

FEBRUARY 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

February is here and we are already in the second month of the new year and spring is right around the corner. Things in our area are changing fast!

The surface water treatment plant on Voss Rd. at Burney Rd. is under construction. The widening project of Burney Rd. is still in the design stage. This project will expand Burney Rd. to a four lane road from Voss Rd. to Florence Rd. And there are several projects that are on-going or planned for our regional airport just across Hwy 6.

The minor league ball park currently under construction now has a name, Constellation Field. Opening day is scheduled for April 26th and you can purchase season tickets or 8 game ticket plans to see the Skeeters on their website <http://sugarlandskeeters.com>.

The Skeeters have announced a **Job Fair** to fill part-time game day positions for the 2012 baseball season. It will be held **Saturday, Feb. 11**, at the Fort Bend Christian Academy Gymnasium located at 1250 Seventh Street, Sugar Land, TX 77478 and will begin promptly at 8 a.m. Positions include bat boys and girls, parking attendants, concierge, playground attendants, scorekeeper, public address, camera operators, concession workers and more. If you are going to attend the job fair you are asked to pre-register by filling out an employment application form located online at www.SugarLandSkeeters.com and email it to employment@sugarlandskeeters.com. Pre-registering will allow for faster processing on the day of the job fair. For more information, please contact the Skeeters at 281.240.4487.



In case you haven't noticed, on Saturday mornings there is a Farmers Market open at the Imperial Sugar Factory located at Highway 90 and Brooks Street. Hours are 9 a.m to 1 p.m. year round, rain or shine.

In this new year we ask that you become active in the decisions and activities in your community by volunteering to serve or chair a committee. We are only asking for a small amount of your time to help out our neighborhood. Monthly meeting are on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., homeowners are always welcome to join us. If you can spare any time to volunteer please e-mail Terri Salter at tsalter@mascapi.com.

Reminder! Annual assessments were due on January 31st and are now past due. If you have not paid yet, please do so as soon as possible in order to avoid any late charges and other penalty fees. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your assessments please contact the board of directors or Terri Salter with Austin Properties at 713-776-1771 or tsalter@mascapi.com.

Thanks,

Glen Laurel HOA 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/campus/khs/default.cfm>

Phone #:281-634-2300

February activities:

February 11 – KHS Market Day (garage sale) KHS parking lot, 7AM–1PM

February 15 – FAFSA (College Financial Aid) Night, auditorium, 6:30PM

February 20 – Presidents Day Holiday

February 17 & 18 – Band solo & ensemble

Girls Soccer

2/3 @ Bush

2/7 vs Clements

2/10 @ Austin

2/14 @ Travis

2/17 vs Dulles

2/21 vs Hightower

2/24 @ Elkins

2/28 vs Willowridge

V. Boys Soccer

2/3 @ Bush

2/7 @ Clements

2/10 vs Austin

2/14 vs Travis

2/17 @ Dulles

2/21 @ Hightower

2/24 vs Elkins

2/28 @ Willowridge

Girls Basketball

2/2 Travis @ WFH

2/6 Clements @ WFH

Boys Basketball

2/4 Elkins @ WFH

2/7 Austin @ WFH

2/11 Marshall @ WFH

2/14 Hightower @ WFH

(continued on page 4)

HOW TO PAINT LIKE THE PROS

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



Preparation

- 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.
- For an extra-professional touch, smooth down drywall - no matter what shape it's in - with a drywall pole sander. If your walls are plaster, gently sand the necessary areas with a dry sanding sponge.
- Don't forgo primer. A good primer will seal stains, establish an even base and ensure that the topcoat goes on smoothly.

Painting

- Don't open your paint can with a screwdriver, as it can damage the lid. Instead, use a lid opener. Many hardware stores will give these away for free when you purchase paint.
- Always stir the paint with a long wooden stick (usually available at the store for free) until all the sediment on the bottom has been mixed in.
- Use a nail to tap four small, evenly spaced holes in the lip well of a paint can. This will allow extra paint that's trapped in the rim to drip down.
- Don't submerge a brush into the paint more than one-third of the way, or you'll clog the base of the bristles, making clean up more difficult.
- Apply a coat of paint to the backside of the light switch plate in the room. After it dries, jot down all the project details - date, paint brand, name, number of gallons required, number of coats applied and any other relevant information.

Clean up

- Don't waste time cleaning if you're going to be painting the next day. Place rollers and brushes in Ziploc or plastic bags and store them in the fridge. Make sure you allow them to return to room temperature before reusing.
- If the store didn't do this for you, dab some paint on the lid to help you identify the color later. Write the name and number of the paint on the lid with a marker.

