picked up the materials.
5. You may want to write your house address on the end side of the lid for each container to more easily identify them should they go floating down the street as many did three weeks back when we had the 6 inches of rain in an hour.
6. And, you might want to spend a few dollars and get some reflective tape to place on the trash and recycle containers. Both containers are a dark color that can be hard to see at night. The city folks tell me they have

### Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 27, 2012

At the First United Methodist Church in "The Venue" located at 431 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land, TX 77478.

already had at least one incident of a car hitting a trash can at night. The trash can had no damage, but the car had about \$1,500 in damage.

The new pick up schedule for all of Sugar Mill is:

Garbage: Mondays and Thursdays

Recycle: Thursdays

Green Waste: Mondays. No special container. Tree limbs should be cut to no longer than 4 ft.

Bulk Waste: First Wednesday

The city sent out a refrigerator magnet to all residents with this info along with the Holiday schedule of pick up days. See the table on page two for the 2012 holiday pick up schedule.

Please remember to move the trash and recycled material containers back to their storage location as soon as possible after the trash and/or recycled material pickup is completed. I think we all agree that having large green recycle containers or large grey trash containers sitting in residents drive ways or in front of the back yard fence makes the neighborhood look unattractive. Additionally, all 10 sections of Sugar Mill do have ACC restrictions about storing trash containers in sight from the street. Please comply with the ACC restrictions and get those new trash cans and recycled material containers out of sight when not actually in the street awaiting pickup.

Thanks,

Bill Cure  
President

## Paint Like A Pro:

A successful do-it-yourself painting project takes more than the right tools and a steady hand. Follow these tips to make your walls look like they were painted by a pro.

- Take your time. That's what the professionals do. Remember that proper prepping and cleanup can take longer than the actual painting.
- Use rubber-backed drop cloths to cover your floors. Old bed sheets and canvas cloths don't give complete protection.
- Store all hardware from outlets and switch plates in a baggie, and label with masking tape.
- When filling cracks in the baseboard with caulk, cut the tip of the tube smaller than you think it should be. Too much caulk can make a mess.
- Invest in high-quality woven roller covers. The cheap ones will leave fuzz on your wall and need to be replaced more frequently.
- To make a perfectly straight line with tape, invest in a tape machine.

Lastly, don't forgo primer. A good primer will seal stains, establish an even base and ensure that the topcoat goes on smoothly.



Although the weather in the area is still a bit chilly at times, it's time to start thinking about preparing your lawn for the upcoming season.

Spring lawns require extra care following chilly winter temperatures and dormant growth. It's also a critical time to take steps to insure a beautiful summer lawn. Fertilization, weed and pest control combined with proper mowing will stop problems before they start and keep your lawn looking its best. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

**Fertilization:** Fertilizer can help your lawn grow thick and lush, but if it's not used properly, it can actually damage the grass. A slow-release nitrogen fertilizer is best, and no more than 1

## Spring Lawn Tips

pound (0.45 kilograms) of nitrogen should be spread per 1,000 square feet (93 square meters). It should be applied early in the season when the turf begins actively growing. Fertilizer should not be applied too early or late, however, as lingering cold or early heat can stress the grass. Check the packaging to see when and how much you should water after applying the fertilizer.

**Weed control:** Apply a pre-emergent weed killer on lawns to prevent grassy weeds from germinating. Spring broadleaf weeds like dandelions and clovers are best prevented by maintaining a proper mowing height and fertilization. After a mild winter, annual weeds that germinate in the fall will be more visible and require higher levels of broadleaf weed control through herbicides. If you want to go organic, check out natural and effective options like Burn Out, (made from clove oil, vinegar and lemon juice) instead.

**Pest control/Disease repair:** Winters may increase the incidence of winter diseases. Proper cultural care is important in helping your lawn recover from stress related winter diseases. Properly timed fertilizer application and mowing at the recommended height for your grass type are two items that will aid in the recovery of your lawn.

**Mowing:** Contrary to popular belief, setting your mower at a very low height can actually increase weeds by exposing the soil surface to sunlight and removing stored nutrients in leaf blades. Warm season grasses like St. Augustine should be kept at 1.5 to 2.5 inches tall. Mow your lawn often enough so that you're only removing the top one-third of the blades. This places less stress on the grass, and the smaller clippings are able to decompose more easily. Avoid bagging these clippings; this added organic matter is actually quite good for the soil.

