

From The Board:

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 at 7:00PM.

Lake Committee Meetings
are held the second
Tuesday of each month in
room 600 at 6:30PM.

Board of Directors
Meetings are held the
third Monday of each
month in room 600,
(unless otherwise noted)
at 7:00PM.

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.



www.sugarmillhoa.net

Time is certainly “Marching” on! There are so many things happening this month that we want you to be informed and active in these activities.

March 10 – Spring forward – time change
March 11-15 – Fort Bend ISD Spring Break
March 12 – Sugar Mill HOA ACC Meeting
March 18 - Sugar Mill HOA Board Meeting
March 29 – Fort Bend ISD Holiday

March 26 – Sugar Mill Homeowner’s Association Annual Meeting 7PM. Great Hall Sugar Land First United Methodist Church. There will be one (1) Board position available for a three-year term, with Hank Ochel running for re-election.

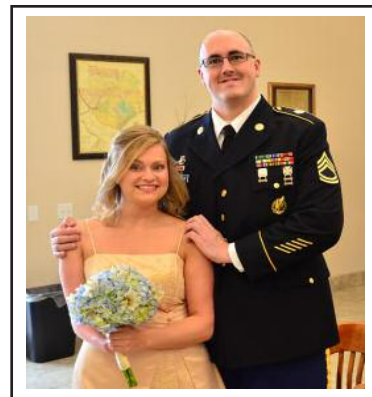
At the Annual Meeting, we must have a quorum in order to conduct the meeting. Please mail your proxy to MASC Austin Properties when you receive this important letter in the mail. Even if you plan on being in attendance at the meeting we would ask that you send in the proxy – your attendance will void the proxy – but if you happen to not make the meeting we will still have quorum. In the event of not meeting the quorum requirement we will have to reschedule the Annual Meeting at great expense to the Association which is then passed on to you in your dues.

A word from the Board Secretary – by Debra Blesener

Last year, after serving on the ACC meeting, I was asked to fill a vacancy on the Sugar Mill HOA Board of Directors. I had previously been on a City of Sugar Land Board and BOD in a townhome community in another city and after that experience I truly thought about this question, “Why serve on a community board?” The pro and con list was extensive because being on any Board, serving any community or volunteering is a

time consuming proposition. There are phone calls, e-mails, meetings and a few headaches with sleepless nights struggling with budgets, emergency repairs, angry people and very little thanks.

So why did I agree to put myself in this position? Simple – Sugar Land has been my home for 42 years – Sugar Mill my community for the last 24 of those years.



Holly and John

My daughter grew up, left for college, came back to live in Sugar Land before getting married last month. The truly remarkable part of that story is that she married her best friend from around the corner’s brother.

Holly and John reconnected about three years ago becoming friends and falling in love. We hosted a reception in the backyard where the kids had played for so many years and it was one of those special moments that only happens when a family puts down roots.

It is also a shared sense of community and like experiences that Holly and John will take into their lives. There have been times when I have disagreed with decisions made by the City and the HOA BOD but reflecting on the decisions made and the outcomes achieved – the ones I disagreed with have

(continued on page 2)

Board Update (continued)

really been good ones and I have been the one to change my opinion.

I have promoted the motto "change is good" in my life – but when it actually comes to someone else making a decision that I do not like I too struggle with change. However, I always give the change time and look at it from all angles.

The conclusion is that there are others as concerned about making Sugar Land as great a place to live as I have always been. As I was sitting at the railroad tracks waiting for a long train to pass, I had time (more than I wanted) to look around and say to myself – I am so blessed to live here, despite annoyances and delays there is no other place I would rather be! I hope that everyone in Sugar Mill believes that too!

Thanks,

Sugar Mill's Board of Directors

A Legendary Past, Preserved For The Future

The Sugar Land Heritage Foundation was formed in 2008 with the goal of preserving the historical artifacts, documents, and photographs that trace the evolution of the community from its early days as a sugarcane plantation into its modern era as one of the fastest growing cities in Texas. Today, the Foundation works with Sugar Land companies and residents to assemble, document, preserve, and exhibit a collection of Sugar Land's remarkable history.

