

## 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.

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.

It is hard to believe that the summer is almost over and school begins on August 27. The Board is beginning to work on the 2013 budget - it is a busy time for everyone. Please see the pool schedule posted in this newsletter and use the facilities to enjoy summer while at the same time tiring those kids out and trying to get them on the school schedule.

We would encourage all of our residents and guests to remember to take all valuables out of parked cars -last week one of our residents had their car broken into at the Lake Center Pool - don't let this happen to you - take all valuables out of the car before you lock it.

We would like to discourage everyone from feeding the ducks in the lake - this is not good for the ducks or the lake.

The City of Sugar Land has successfully routed traffic onto Hwy. 6 during the ballgames. Stadium Drive is closed off from Burney Road during game times. It makes it a bit longer for Sugar Mill residents to get to and exit the game - but it has kept traffic off our neighborhood streets. The City is working on a curfew for the fireworks and there will more information on that when it is established.

Driving around the neighborhood there are still residents who have not heeded the advice to store their trash/recycle bins out of sight. The storage of these receptacles in sight - from the street or the lake - is a violation of Deed Restrictions and residents will be receiving letters about these violations. The Board has a sincere belief that residents will do the right thing when given the time to do it but we feel this period of grace has been sufficient. There are also residents who are not removing their bins from the street in the City mandated times - if you are going to be out of town, please ask a neighbor to remove your bins from the street. If you have an elderly or infirm neighbor please reach out to them and offer to help them taking the bins in or out! There are times when

there is too much trash in the bins for the lids to close - the trash contractor will NOT empty these cans - here again please ask your neighbor if there is room in their bin for a bag or two of your trash! Neighbors helping neighbors has always been an amenity of Sugar Mill that is priceless!

We still have a Board position that we need to fill! Please consider serving your community in this way - if you are interested, please contact any Board member and we will be happy to answer your questions!

Once again, school starts August 27th for Fort Bend ISD. Please be extra careful and aware while driving in school zones. We have included some of the more significant school calendar dates for the remainder of the year below. A full calendar is available at [www.fort-bendisd.com](http://www.fort-bendisd.com).

**August**  
27 .....First Day of School

**September**  
3 .....Holiday/Labor Day

**October**  
11 .....Elem Parent Conf. & Early Release  
19 .....End of Nine Week Period

**November**  
21 - 23 .....Holiday/Thanksgiving Break

**December**  
18 - 21 .....Exams  
20, 21 .....Early Release - MS/HS students only  
21 .....End of First Semester  
24 - 31 .....Holiday/Winter Break

Thanks,

Sugar Mill's Board of Directors



# Sugar Mill 2012 Pool Schedules

## 7TH STREET POOL

Now Thru 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

## LAKE CENTER POOL

Now Thru 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

### LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Saturday	9/1/2012	12:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Sunday	9/2/2012	1:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Monday	9/3/2012	10:30 am - 8:00 pm

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

## Lake Committee July View of the Month!



Drum roll please! The Misty Lake View of the Month for July goes to Mark and Anne Johnson, 14014 Drakewood Drive. They will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Home Depot donated by Vicki Haislup, Weichert, Realtors-Wayne Murray Properties. Congratulations Mark and Anne!

## 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 & 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.

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the United States, exceeded only by heart disease. The cost of treating and diagnosing cancer is a financial burden for many people. Reducing the barriers to cancer care is a fundamental step in eliminating suffering and death from cancer.

Pretty In Pink – Town Square will take place at the Sugar Land Town Square on Friday, October 19, 2012 from 6 - 10 p.m. At this family-fun event there will be live music, kid's activities, booths and the famous Pink Fire Truck. Be sure to be there at sun-down, to light up Town Square pink in honor of all cancer survivors.

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.

## Reminder: Replace Air Filters

Your cooling system is the biggest user of energy in your home. So it only makes sense that it should run as efficiently as possible. One of the most important parts in this system is the filter because all of the air that is distributed throughout the duct work of your cooling system has to go through the filter at the return air grill. A dirty filter restricts air flow, makes your cooling system work harder and will end up costing you more money each month. Here's how simple filter replacement is. Look at your existing filter to get information about the correct size, drop by your local home center and pick up another filter of the same size. Place the new filter right back into position, close the grill and it's ready to go. Changing the filter regularly will ensure the system is operating as efficiently and inexpensively as possible.