## Sugar Land's 2012 Holiday Trash Pickup Schedule:

<b>Good Friday</b>	Friday, April 6, 2012	Regular collection occurs
<b>Memorial Day</b>	Monday, May 28, 2012	Regular collection occurs
<b>Independence Day</b>	Wednesday, July 4, 2012	Regular collection occurs
<b>Labor Day</b>	Monday, September 3, 2012	Regular collection occurs
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	Thursday, November 22, 2012	Thursday's collection will occur on Friday. Friday's collection will occur on Saturday.
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Tuesday, December 25, 2012	Tuesday's collection will occur on Wednesday. All remaining days are regular collection.

## Kempner High School: AP Testing Information

**Parents and guardians of students enrolled in one or more AP courses at Kempner this year:**

**AP testing occurs May 7-18, 2012. The state of Texas each year dedicates money to help reduce the cost of AP tests for our students. The money the state set aside this year to assist families to reduce the cost of AP tests is less than previous years and so the cost of AP tests will unfortunately increase for our families.**

We want to inform you of this increase in a timely manner so you can budget accordingly. We know you do not want to sacrifice your child and our student's goals and aspirations and so timely information can help you prepare.

The cost of each AP test is below.

- Students not on free/reduced lunch: each tests costs \$90 Last year's price \$57
- Students on free/reduced lunch: each tests costs-\$30 Last year's price \$8
- Students not on free/reduced lunch and have not taken the course but want to take the AP test: Principal approval and pay \$90
- Students on free/reduced lunch and have not taken the course but want to take the AP test: Principal approval to take exam and to pay reduced fee of \$30
- Home school students will pay \$90

Please remember the AP Scholar recognition

which is beneficial for both our school and our students. Students who are AP Scholars have to take at least 3 AP tests and receive a score of 3 or higher on each exam. Again, we hope this timely communication can help you with budgeting for the cost of AP exams and help ensure that your child, our student is capitalizing on the hard work they have dedicated to their AP classes this year and it is reflected in their AP test scores.



Registration for AP tests will take place online March 1 thru March 9 until 3:00p. Late registration will take place March 9th after 3:00p through March 20th at 3:00 pm. Each late registration exam will incur a \$5 late fee. Students will be allowed to pay for their exams through Family Access and online registration will be configured to reflect this. Students who will pay the discounted fee will need to confirm their eligibility prior to paying for their exams.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our AP test coordinator, Mrs. Renee Edwards at 281-634-2390 or Renee.Edwards@fortbendisd.com

Anthony Indelicato and Renee Edwards

## New Community Website!

**Our new community website is now active!**

We've redesigned our website to give it a fresh look. On the new site, you will find sections for: news and updates, community documents, a neighborhood gallery, how to contact the Board and much more.

Check it out at [www.sugarmillhoa.net](http://www.sugarmillhoa.net)



From now until April 20th, SLMS will begin following a modified bell schedule in order to accommodate our tutorial plan. SLMS will have advisory two days a week on Thursdays and Fridays. We will follow a Regular bell schedule Monday – Wednesday and the Advisory Bell Schedule on Thursday and Friday. The times will not change, only the number of days that we will follow the advisory bell schedule.

It is our desire to accommodate as many students needing additional assistance with their academics as possible. Teachers have been working hard in order to prepare all students for the upcoming STAAR test and our tutorials will be offered to students who have been recommended by their teachers as needing extra support in specific subject areas based on data retrieved from pre and post assessments, unit tests, classroom and homework performance and the District Assessments that were given in the Fall.

We will hold tutorials during advisory, after school, as well as during the school day through certain class periods. If your child is asked to participate in one of these tutorials, he/she will receive a letter to take home. If your child is involved in after school tutorials, bus transportation will be provided. It is important that the letter, indicating that your child will be riding the bus, be signed with your approval and brought back to school.

If you should have additional questions, please do not hesitate to call the school. 281-634-3080.

Thank you,  
Lisa Padron  
Principal/SLMS

## Community Garage Sale March 24th

### Sugar Land Methodist Church

Spring cleaning might be more fun if there's a monetary reward. Market your gently-used 'wares' at Sugar Land Methodist's annual Community Garage Sale. This year the sale will be held from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 24th in the Great Hall and the Great Hall parking lot. Proceeds from the sale of booths benefit the ministry and missions of the church's youth choir, One Voice. Booths must be purchased ahead of time through the church office. After that, just set up shop, rake in the sales and put the proceeds in your pocket.

Don't like the merchant end of the garage sale business? Donate your items and help a great cause. Profits from the sale of donated items also benefit One Voice. You may bring your donated items to the Great Hall beginning Thursday, March 22nd. Pick-up of large items can be arranged.