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 12/31/11 99.03% collected with \$189,142.87 total assets.

TOP 4 DEED RESTRICTIONS:

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

CHILI COOK OFF ON THE SQUARE



Join in for a Mardi Gras themed Chili Cook Off at Sugar Land Town Square on February 18th from 2:00-5:00pm. Proceeds will benefit the Fort Bend Rainbow Room.

Come sample Fort Bend's best chili recipes and vote for your favorite chili. For more details visit: www.sugarlandtownsquare.com.

Need Legal Help?

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

Don't do it alone. Let me help you with these and other legal issues.



Legal representation when it matters most...

Your Glen Laurel Neighbor

281-271-8595

www.MeeksLawFirmLLC.com
245 Commerce Green Blvd. Ste. 110
Sugar Land, TX 77478



Damon Meeks
Attorney,
Mediator,
Arbitrator

Children's Haven

DAYCARE

LEARNING CENTER

- Serving ages 4 weeks and up
- After school programs
- Free hot meals
- Low child to teacher ratio
- Spacious Classrooms and playground
- Age appropriate curriculum
- Clean, safe and educational environment
- Seeing is believing
- Pre-K program offered
- Owner operated

13511 Florence Rd
Sugar Land, TX 77498
281.240.1173



\$20 Off With This Ad! \$20 Off With This Ad!



Top Quality self-storage at competitive prices serving Sugar Land, Meadows Place and Stafford since 1999. Conveniently located between W. Airport Blvd. and W. Belfort

- Easy Access
- Open Lot parking
- Boxes/Moving Supplies
- Temperature Controlled units
- Enclosed or Covered Boat & RV Spaces
- 18-wheeler access in selected areas
- Conventional Storage with convenient drive-up locations in a wide variety of sizes

2555 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land, Texas 77478
Phone: 281-494-7867 + Fax: 281-494-8110
Email: southweststorage1@yahoo.com

\$20 Off With This Ad! \$20 Off With This Ad!

\$20 Off With This Ad! \$20 Off With This Ad!

\$20 Off With This Ad! \$20 Off With This Ad!

Simpson's Tree Service



Proudly Serving Fort Bend for 19 Years!

FREE Estimates



- Tree trimming
- Tree removal
- Senior citizen discount

(281) 980-0095

SimpsonsTreeService.com

\$50 OFF All services over \$500 with coupon only
\$25 OFF All services under \$500 with coupon only



SCHOOL NEWS

Sugar Land Middle School

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-3080

February activities:

February 20 – Presidents Day
Holiday

Titan Tutorials:

Monday/Wednesday 8:15 –
8:45 AM

Every day in Advisory 8:50 –
9:20 AM

Sugar Mill Elementary

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-4440

February activities:

February 20 – Presidents Day
Holiday

Every Friday is Sparkler Spirit
Day – wear your school spirit shirt

Barrington Place Elementary

Web site:

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

Phone #: 281-634-4040

February activities:

February 20 – Presidents Day
Holiday

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

February 13 – 6PM, FBISD
Administration Building, 16431
Lexington Blvd.

(continued on page 6)

TAKING CARE OF YOUR HOME'S FOUNDATION

With the past years drought and this year's rain it is important for you to inspect your homes foundation for any potential problems. By following an easy check list you can identify a potential problem before they become a very costly repair.



First check the exterior of your home for indications of the following:

- √ Doors that will not open or close properly
- √ Gaps at the corner of fascia trim
- √ Diagonal cracks in the wall at corners of doors and windows
- √ Gaps between the garage door and the pavement at either side of the garage door
- √ Windows that are hard to open and close
- √ Cracks in the exposed grade beam of the house
- √ Cracks in bricks and mortar

Check the interior for indications of the following:

- √ Unlevel Floors
- √ Large cracks in the concrete slab
- √ Gaps above kitchen cabinets
- √ Cabinet doors that will not stay shut
- √ Diagonal cracks in the wall at corners of doors and windows
- √ Curling and tearing of existing sheetrock repairs
- √ Leaks and cracks in and around the fireplace

Exterior or interior indications of foundation problems could be caused by either settlement or upheaval.

Note that some damage is strictly "cosmetic" damage that does not interfere with the foundation's load bearing capacity. These "cosmetic" items could be cracks in floor tiles, cracks in sheetrock, etc. A qualified foundation repair contractor or a structural engineer can help you determine if the problems you are faced with are cosmetic or will require foundation repair.