## Marion's Fishing Corner

Improving fish habitat -

A few years ago, the Sugar Mill Lake Committee embarked upon a fish habitat improvement program. It had become obvious that we would probably never have any kind of aquatic vegetation growth in Misty Lake. With the bottom of the lake being relatively featureless and flat, our fish have few places to hide and/or ambush food. Nor do the newly spawned fry have a secure place to conceal themselves until they have grown enough to fend for themselves. Most of the fingerling bass are then eaten by larger fish, resulting in a considerably less successful spawn. With this in mind, we decided that it was time to add some type of "structures" to the lake floor in order to provide more cover for our fish.

In recent years, several members of the committee have gotten together on a Saturday to assemble and place structures in strategic areas of the lake. These structures have consisted of discarded Christmas trees, recycled automobile tires, and plastic PVC pipe. After these structures are submerged for a while, algae grows on the limbs

and surfaces. This provides a food source for small baitfish. This in turn attracts larger fish and completes the entire food chain. So fish of all sizes benefit from these structures.

Our fish habitat improvement program continues on, so we will be adding to the structures in the near future. The more places that we have for our fish to seek sanctuary, the better. With the total absence of weed growth in the lake, the addition of these manmade structures can only help improve the condition and overall health of our fish population and help keep the predator/prey relationship in balance.

Remember: Catch and Release. Because a bass is too valuable of a resource to catch just once.

Good Luck, Marion  
July 2012

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

Sugar Land's new Online Town Hall may be the perfect tool for people who want to participate in city government, but may not have time to sit through hours of public meetings waiting for their chance to speak.

Recently launched on the City's website at <http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/onlinetownhall>, Online Town Hall is easy to use and allows Sugar Land citizens to share ideas and perspectives on specific topics impacting the community and its future.

During the registration process, residents will be asked for their names and home addresses. This confidential information is used only to identify statements from residents in Sugar Land so that users know which statements are from local residents. Personal information will not be used or shared in any other way.

Once subscribed to the forum, participants will be able to make inquiries and offer comments in a message board format. Sugar Land plans to post questions on a routine basis.

Online Town Hall is run by a third-party vendor that moderates Sugar Land's forum to broaden civic engagement. Personal information submitted during registration will remain confidential and used only for this purpose. The company's in-house software and staff authenticate every participant and restrict each participant to only one comment per topic to ensure everyone is able to share their opinion in a civil, respectful environment.

Learn more at <http://www.sugarlandtx.gov/onlinetownhall>.

## Sugar Land Skeeters August Schedule

<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Date and Time</u>
Somerset Patriots	Wed, Aug 1 2012 at 7:05 PM
Somerset Patriots	Thu, Aug 2 2012 at 7:05 PM
Lancaster Barnstormers	Fri, Aug 10 2012 at 7:05 PM
Lancaster Barnstormers	Sat, Aug 11 2012 at 7:05 PM
Lancaster Barnstormers	Sun, Aug 12 2012 at 6:05 PM
Lancaster Barnstormers	Mon, Aug 13 2012 at 7:05 PM
Lancaster Barnstormers	Tue, Aug 14 2012 at 7:05 PM
Lancaster Barnstormers	Wed, Aug 15 2012 at 7:05 PM
Bridgeport Bluefish	Fri, Aug 24 2012 at 7:05 PM
Bridgeport Bluefish	Sat, Aug 25 2012 at 7:05 PM
Bridgeport Bluefish	Sun, Aug 26 2012 at 6:05 PM
Bridgeport Bluefish	Mon, Aug 27 2012 at 7:05 PM
Bridgeport Bluefish	Tue, Aug 28 2012 at 7:05 PM
Bridgeport Bluefish	Wed, Aug 29 2012 at 7:05 PM



## Sugar Land Is Gator Country

Most Texans who live in “gator country” will live in close proximity to these native reptiles with no confrontations; however, there are occasions when certain alligators become a “nuisance” and must be handled by the proper authorities.