It's the biggest sale in town! If you don't have items to sell or donate, remember what they say about 'one man's trash'! Come on out and dig for treasures while helping One Voice Choir raise money for their outreach on Saturday, March 24th. For more information contact One Voice Choir Director, Kip Johnson at 281-491-6041 or visit the church website at: [www.sugarlandmethodist.org](http://www.sugarlandmethodist.org).

Contact:  
Connie Harris, receptionist  
281-491-6041  
[connie.harris@sugarlandmethodist.org](mailto:connie.harris@sugarlandmethodist.org)

## A Summer of Kid-Friendly Fun is Just Ahead At Sugar Land Methodist



**Join the Sugar Land Methodist family as it embarks on another action-packed summer. Your child will not only be safely entertained, but he or she will find new friends and learn about God's love while attending the following activities. Sugar Land Methodist is located at 431 Eldridge Road. For more information on any of these programs you may visit the church website at [sugarlandmethodist.org](http://sugarlandmethodist.org) or call the Director of Children's Ministry, Dena Lee at 281-634-8957.**

### **Vacation Bible School: June 11-15 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Dive in and discover God's underwater universe! Kids will journey into God's Word to find what true faith is all about. By diving deep, kids will: depend on God; choose to follow; dare to care; claim Jesus; change the world! Rotations include: Storytelling, Crafts, Snack, Recreation and Music. VBS is for children ages four years through fifth grade (by 9/1/2011), or younger if a parent volunteers. Cost: \$15. For more information visit [www.sugarlandmethodist.org/children](http://www.sugarlandmethodist.org/children).

### **Pine Cove Base Camp @ Sugar Land Methodist: July 2-6 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

A base camp is where kids start a journey. After five days with some of the most fun and exciting college students in the country, your child will be energized for the upcoming year and ready for his or her own spiritual journey. Campers will experience Jesus through Bible study, worship, and time with their counselors, as well as participate in plenty of great camp activities. This action-packed week is planned for children who have completed Kindergarten through fourth grade. Cost: \$225. For more information visit [www.pinecove.com](http://www.pinecove.com).

### **Faith Studios Summer Camp: July 23-27 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

This is a special camp just for the young ones! This camp is hosted by the School for Little Children and many of its specially-trained teachers are leading it. The camp will include storytelling, drama, science, mini gym and music. Children ages Pre-K by 9/1/2012 through first grade are invited to experience this exciting week. Cost: \$125. For more information visit [www.schoolforlittlechildren.com](http://www.schoolforlittlechildren.com).

### **S.M.A.C.K. (Summer Music & Arts Camp for Kids): July 23-27 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

S.M.A.C.K. Camp is an exciting week of music and art-related activities designed to introduce children to Bible stories. Children who have completed first through sixth grades are invited to participate. The children take part in music, drama, art, Bible study and other activities as they prepare a musical to be presented to parents and friends at the end of Friday's session. Cost: \$25. For more information visit [www.sugarlandmethodist.org](http://www.sugarlandmethodist.org).

### **Camp Yahweh: Each weekday all summer long (excluding the week of July 2-6)**

Camp Yahweh is a Christian Summer Day Camp that provides a safe, nurturing, and exciting place where children that have completed Kindergarten through fifth grade can spend the summer. Our goal is to offer a consistently high-quality program that serves both the children and the parents. Cost: \$150/week. For more information visit [www.theparc.org](http://www.theparc.org).

Contact: Connie Harris, receptionist, 281-491-6041 or via email at: [connie.harris@sugarlandmethodist.org](mailto:connie.harris@sugarlandmethodist.org)

# Important Numbers

## Sugar Mill's Board of Directors:

Name	Position	Contact #	Email Address
Bill Cure	President	281-491-9536	bill.cure@gmail.com
John Randall	Vice President	281-313-4716	john16329@msn.com
Hank Ochel	Treasurer	281-293-4376	hank_ochel@me.com
Robert Sheffield	Assistant Secretary	281-242-0453	rsheffield81@comcast.net
Open Position	Secretary		

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

Terri Salter  
Property Manager  
713-776-1771

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

## Marion's Fishing Corner:

Matching your tackle to your quarry:

We've all heard the expression "that's like rabbit hunting with an elephant gun". Well, the same reasoning holds true when choosing your fishing tackle. Properly matching your tackle to the kind of fish you are pursuing can make for a much more enjoyable outing. If it's perch or panfish that you are after, there are numerous "light action" or "ultralight action" rod and reel combos on the market just for this. They usually feature shorter rods (5 to 6 feet in length), that have considerably more bend, or "action", and handle light line and small baits quit well. Even small fish put up a very respectable fight when they are not overpowered by heavy tackle.