Tips for Maintaining a Foundation

In dry periods the soil adjacent to the foundation should be watered to maintain constant moisture. Proper watering is critical as the purpose is to keep the soil water content next to and under the foundation at approximately the same moisture content. The use of a soaker hose is most often the best solution and the soaker hose should be used 24" to 36" from the house. Don't wait too long before watering. If cracks have already occurred in the soil, in many cases starting a watering program at this time is too late.

Drainage- it is very important that ground surface water drains away from the foundation. Surface water should never be allowed to collect around the foundation. Annually inspect the ground from the foundation out at least five feet immediately following a rainstorm. If there is water ponding against the foundation this situation must be corrected by re-grading the area. Downspouts

(continued on page 5)

FOUNDATION...(CONTINUED)

should be directed away from the house and the water should discharge 3-4' away from the house at a minimum.

Vegetation- Understand the types of trees you have planted near your home. Certain trees have extensive shallow root systems that remove water from the soil. It is suggested that trees be planted no closer than their ultimate height. Plants with large, shallow root systems can grow under a shallow foundation and, as the roots grow in diameter, produce an upheaval in the foundation beam.

Observation- during times of excessive moisture changes you must inspect your foundation and note movement signs that signal a

problem. Don't let early warning signs go unnoticed. Call an expert and find out if you have a problem that should be corrected. Not all problems are disastrous. They may only be a signal of something that can be corrected with increased watering or root barriers at a tree.

Acting early can save you money.

More helpful information on foundation basics, maintenance, inspection and tips on how to hire a foundation repair contractor can be found at:

www.foundationrepairnetwork.com

Thanks to Foundation Repair Network for this helpful information.

BECOME A STINGRAY

Swimming is great exercise and the Covington Woods Stingray Swim Team provides a fun-filled atmosphere for swimmers to work hard and fulfill their potential in a super sport.

Who can be a Stingray?

For swimmers 4 years through 18 years (must turn 4 by May 31, 2012)(must not turn 19 before May 31, 2012). All swimmers are required to swim the length of the pool. If you are a new swimmer to the team, be prepared at the March 31 and April 14 registrations to

swim the length of the pool. Registration will not be accepted for a new swimmer without that swimmer crossing the length of the pool in front of coaches.

Registration dates are Monday, March 26 from 6:00pm-9:00 pm at the CW Clubhouse, Saturday, March 31st from 9:00am-Noon at the CW pool, and Saturday April 14th from 9:00am-Noon at the CW Pool.

For more information, please visit: www.cwstingrays.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)

GL Homeowners Association
Board of Directors

President
Cindy Perez
cindy@glenlaurel.net

Vice-President
Carter Boone
carter@glenlaurel.net

Secretary/Treasurer
Linda Le
Linda@glenlaurel.net

Property Manger
Terri Salter
tsalter@mascapi.com

RE/MAX® ELITE



Call Jutta - 281-799-0410

Jutta Miskow, Realtor GRI CNE ASP
Remax Elite
281-799-0410
Fax: 281-271-8147
Email: JuttaMiskow@Earthlink.net

HOME VALUES

According to Realty Times, the normal appreciation rate on a home is 6.5 percent a year. It's one of the only investments you get to enjoy and personalize during the entire time of your investment.

SCHOOL NEWS

Feb 25 - 06:30 PM, 19th Annual Fort Bend Education Foundation Gala; Sugar Land Marriott Town Square

Education Expedition

On Saturday, March 24th, the Fort Bend Education Foundation will host its 9th annual bike ride, The Schlumberger Education Expedition. Whether you are training for the all-important BP MS 150 or just wanting a great day with friends, we provide you with a quality ride!

Riders take off at 7:30 am from Ken Hall Stadium (located at Hightower High School in Missouri City) to wind through quiet streets and into the countryside before looping back home. There are 3 routes to choose from ranging from 11 to 79 miles. New short route & start!

Rest stops are themed and staffed by students & teacher volunteers from FBISD high schools vying for the "Best Rest Stop" award. You will be entertained along this ride! SAG wagons are on the course to assist you with any needs. Stay and enjoy a scrumptious lunch with your friends after the ride.

The ride is a BP MS150 Recommended Ride and all proceeds benefit the Education Foundation. The Fort Bend Education Foundation provides opportunities to enrich and enhance the quality of education for all FBISD students through its Grants to Teachers and Schools programs.

For more information, visit: www.fbisd.com.

CERTAINTY OF UNCERTAINTY IN 2012

By Vijay Kane.