Nuisance alligators include those that kill livestock or pets or threaten human health and safety. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is the only authority that may label an alligator a nuisance because of their protected status.

Sugar Land residents should be watchful of alligators, snakes and other wildlife along the City’s many natural waterways.

**Please remember that alligators are most active between dusk and dawn when they are feeding.**

To report a nuisance alligator, citizens should contact their local TPWD game warden at (281)842-8100. Citizens may also contact Sugar Land’s Public Safety Dispatch at (281) 275-2020 or Animal Services at (281) 275-A-DOG for alligators under 6 feet in length on private property such as swimming pools or in roadways. When faced with a life-threatening situation, citizens should immediately call 9-1-1.

## Sugar Land Methodist Offers Alpha Course



Explore the meaning of life: Sugar Land Methodist offers the Alpha Course in September

Do you wonder if God is real? Is your list of questions concerning life, faith and the universe getting longer every day? Ever felt like discussing these issues with people who have similar thoughts? Sugar Land Methodist will offer the Alpha course for 12 weeks beginning Sunday, September 9th. Alpha presents the opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting.

Sessions will begin with a complimentary meal, followed by a short talk and discussion time. During the discussion, everyone is welcome to contribute his or her opinion and no question is considered hostile or too simple. Questions might include, “Is there a God?” “Why am I here?” “Why does God allow suffering?” “What about other religions?”

The Alpha Course began at Holy Trinity Brompton in central London in the late 1970’s. There are now more than 60,000 courses run in 169 countries. Across the globe, an estimated 18 million people have attended, coming from all backgrounds, religions, and view-

points. They range from regular church goers to those who have never been to a church service. They come to investigate questions about the existence of God, the purpose of life, the afterlife, the claims of Jesus and more. Some people want to get beyond religion and find a relationship with God that really changes life. Others come for the close, long-lasting friendships that are built during the course.



The community is welcome to join the Alpha journey on the campus of Sugar Land Methodist this coming fall. The church is located at 431 Eldridge, just north of Highway 90. Attendance is free. Pre-registering is helpful but not essential. Childcare will be available to those registering in advance. To register or acquire more information on Alpha, please contact Erik Gragert at 281-491-6041 or [erik.gragert@sugarlandmethodist.org](mailto:erik.gragert@sugarlandmethodist.org), or refer to the church website, [sugarlandmethodist.org](http://sugarlandmethodist.org).

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# Important Numbers

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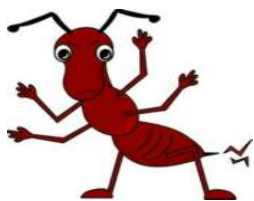
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Bill Cure	President	281-491-9536	bill.cure@gmail.com
Robert Sheffield	Vice-President	281-242-0453	rsheffield81@comcast.net
Hank Ochel	Treasurer	214-293-4376	hank_ochel@me.com
Debra Blesener	Secretary	713-628-6991	debrablesener@gmail.com
Open	Asst. Secretary		

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Terri Salter  
Property Manager  
713-776-1771 / [TSalter@mascapi.com](mailto: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

## Dealing With Fire Ants



Fire ants were accidentally imported from South America in the 1930s and quickly began

spreading throughout the southern United States. If you've ever been bitten by them you know how these little red ants got their name. They are extremely sensitive to movement or vibration and sting--en masse--when a person swats them. Fire ants' nests are mounds built in soft soil, about 18 inches in diameter.

While fire ants are a nuisance, they are probably here to stay. But you can use some good lawn maintenance practices to control them and prevent problems without resorting to toxic chemicals.

■ **Diatomaceous Earth.** A natural silica dust that kills ants--but not the entire colony. It also loses its effectiveness in humid or wet conditions.

■ **Pyrethrin.** A botanical insecticide that kills ants on contact. It can be used in conjunction with diatomaceous earth for better results.

■ **Baits.** Most effective organic baits are those that contain the compound "spin-

osad." This compound is also used in concentrated formulas in a garden spray or to drench a fire ant mound.

■ **Boiling Water.** Effective in killing up to 60 percent of fire ants in a mound. But it kills surrounding plants and grass, too.

