

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.

As the calendar turns to the eleventh month of the year we “fall” back – the time change gives us an extra hour of sunlight in the morning to enjoy activities in our community.

Fall is a great time to participate in outdoor activities. In October we changed the code on the access fence to the tennis courts to secure the courts for our residents. Please do not share the code with guests or anyone who does not reside in Sugar Mill. The Board will file trespass charges against non-residents using the facility. To obtain the access code and become a registered user of the courts, please call or e-mail Terri Salter at MASC Austin Properties – 713-776-1771 or tsalter@mascapi.com.

There have been a few questions about approving non-wood fencing in and around Sugar Mill. The ACC is responsible for approving all requests for modifications to the fencing and landscaping around houses. There are guidelines for wood privacy fencing as to the height and picket placement but the guidelines do not state that a fence must be wood. If the back/side yard is visible from any street, it becomes subject to guidelines for maintenance imposed on any other visible part of the lot. It must be maintained properly and not used for visible storage, garbage bins, bicycles, yard equipment, etc., that are the bulk of the violation letters. We encourage participation on the ACC and invite any resident to attend the meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in room 608 at the Sugar Land United Methodist Church.

The Board has set the 2013 Assessment for each lot – it will be \$690.90. That is five percent higher than last year and is authorized by our governing documents. We are at a point in our subdivision that expensive repairs/maintenance are an ongoing expense. There is pool repair, fence renova-

tion, tree trimming, landscaping, water and other maintenance issues that we are addressing. All of this will be addressed at our annual meeting that is coming up in March – we hope that you will put it on your calendar and attend this important informational session. We continue to seek one new Board member – it is a big job and we need your help to do it!

By purchasing a home in Sugar Mill, you are automatically a party to the Covenants, Deed Restrictions and Architectural Guidelines. These legal documents are binding and are enforced within Sugar Mill by the Architectural Control Committee and the Board of Directors. Sugar Mill’s Deed Restrictions, Bylaws, and Architectural Modifications Request Form can be found on our website at: www.sugarmillhoa.net.

Some of these guidelines are "section" specific, and others are community wide. If you have any questions regarding the Deed Restrictions, please read them, or contact MASC Austin Properties, the Board of Directors, or the Architectural Control Committee. In general, they govern all exterior changes to your property, and some uses of the property as well.

Submittals to the Architectural Control Committee, (ACC) can be made using the request form located on the website. Please take a bit of time to peruse and become familiar with the Deed Restrictions; they help keep Sugar Mill a nice place to live.

Thanks,

Sugar Mill’s Board of Directors



Fall Decorating Ideas



Ah, the signs of autumn: The weather begins to cool, the days become shorter, and the kids are back in school. As people prepare for the changing season by changing their wardrobes, some also prepare by decorating their homes. Some choose to decorate for specific holidays such as Thanksgiving but it is easy and rewarding to decorate in the early fall to last

through to the Christmas season. Also, when cost is a consideration, decorating for autumn rather than for specific holidays avoids having to purchase a lot of extras. Here are five inexpensive ways to decorate for fall, creating a home that is both festive and inviting.

1. Apple Votives

These charming little candle holders are both beautiful and functional. Simply cut, core, and scoop out just enough of an apple to fit a small tea candle. These can also be done with mini pumpkins.

2. Leaf Wall Art

This is a very inexpensive way to bring the outside in. Simply choose fall foliage in bright colors of red, gold, russet, and orange. Flatten large leaves between books overnight, then place in frames as a grouping in front of a white background for a stunning autumn look.

3. Welcome Wreath

A glue gun, an inexpensive thrift-store wreath, and some autumn inspiration are all you need to create a fall wreath to welcome guests. Simply purchase a plain wreath. Then, hot-glue acorns, fall leaves, pine cones, and other natural elements of fall in a decorative pattern.

4. Autumn Mantel

Another way to decorate inexpensively for fall is to remove decorations and photos from a mantel and replace them with a bowl of apples, a few mini pumpkins, a fall leaf garland, some gourds, and other fall accessories abundant in nature. Adding a string of white mini lights also yields stunning results.

5. Textiles

Autumn-themed hand towels, tablecloths, and throw rugs help create a festive autumn home that is dressed from now until December.