The Foundation operates a Museum that is open every Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The museum is currently housed in the old Engineering and Personnel Building at 198 Kempner, right next to the iconic 1925 Char House. Admission is free, and features such treasures as artifacts from Imperial Sugar Company, video presentations, maps, and aerial photographs of Sugar Land. Volunteers are on hand to tell you more about Sugar Land and its evolution from a company town to the incredible city it is today.

An informative docent led walk is featured the second Saturday of each month. On March 9th, the walk features a tour of Sugar Land's oldest building; the Auditorium. You will hear about the restoration of this treasure and of its historic and cultural significance. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12-18 and children under 12 are free. The walk begins at the Museum, promptly at 10:00 and lasts about an hour and a half.

To learn more about the Sugar Land Heritage Foundation, please visit the website at www.slheritage.org.

Hold The Date Sugar Mill's Annual Meeting



The annual meeting of the Association will be held on March 26th at 7PM in the Great Hall at Sugar Land First United Methodist Church.

Important Notice About Pets In The Community

It has come to the HOA's Board of Directors and MASC Austin Properties attention that dogs are becoming a problem in our neighborhood. All dogs and cats must be contained either by fencing or leash - please be aware of where your pets are at all times and do not allow them to run freely - this is a danger to residents and small children. Also, please pick up after your pet - it is the neighborly thing to do! Note: Enforcement of pet rules are the City's jurisdiction. The HOA has no jurisdiction. Violators should be reported to the City.



Community Notices

Missing street and stop signs

There have been several street signs and stop signs removed from their posts in Sugar Mill. This is a crime - if you see someone removing the signs, please call the Sugar Land Police Department. The Sugar Land Police Department is stepping up patrols in our area - but homeowner's are still the eyes and ears of the police. Please observe your surround-

ings, lock your doors and call the Police if you see any suspicious activity. Be careful and aware of your surroundings and possessions.

Pull over

The Sugar Land Police and Fire Department want to remind you that "When you see lights (as in Police or Fire vehicles) pull to the right!"



Sugar Land Earth Day Celebration Slated For April 20

Marion's Fishing Corner

Getting Ready for Spring -

At the time that I was writing last month's article, we were experiencing nighttime temps in the 30's and daytime temps in the upper 50's. Currently, we are having nighttime temperatures in the low 60's and daytime highs near 80. These yo-yoing air and water temps can sometimes be very stressful on our largemouth bass. The female bass in Misty are already heavy with eggs, and they know that the opportunity to spawn is very close. Once the shallow water temperatures hit the 63-65 degree mark and stay there for a few days, they will move to the bulkheads and start choosing spots to fan nests. Whatever happens from this point on, usually depends on the weather.

If the weather during this period remains relatively stable, the bass will "commit" to the spawn. The nest area will be cleaned, the eggs will be laid and guarded. After a few days, the newly hatched fry will be protected by the male bass until they are mobile enough to swim away from the nesting area and seek cover for protection from predators.

But if the weather during this period does not remain stable and a severe cold front were to blow in, it is possible that the bass would actually abort their spawning efforts and leave the shallows. If the cold front is severe enough and lasts several days, the females could actu-

ally give up on the spawn for that year altogether. In this rare case, the eggs that the female is carrying can be absorbed back into their bodies. As stated, this is rare but it can happen. Luckily, Mother Nature has prepared for this instance. Largemouth bass actually spawn in "waves", meaning that not all of the females move shallow at the same time. Many fish will remain deeper as the first females attempt to spawn. This way if the first group should be interrupted by the weather or water conditions, the next groups might have better luck a little later. Each year, bass have multiple opportunities to have a successful spawn. Nature provides.



Although I'm sure that we will have more cold weather this winter, Spring is just around the corner. Let's all remember that our brood fish are most vulnerable during the

upcoming season, so catch and release is even more important than ever. Let's preserve the future of our fishery. We should protect our investment.

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

Good Luck, Marion

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

Sugar Land's Earth Day Celebration – called Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rock – will be held April 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Activities will begin at Mercer Stadium, 16403 Lexington Blvd., with a recycling collection event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Items accepted will include household electronics, paper for shredding, clothing and household goods for reuse.