### Some "Natural" Methods May Not Work

There are "natural" methods of fire ant control circulating around cyberspace that don't seem to work, according to the Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Project. Those tips include pouring two cups of club soda directly into the center of a fire ant mound to kill the colony. While that may drown some fire ants, it does nothing to eliminate the colony.

### How do I eliminate fire ants from my yard?

There is no single, easy answer for every situation. Most people with more than a handful of mounds (5 ant mounds per 1/4 acre yard or 20 per acre) will be satisfied with just using a bait. Other methods may be more suitable for smaller lots, where greater control is required or where fewer ants occur and native ant preservation is

desired. Remember, no method is 100% effective all the time, though some come close, and no method is permanent. The ants will re-invade, with new colonies probably appearing after the next rain, and certainly within a year.

### We tried using baits, but they don't seem to work.

Baits work well if they are used properly. The thing to remember is the ants collect the bait as a source of food. Putting the bait out at the right time of day, and at the correct rate (usually 1 to 1 1/2 lb/acre but varies by product and formulation) is critical. If the ants are not actively foraging, they will not pick up the bait.

The best times to apply bait applications occur between 65 and 95°F - generally mid-morning after the dew has evaporated, or late afternoon on hot days when the air begins to cool.

Apply a small amount of bait or other food lure such as a potato chip in the area to be treated. If ants are all over it within 45 to 60 minutes, the bait is fresh and the ants are foraging! Always read and follow closely the directions provided on the product label before using any pesticide.



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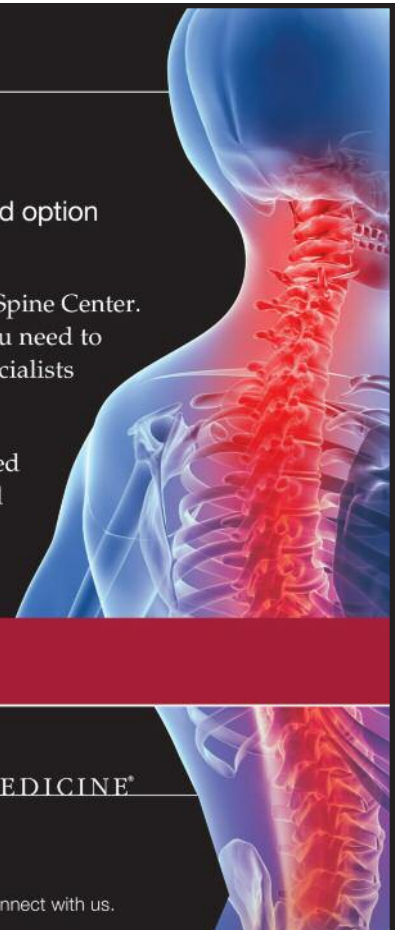
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# MARTHA'S

TIPS AND TRENDS TO HELP  
 MAXIMIZE HOME BUYING AND SELLING



## NOISE CONTROL

For many homeowners, the days of hearing the neighbor's radio through paperthin walls are gone. But noise can still be a problem, even under your own roof. Lower the decibel level in your abode with some ideas from TLC.

First, find out how sound travels in your home with one simple step. Turn off the lights in one room while leaving the rest of the

lights on in surrounding rooms and look for any light that's peeking through the walls. If light can travel through, so can sound. Use acoustical caulk, available from most hardware stores, to seal off these hidden cracks between walls, ceilings and floors. Put carpet or rugs on higher-level rooms to reduce the noise traveling to lower floors.

To help reduce noise in other rooms, in-wall insulation can help, but it requires cutting holes in the walls. For an easier fix, buy wall coverings that have soundproofing capabilities and repaint them to match your décor, or hang noisecontrol curtains in the room. The most time and cost-intensive fix — but also one of the most effective — is to replace standard windows with double-paned ones, which greatly reduce noise.

Don't forget the outdoors. Block off sounds from the street by placing heavy shrubbery and evergreens with large leaves near doors and windows. And consider ornamental fountains for a more welcoming sound.



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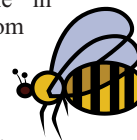


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### <<< Fast Fact >>>

One in five people in the U.S. suffer from allergies or asthma; common allergens include pollen, dust mites and insect bites.



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