Remember, decor doesn't have to be holiday-specific. One can create autumn decor by utilizing the colors of the season such as rust, deep red, rich cream, and deep gold. Deeper shades, heavier fabrics, and softer lighting all enhance autumn decor. Think about what decorations can be utilized or transformed into fall decor. For example, an inexpensive white pillar candle can be transformed into fall decor by tying a brown ribbon around the center and hot-gluing acorns around the perimeter. Then, when specific holidays such as Thanksgiving approach, only a couple of accessories will be needed. Have fun creating unique, creative, and inexpensive fall decor!

Free Membership In FBISD Gold Card Club

Fort Bend ISD invites long-standing fans and supporters to see District athletic games and cultural events for free. The District offers free membership to the Gold Card Club for all Fort Bend ISD residents 62 years of age and over. Benefits of joining the Gold Card Club include free admission to Fort Bend ISD cultural events such as plays, musicals and concerts in all district schools and free admission to Fort Bend ISD regular athletic events in school district gymnasiums and general admission seating at Mercer and Hall Stadiums. Membership in the Gold Card Club never expires. For more information, visit www.fortbendisd.com.

Texas Recycles Day: November 15th



Since 1997, environmentally minded people have celebrated America Recycles Day on Nov. 15. It was Texas that gave the nation the idea in the first place.

Texas Recycles Day began in 1994, when a six-week campaign was started to boost recycling in the state. November 15th was chosen because the spring already had Earth Day and a date was needed after Election Day and before the holidays. Since then, communities across the country have come together on America Recycles Day to educate and motivate people about recycling.

Keep America Beautiful has resources and promotional materials, such as Go-To Guides for organizers and other specialized guides for those who want to participate on 11/15. Please visit americarecyclesday.org for more information.

Marion's Fishing Corner

SOME DO'S AND DON'TS OF PROPER FISH HANDLING:

As we all should know, Misty is a "catch and release only" lake when it comes to largemouth bass. As residents and maintenance fee payers, we all have paid a considerable amount of money to establish and maintain a healthy fish population. One very important part of maintaining this fishery is making sure that we release each bass we catch back into the lake unharmed. In order to accomplish this, there are a few precautions that we can take.

First, always have a pair of needle-nose pliers or other hook-removing utensil with you. Oftentimes, bass will be hooked deep in the throat and pliers will make removing the hook a lot less traumatic on the fish. If the fish is bleeding because the hook has penetrated one of the gills, just cut the line as short as possible and then release the fish. The acid in the fish's digestive system will deteriorate the hook in several days and then it will crumble apart.

Always remember to wet your hands before handling a fish. Dry hands will remove the protective slime on a fish's sides and this in turn will allow bacteria growth. On a similar note, try to never let a fish come in contact with any dry surface like the floor of your boat or deck carpeting. This also will remove a fish's protective coating and compromise its ability to fight off bacterial infection.

When holding up a fish for the camera or for viewing, always support the fish from both ends. Supporting a fish's entire body weight by just its mouth can sometimes damage the lower jaw and

prevent the fish from eating efficiently later.

Also, if a fish is to be held out of the water for any length of time--say you're getting a camera ready for a picture--frequently dip the fish into the water to keep it completely wet until release. The very first part of a fish to dry out is their eyes. It is very critical to moisten the fish often and release as soon as possible. Remember that a fish's eyes can dry out and be permanently damaged within a matter of minutes, especially during the hot summer months.

So these are a few of the simple things that we can do to keep the mortality rate of released bass as low as possible. We've all contributed money towards stocking our fish and providing good habitat; so why not try our best to protect our investment? We can enjoy the resource and so can our kids.

Remember catch and release. 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.

Quotable Quote:

"All our dreams can come true - if we have the courage to pursue them." -Walt Disney

The quilting group at the Sugar Land Senior Center gathers together every Tuesday to transform donated fabrics into patchwork quilts for the charitable organization Quilts for Kids.

The charity donates handmade comfort quilts to children in need. The organization focuses on children with cancer, life-threatening illnesses and children of abuse. Due to certain health risks, hospitals do not allow children to have stuffed animals as comfort objects. However, quilts are a comforting and more sanitary alternative.

The Senior Center quilting group had only three core members when they decided to join Quilts for Kids. Today, the group consists of 15 quilters who found a new reason to love and share their passion for quilting.

The group made donations to families affected by the Bastrop wildfires and is currently working on quilts for the children at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Members also found a need for comfort quilts at local nursing homes for seniors who do not receive many visitors.

Fabric donations are always needed and can be made at the T.E. Harman Center. The quilting group welcomes anyone who would like to learn to quilt and be a part of the Quilts for Kids program.

About the center

The T.E. Harman Center is located at 226 Matlage Way. The completely renovated center is home to the Sugar Land senior adult programs and activities and it is also available for community use.