The recycling collection event will follow these guidelines:

- Residents must remain in their vehicles at all times.

- Walk-ups will not be accepted.

- City staff will remove items from vehicles.

- Residents will not be able to watch their documents get shredded.

- Containers used to transport items and papers will not be returned.

In addition, grant funds from the Houston-Galveston Area Council and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will allow residents to dispose of batteries, oil, paint, antifreeze and fluorescent light bulbs during the recycling event.

Environmental activity booths and performances are planned at Sugar Land Town Square from 2-6 p.m. Enjoy eco-friendly displays and demonstrations, interactive games and educational booths from local organizations. For more information, contact (281) 275-2450.

Reminder About Flag Display Guidelines

The Board determined that in connection with maintaining the aesthetics and architectural harmony of the subdivision, and to provide clear and definitive guidance regarding the display of flags in the community, it was appropriate for the Association to adopt guidelines regarding the display of flags within the subdivision. To view the community's flag guidelines, please visit Sugar Mill's website at www.sugarmillhoa.net and click on the Documents tab and then click on "Flag Display Guidelines". These guidelines were approved by the Board on March 19th, 2012 and were effective upon recording in the Public Records of Real Property of Fort Bend County and supersede any guidelines for the display of flags which may have previously been in effect.

Sugar Land Among Safest Cities in America

Sugar Land, TX – Sugar Land was recently named America's 20th Safest City, a distinction based on an analysis of FBI crime statistics. The distinction makes Sugar Land the second safest city in Texas.

The national ranking is included in the annual publication of City Crime Rankings 2012-2013: Crime in Metropolitan America, a report published by Washington-based CQ Press to spotlight crime comparisons in U.S. cities and metropolitan areas. The publication's authors have compiled state and city rankings books for more than two decades.

Sugar Land Police Chief Doug Brinkley credits a strong police presence, community partnerships and a commitment to technology for Sugar Land's low crime rate.

Several ongoing police initiatives continue to address property crimes, including a partnership with retail districts and neighborhoods to encourage the use of cameras for security purposes. SLPD has also created a task force that focuses exclusively on burglaries, shopper safety and public

education.

A departmental focus on technology such as license plate recognition provides officers important crime-fighting tools. Technology also allows officers to more effectively utilize their time to focus on important initiatives. As an example, red light cameras have resulted in a 15 percent reduction in red light violations and allow police officers to focus on other important efforts, such as special teams to focus on burglaries and other areas of emphasis. According to CQ Press, the incidence of crime is of real concern to millions of Americans, and the rankings help them better understand what is happening in their communities.

The CQ Press rankings of the safest and most dangerous cities and metropolitan areas are calculated using six basic crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. These categories have been used for determining city ratings since 1999. The rankings include all cities of at least 75,000 residents that reported crime data to the FBI in the categories noted.



Sugar Land's CAST Program

Would you like to participate in an exciting program offering citizens an opportunity to help SLPD make Sugar Land safer?

The Sugar Land Police Department's Community Assistance Support Team (CAST) is a volunteer group comprised of Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association members who provide support for major incident response, patrol, victim services and police training. CAST members travel in specially marked cars with warning lights and wear distinctive clothing, including polo-style shirts with CAST logos.

CAST Volunteer Opportunities

- Patrol Duties
- Patrol Support
- Emergency Response
- Fingerprinting of Citizens
- Child Safety Seat Inspection
- Any other duty approved by the Assistant Chief of Operations
- The Chaplain program is also under CAST

Training

In addition to 12 weeks of training in the Sugar Land Citizens' Police Academy, volunteers receive six hours of classroom training and eight hours in the field.

For more details, contact the City's Crime Prevention Unit at (281) 275-2578.



10 A.M. – 3 P.M.
Recycle Collection Event at Mercer Stadium

ITEMS ACCEPTED INCLUDE:
household electronics ■ paper for shredding
clothing ■ household goods for reuse
BOPA (Batteries, Oil, Paint, and Antifreeze)

2 – 6 P.M.
**Environmental Activity Booths and Performances
on the Plaza at Sugar Land Town Square**

**Sugar Land
Earth Day
Celebration**
Saturday, April 20



For more information, please contact (281) 275-2450 or www.sugarlandtx.gov/solidwaste.