For bass fishing, medium to medium heavy rods are most commonly used.

These rods have more powerful actions and are better suited for wrestling larger sized fish out of thicker cover. These rod and reel combinations are adapt at handling heavier line, such as 12 to 20 pound test, and bigger artificial baits. Medium action rods are great for "moving" baits such as crankbaits, spinnerbaits, and topwater plugs. These type baits have exposed hooks, so it takes less force to penetrate a fish's mouth. Medium to medium heavy rods are primarily used for "contact" lures like plastic worms and jigs. These rods have less flex and are more suitable for this type bait because the hook points are either buried in the body of the bait (as with plastic worms), or covered by a weedguard (as is the case with jigs). More force is required to achieve a good hookset.

In my opinion, the most

enjoyable aspects of fishing are the "thump" of the strike, the feel of a good hookset, and the thrill of the fight back to the boat. Then there is the satisfaction of releasing the fish and knowing that someone else might enjoy that same experience. So the next time you are out on the lake, give some thought to what size or species of fish you are most likely to encounter. Match your tackle accordingly, and give that fish a chance to give you a good, hard fight. For me, that's what it's all about.

Remember, a bass is too valuable of a resource to catch just once.

Good Luck,  
Marion  
January 2012

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

## Neighborhood Watch Program



Sugar Mill Block Captains are simply the best!! They are caring people, who report any suspicious activity to the police.

Because of this the crime in our neighborhood is minimal. Being a Block Captain is rewarding and effective. Sections One and Two need Block Captains, so consider becoming a Block Captain for the New Year!! Contact [peggy20@hotmail.com](mailto:peggy20@hotmail.com) if interested.

Our tips for this month are;

1. Keep streets clear to help emergency vehicles to reach areas especially in cul de sacs.
2. Give your house key to a trusted neighbor.
3. Keep cars locked and items inside cars hidden to prevent breakins.



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- Have You Gotten One of **THOSE** Letters from Your HOA?
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Vicki Haislop

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## BE IN THE KNOW *about* COLORECTAL CANCER

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**FACT:** Colorectal cancer usually does not present symptoms in its earliest stages.

**FACT:** Early screenings can translate into saved lives.

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Methodist Sugar Land Hospital - Conference Center

To register: call 281-274-7500 or email [SLRSVP@tmhs.org](mailto:SLRSVP@tmhs.org)

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## Grow Your Business!

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For more information, call:  
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## MARTHA'S TIPS AND TRENDS TO HELP MAXIMIZE HOME BUYING AND SELLING

### THE DEBT PAY-DOWN

If your New Year's resolution was to reduce debt, several strategies can help accomplish that goal. But before implementing any strategy, understand the terms of various debt agreements, including any penalties for prepayment. Also, consult with a professional tax or accounting professional suggest experts with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

**Make minimum payments.** Credit card companies require borrowers to pay the minimum balance. Paying less than the minimum can result in penalties, increased interest rates and default.

**Make additional mortgage payments.** To pay down the principal amount faster and reduce total interest paid, consider making additional payments. By paying one-half of the regular monthly mortgage payment every two weeks, for example, you will make the equivalent of 13 monthly payments for the calendar year and reduce the total interest on the loan.

**Pay off higher-interest-rate debts first.** After making the required minimum payments for each debt, allocate any extra dollars to the debt with the highest interest rate. Or:

*Pay off the lowest debt amount first.* According to financial expert Dave Ramsey, paying down the lowest balances first, regardless of interest rate, gives borrowers a sense of accomplishment. As each small debt is paid off, it becomes easier to stay motivated to pay down larger debts.

**Consolidate loans.** It may be possible to pay off multiple high-interest debts by getting a debt consolidation loan, which is often offered at a lower interest rate.

Finally, avoid tapping into a 401K, emergency fund or equity line of credit to pay down debt. Once debts are paid off put away credit cards, and pay cash for what you need most. With patience, vigilance and a sound action plan, cash-strapped borrowers can learn to live debt-free.



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### Did You Know?



To silence squeaky doors, apply a dab of olive oil to a cloth, then wipe the top of the hinges so the oil runs down the sides.

Source: Real Simple Magazine

Do you know someone who is thinking about buying or selling a home? Please mention my name.

This newsletter is for informational purposes only and should not be substituted for legal or financial advice. If you are currently working with another real estate agent or broker, it is not a solicitation for business.

Sugar Mill Specialist and Waterfront Specialist