Deck the Halls with the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra

Experience the magic of the season as the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra presents its popular holiday concert on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. at the Stafford Centre. Deck the Halls features seasonal favorites like Sleigh Ride and Frosty the Snowman, as well as classic selections from The Nutcracker. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will also be on hand to spread holiday cheer and pose for photographs. Purchase tickets early at fbso.org or call 281.276.9642. Reserved seats for adults begin at \$12 with discounts for students, seniors 55 and over, military and groups of 10 or more.

Avoiding Holiday Weight Gain

That fall fifteen. It seems to happen every holiday season.

We attend parties and office gatherings to share a few festive moments with family, friends, colleagues and lots and lots of food. But when the holiday season is finally over, the bathroom scale reveals a few extra pounds. Here are some tips for avoiding holiday weight gain.

Aim for seven-a-day

Making sure you eat seven or more servings of fruits and vegetables each day is a great way to help fill-up your stomach but not your calorie level. When compared to other snack foods like chips, crackers and cookies, gram for gram, fruits and vegetables contain fewer calories and tons more nutrients. What's more – the fiber in fruits and vegetables fill you up faster than traditional snack foods. Pack your refrigerator with bags of cut-up vegetables and whole or cut-up fruits. Grab a bag while on the go or at work. Make a pact with yourself that you'll eat your five-a-day before you snack on any cookies or other holiday treats. You're sure to take in fewer calories overall.

Control the risk for temptation

Controlling even the slightest chance of coming in contact with 'tempting' foods is one way to effectively reduce your intake. While you won't be able to control all situations, focus on the many ones you can. For example, do you keep candy or cookies at your desk or workspace? Do you frequent the dining room table or pantry where you store all your holiday goodies? Make a mental note of tempting places

and try to control them. For example, make a pact with co-workers that goodies will be kept solely in the break room, not at the front desk or in various offices. Mentally plan out how you will avoid tempting situations.



Limit to one-a-day

While you can't control every situation, you can control how much food goes into your mouth. If you are constantly bombarded with holiday parties and displays of desserts or candies you can still effectively help prevent overeating and weight gain. One way is the one-a-day method. Allow yourself one small serving of a cookie or piece of candy each day during the holiday season. Remember that you may have to compensate for it later in the day by reducing your total caloric intake or by burning a few extra calories while exercising.

Remember, the holidays are meant to celebrate good times with family and friends. Enjoy the holidays and plan effective strategies to help you achieve your weight loss goals. Achieving what you sought out for will give you one more good reason for holiday cheer! Happy Holidays!

Leisure Classes Offered in Sugar Land

What better way to spend your leisure time than with activities that promote your health, well being, and creativity. Check out the wide variety of classes available to you from your City's Parks & Recreation Department. Below is a small sampling of classes offered:

Restore the Core

Strengthen your core and lose your low belly sag with this intensive mat based pilates class incorporating flat bands and pilates balls. No impact. No Cardio. All core.

Ladies Functional Fitness

This class focuses on balance, stability, endurance, strength, and flexibility. Fun and function cross-training - all levels welcome!

Tai Chi

A class designed to create harmonious flow of chi or life force in the body.

Belly Dancing

Exercise class that enhances body and mind through world music. NEW class times & fees available.

Get in Shape

Looking for high intensity training? Improve your flexibility, agility, & cardio with Coach Cooks.

For more information, visit www.sugarlandtx.gov and click on the Parks & Recreation link under the Departments tab.

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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
Open	Asst. Secretary		

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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

Vacation Checklist:

You're finally taking the household on a well deserved vacation. You've arranged to board the dog, and Aunt Martha will babysit the bird.

There's one more precaution to take---safeguarding your home. Fortunately, many of the steps required (absent installing an alarm system) only require elbow grease and a bit of forethought before you hit the road.

Here's a suggested checklist to follow:

1. Stop mail and newspaper delivery. Nothing screams "no one is home" louder than a stack of newspapers on the front porch. If there's a likelihood that packages could arrive while you're away, notify delivery services like UPS, Fed Ex, to hold them so that your front door won't be marked with delivery slips. And, under no circumstance, post "take all deliveries to our nextdoor neighbor" on your door!
2. If shrubs, trees or bushes block the view of any windows or doors, trim them back. Homes which are set back a distance from the street and/or have heavy, concealing foliage are more likely to be a burglar's welcome target.