Important Numbers

Sugar Mill's Board of Directors:

Name	Position	Contact #	Email Address
Bill Cure	President	281-491-9536	bill.cure@gmail.com
Robert Sheffield	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
Jared Maxson	Asst. Secretary	832-622-3461	jaredmaxson@hotmail.com

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

Terri Salter
Property Manager
713-776-1771 / TSalter@mascapi.com


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

Fort Bend County Alert System

While the FBC Alert system is not a real-time alerting system, it does provide rapid text notification and updates during a major crisis or emergency. FBC Alert delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates on a range of devices including your: E-mail account, mobile phone, Blackberry, iPhone or Smartphone.

When an incident or emergency occurs, authorized Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management personnel can notify you using this community alert system. FBC Alert is your personal connection to updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact and other important information.

FBC Alert is available to citizens of Fort Bend County as well as individuals traveling to or working in the county. Sign up now to receive alerts and emergency notifications. All alerts are also posted to our Facebook and Twitter accounts. For more details, visit fort-bendcountytx.gov.



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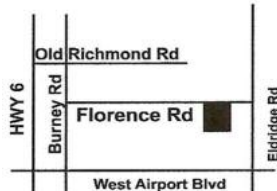
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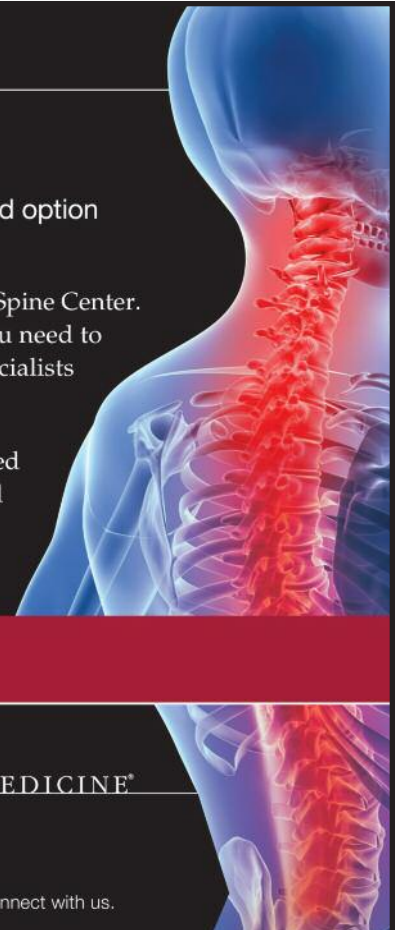
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MARTHA'S TIPS AND TRENDS TO HELP MAXIMIZE HOME BUYING AND SELLING

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Color Splash

Let's face it, a home with four white walls can be boring. To create more visual interest, experts at Pittsburgh Paints' Voice of Color blog offer some suggestions for sprucing up your home with color.

Paint the ceiling. The ceiling is an integral part of the room, so give it some attention. If the wall color is light, paint the ceiling the same color. For dark-colored walls, choose a paint color that is one or two shades lighter than the walls. To accentuate a beautiful light fixture, paint the ceiling red, gray or chocolate brown.

Choose the right white. With so many subtle tones and hues available, finding the right white to frame fabrics and furnishings can be difficult. Warm or creamy whites can make a room more inviting while white mixed with a tint of color creates a soft, sub-

dued echo of the room's dominate color.

Choose your paint color last. Select furnishings, window treatments and bedding first, then match your paint color to them. Hold color swatches against furnishings, not against a white wall. You'll get a clearer idea of which paint colors will work best.

Create accent walls by painting one wall a darker color. The accent wall should be the focal point of the room, such as a wall with a fireplace, a set of windows, a piece of artwork on display, or where your bed is located.

Accentuate the size of small rooms and hallways. Light colors can make small rooms seem bigger, but deep, warm colors can accentuate its coziness and give the room more personality. Hallways will appear larger too when one wall is painted a darker color. Add color to unexpected places. Paint the staircase wall leading to the basement a sharp, contrasting color, or use different colors for the backs of shelves to help showcase items on display.



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Sugar Mill Specialist and Waterfront Specialist