Sugarmill

Connections

FEBRUARY

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 Austin Properties at: (713) 776-1771 or tsalter@mascapi.com.

We hope you enjoy the new design!

Board of Directors



President's Corner:

Love/Hate Relationship with new trashcans

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 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 un attractive. 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.



Even in the cold season, there are still things you can do to maintain your winter lawn. Of course, winter lawn care is nowhere near as extensive as what's required in the summer, but there are certain tasks that will ensure a healthy lawn come spring. Basically, winter lawn maintenance entails establishing optimal conditions for your lawn to green up and start growing when the weather warms. If it's the end of the season and you're wondering how to proceed, here are some great winter lawn tips to get you started.

• Remove debris. Get rid of any large piles of leaves, twigs, and other debris that may have collected on your lawn. When left to slowly rot over the course of the winter, these elements can

Winter Lawn Tips

actually suffocate the lawn, invite pests, and contribute to mold and other diseases as well.

- Give it a good mow. By early winter, your grass will most likely have gone dormant with the advent of cold temperatures. Before the colder temperatures hit, give your lawn one last good mow, slightly lowering your cutting height from what you've been using all summer. Grass that's left too long invites all kinds of problems come spring, as it can trap moisture, leaves the lawn vulnerable to diseases, and can even end up smothering itself. However, take care not to go too short, as scalping can kill a lawn and exposed crowns can perish in extreme conditions.
- Apply a final fertilization. This is an important winter lawn tip, as proper fertilization can set the stage for earlier greening come spring. Since lawns are dormant over the cold season, the nutrients will not be used immediately, but will rather be stored in the root

system, ready to use once the weather begins to warm.

- Get rid of weeds. Weed seeds will happily overwinter and reappear stronger than ever come spring. By eradicating weeds ahead of time, you reduce any springtime competition for water and nutrients, resulting in an overall healthier lawn
- Water one last time. This is good to do in conjunction with your final fertilizer application. The extra water will activate the fertilizer and help it to settle in the soil.
- Break things up.
 Dethatching and aerating
 help break up compacted
 soil. This allows fertilizer
 nutrients, sunlight, and air to
 better infiltrate the soil.

Caring for a winter lawn primarily consists of taking preventative measures to ensure a healthy turf come spring. By taking these steps, you can help establish a lawn that's better able to endure the harsh conditions that winter so often brings.

Sugar Land Holiday Trash Pickup Schedule:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 16, 2012	Regular collection occurs
Good Friday	Friday, April 6, 2012	Regular collection occurs
Memorial Day	Monday, May 28, 2012	Regular collection occurs
Independence Day	Wednesday, July 4, 2012	Regular collection occurs
Labor Day	Monday, September 3, 2012	Regular collection occurs
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 22, 2012	Thursday's collection will occur on Friday. Friday's collection will occur on Saturday.
Christmas Day	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, a sign-up form for email communications, and much more.

Check it out at www.sugarmillhoa.net.



Sugar Land Middle School

Titan Tutorials

Beginning, February 2 –April 20, 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. Pickup 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.

Contact:
Connie Harris, receptionist
281-491-6041
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 sugarland-methodist.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.

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.

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.

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.

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: \$125/week. For more information visit www.theparc.org.

Contact: Connie Harris, receptionist, 281-491-6041 connie.harris@sugarland-methodist.org

Spring Maintenance:

After a long, dark winter, Spring's bright sun and warm winds are, well, a breath of fresh air. The only downside? All that sunshine spotlights your leaf-filled gutters, low areas in the yard and the dead plants in last year's flower beds.

Once spring has sprung, it will be time to give your home a check-up along with its annual spring-cleaning. Here are some things to inspect:

Dying trees and dead branches are an emergency waiting to happen. The first spring storm that comes around might give you some very serious damage. Look for bent branches, if you had a heavy storm recently. Look for tree roots peeking through the soil as it can suggest a shallow-rooted plant.

Gutters. Improper drainage can lead to water foundation problems. Make sure downspouts drain away from the foundation and are clear and free of debris.

Low areas in the yard or next to the foundation should be filled with compacted soil. Spring rains can cause yard flooding, which can lead to foundation flooding and damage. Also, when water pools in these low areas in summer, it creates a breeding ground for insects.

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 peggys20@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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- Is Your Driveway, Patio or Pool Deck
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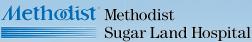
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MARTHA'S

TIPS AND TRENDS TO HELP MAXIMIZE HOME BUYING AND SELLING

CLEAN SWEEP

Have you made a New Year's resolution to downsize all the "stuff" you've accumulated in your home? You're not alone. Get started with these tips from TLC and Real Simple magazine for tackling clutter in prominent spaces.

Closet Consider installing a second rod underneath the primary clothing rod to hang skirts, shorts, scarves and bags; you can double your storage and eliminate the need for shelving. Keep only in-season items in your closet; box the rest and store underneath the bed or in a storage closet. To keep your closets from getting cluttered in the first place, implement a new rule: For each new item that comes in, two items must be thrown out or donated.

Kitchen Keep objects close to where they are used. For example, keep the dishes near the dishwasher, and the spices at arm's length of the stove. If the objects in question are easier to put away after use, the kitchen is



more likely to stay clean. Clear counters of unused small appliances and cookbooks and store them in cabinets or shelves instead. Use the insides of cabinets and pantry doors to organize knickknacks, such as chip clips or bottle openers that can hang, or trim down an over-the-door shoe organizer to fit the inside of the cabinet to house these items.

Home Office Establish a filing system that you can easily—and immediately—use to keep bills and loose papers from getting out of hand. Keep labeled manila folders at the ready; assign folders for tax records, utility bills and medical expenses, for example. Consider investing in a scanner to digitize important documents and save them on a hard drive for easy (and paper-free) access. Create a "shelf life" rule for magazines; for example, purge weeklies after a month and monthlies every few months.



Martha N. Lusk, CRS Re/Max Southwest (713) 826-2331

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

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Sugar Mill Specialist and Waterfront Specialist