3. Don't let your answering machine tell the world you're gone. A generic message like "we can't come to the phone right now" sends fewer adverse signals than "we're not home" or "we're on vacation in the Bahamas".

4. Move small valuables to a safe deposit box as well as any credit cards you won't be using. If possible, move larger valuables (like silver, stereo systems, etc.) to a friend or relative's home for safekeeping. Many police departments have property protection programs that etch valuables with your driver's license number.

5. Use timers on several lights throughout the house. If possible, place at least one outside light on a timer as well. Leave draperies open a bit, especially on upper-level floors that aren't easily visible.

6. Check all windows (especially on the groundlevel floor) to make sure there are no broken panes or loose latches. Deadbolts on exterior doors do deter burglars, as do "Beware of Dog" signs. If you have an extra door key hidden under an outside mat or rock, move it. If it's easy for you to get to, it's equally easy for a thief. If your car will be visible on the

property, make sure to remove your garage door opener from it.



7. Amazing as it seems, entire households of furniture have been loaded in moving vans and driven away during a homeowner's absence. Notify at least one neighbor of your trip. Additionally, ask the neighbor to query anyone approaching the house while you're gone.

8. Utilize Sugar Land's House Watch Program offered by the City's Police Department. The program is designed to provide homeowners a means of having their residence checked periodically by an officer when they are away from home on vacation or an extended weekend.

9. Have a trusted neighbor hold a spare key in case there's an issue like a pipe burst at your home while you are gone.

10. Prepay bills -- it won't do much for household safety but it will allow you to enjoy your vacation more fully.



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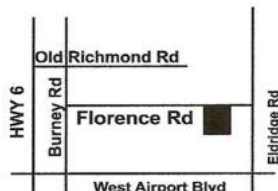
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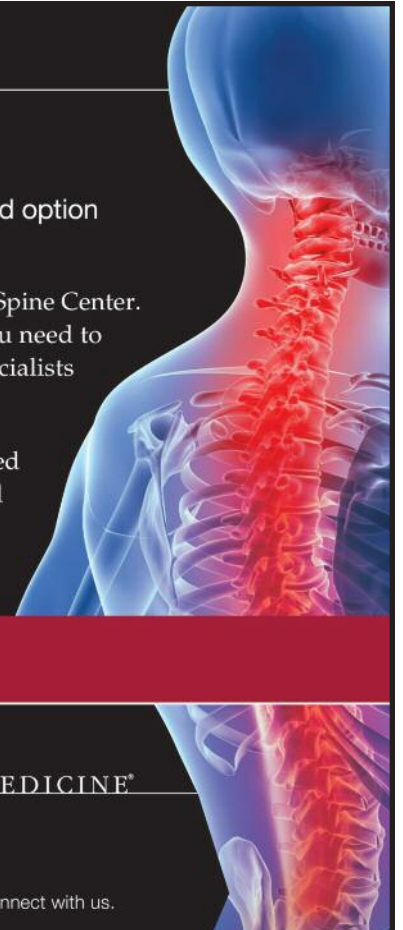
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MARTHA'S

TIPS AND TRENDS TO HELP
 MAXIMIZE HOME BUYING AND SELLING

OUT WITH THE OLD

Homeowners depend on their kitchen appliances to run smoothly every day. But when the washing machine begins to overflow and the fridge won't keep things cold, it might be tempting to replace the machines with newer models. Before shopping around, here are a few tips from retailers Lowe's and Kellum Appliances to determine whether to repair or replace, keeping in mind age, repair costs and energy efficiency.

First check the owner's manual. If the appliance is relatively new, the warranty should cover the cost of replacement parts. Contact the appliance manufacturer or retailer where the item was purchased. They may be able to diagnose the problem and offer solutions.

Next, figure the cost of repair and compare it to the cost of purchasing a new appliance. If the appliance is relatively new, replacing a part may be more practical than buying



a new machine. But if the repair cost is more than half of the purchase price, replacement is a better option.

Many of today's models with the ENERGY STAR label are more energy-efficient, so upgrading to a newer model will save more money in the long run. Replacing a dishwasher manufactured before 1994 will save more than 10 gallons of water per cycle and about \$30 to \$40 per year in utility bills, while ENERGY STAR washers use 37 percent less energy and more than 50 percent less water than standard models.

If finances dictate upgrading only one appliance, start with the refrigerator. Because it runs continuously every day, it uses more electricity than other appliances, so a replacement will see immediate savings in utility bills.



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DID YOU KNOW?

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Sugar Mill Specialist and Waterfront Specialist