How did your stock portfolio perform in 2011? How has it performed since 1999? Was it a frustrating experience? Most mutual fund accounts had a very small growth in value. The 2 major stock indexes DJIA and S&P 500 Index were unchanged.

For 2012, the level of uncertainty is very high. Growth in USA and Europe is expected to be 2%. A wave of baby boomers is entering the retirement phase. US debt is at an all-time high and growing by the hour. Will USA be in the same league as the PIIGS countries (Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece, and Spain)? The Debt to GDP ratio for all these countries is very high. 70% of GDP in the US is consumption.

If consumption slows, the economic recovery will slow down. If crude oil prices go up, it will slow the growth. Stocks of major banks have lost 80% value in 5 years. Technology stocks also have lost a lot of value since 1999.

The first decade of this century is considered the lost decade. Will we have a repeat performance for the second decade?

How can we make sound investment decisions with such lack of visibility? Investing in stocks could be a double-edged sword.



It is

time to be cautious and conservative. Interest rates paid by bank accounts and CDs are at an all-time low. Interest rates for annuities have also dropped. In the past 10-12 years, Indexed Annuities have performed better than mutual funds and CDs.

We can still get 3% interest in short term fixed annuities. When CDs come up for renewal, consider fixed annuities. They are very safe. Annuity accounts are protected by the Texas Life and Health Insurance Guarantee Association. The cap for the total amount of assessment for each account was \$100,000. In April 2011, the governor signed Texas Bill SB 567. The bill raises the amount of the cap from \$100,000 to \$250,000.

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.



Your Neighbor,
Your REALTOR

Carrie Lam

Realtor® Associate
Fluent in Chinese

832.278.1723

carrielam@heritagetexas.com
www.carrielamrealtor.com
14100 Southwest Freeway, Suite 245
Sugar Land, Texas 77478



SMARTER KIDS

There are lots of inexpensive ways to develop engaged and more creative children. Some ideas: Have a kids' dictionary. Encourage them to look up words and read definitions to you. Create a spot for them to solve jigsaw puzzles, which builds visualization skills and memory. Build a puzzle library. Challenge them with crossword puzzles, mazes and brain teasers.

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:

- ☞ Digital Mammography
- ☞ Breast Ultrasound
- ☞ Breast MRI
- ☞ MRI Guided Biopsy
- ☞ Ultrasound Biopsy
- ☞ Stereotactic Biopsy

A special thank you to the Fort Bend Junior Service League members who are the faces of our Women's Health Campaign.

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.

Methodist Methodist
Sugar Land Hospital
Breast Center

LEADING MEDICINE®

16655 Southwest Freeway • Sugar Land, Texas 77479
281-242-PINK (7465) • MethodistSugarLand.com

**DREAMING OF BETTER THINGS?
SELL US YOUR CAR!**

There's an easier way to sell your car.
WE PAY MORE. WE PAY TODAY.
Fast. Easy. Fun. Yes! It's true. Sell Us Your Car!

 **TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM**

Published by Prepared Publications, Inc. To advertise or for more information, contact Prepared Publications at (281) 652-5802, info@preparedpublications.com, or at: P.O. Box 2191 Missouri City, TX 77459.



STEPHEN RENTZ
Realtor




www.REMAXFine.com

4500 Highway 6 South Sugar Land, TX 77478
Cell: 281-330-4154 Fax: 281-275-5055

Website: www.stephenrentz.com
each office independently owned and operated

J. Lambert AC/HEAT
TACLB 26715E

Ken Immel
Service and Installation



713-816-0910
Sugar Land, TX
kimmel72@yahoo.com

Find more information online at: www.glenlaurel.net



KIDZZ ZONE
Academy & Daycare

- Quality Day Care
- Specialized Programs
- Hot Meals Served
- Owner with 14 Years Experience
- Early Childhood Program Offers Diverse Developmental Experiences
- Excellent Summer Programs

Hours: Monday - Friday 6:00am - 6:30pm

281-776-9800
12336 West Airport Blvd. Ste. D
City of Meadows, Tx 77477

FREE
Registration
+
FREE
Week

With coupon only. Free Week valid on 5th week
Expires 2/28/12



A good realtor is just not easy to find!

- *Free Market Analysis!*
- *Buying and selling real estate experience for over 15 years!*
- *Full time agent with professional quality service you can count on!*

To sell your home fast and at top price, call Anna now!

ANNA YE 713-818-0891 RE/MAX United 

Email: properties@annaye.com Website: www.annaye.com