

Sugar Mill Connections

ISSUE

2

MAY
2012

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Sugar Mill HOA has 35 different meetings per year?

Meetings

Architectural Control Committee Meetings
-Second Tuesday of each month

Lake Committee Meetings
-Second Tuesday of each month

Board of Directors Meetings
-Third Monday of each month

HOA Annual Meeting
-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.

President's Corner:

The Sugar Mill Community Association's Annual Meeting was held on March 27, 2012 at the First United Methodist Church. The meeting began at 7 pm with opening remarks from Board President Bill Cure. He acknowledged all of the guests and asked members of the Architectural Control Committee, Lake Committee and Neighborhood Watch participants to stand up, followed by a round of applause for all of the work that these folks do throughout the year. He then acknowledged and thanked the vendors and sponsors of the gift cards – and how much the Board appreciates their participation in our Annual Meetings. Here is list of the companies that make our annual meeting such a success: Houston Landscape Unlimited, Michael Bratton of Bratton Pools, Jeff Seabolt of Aquatico Pool Management, Cris Meyer of Lake Management, Martha Lusk of Re/Max Southwest, Vicki Haislup of Weichert Realtors and Jerry Goodson of Wells Fargo. Bill Cure finished the opening remarks by thanking MASC Austin Properties, Inc.; this is the company who manages the day-to-day operations of our community.

Doug Brinkley who is Chief of Police for the City of Sugar Land made the first guest presentation of the evening. Chief Brinkley discussed the overall policing policy for the City with an explanation of the grant that will allow for the placement of security cameras at main intersections in the northern section of Sugar Land (this includes Sugar Mill). Opening the floor to questions he addressed concerns about ball-park traffic and parking in Sugar Mill stating that there are additional officers that will be added on event days and that the impact on our community should be minimal. Chief Brinkley was confident that there would not be any ball-park parking on the streets of Sugar Mill. He also explained how the expense of the additional personnel would be handled by an agreement between the City and Opening Day Partners. The next speaker was Eric Babnew who is our Beat I Crime Prevention Officer for our area. The report was crime is down in Sugar Mill but stressed the importance of the community

being the eyes and ears – if you see or hear any suspicious activity, call the police. He also outlined the measures that we all should take to prevent break-ins, make your house look like someone is home, take valuables out of the car when it is parked in the driveway or at a shopping/dining facility and as summer approaches to be mindful of children who are playing. For all of our safety, as drivers, we must watch and control our speed and pay attention as we drive in subdivisions.

Shashi Kumar, Senior Engineer for the City of Sugar Land gave a presentation of the drainage projects that have been and are being implemented in and around Sugar Mill to control flooding issues. The point was made that in the event of a very heavy rain, like the one that occurred on January 19th, the streets are designed to flood and take the water to the drainage system.

At this point in the meeting it was determined that by the attendees and proxies there was not a quorum so the meeting was suspended for about 10 minutes while attendees called neighbors and the required amount of homeowner's were present to make a quorum. Bill Cure thanked those who had come to the meeting after being called and emphasized the importance of either sending in the proxies or attending the meeting. With quorum being met the meeting proceeded.

Debra Blesener (appointed by the Board to fill the position vacated by Deron Patterson) presented the Minutes of the March 2011 Annual Meeting and the minutes were accepted by those in attendance.

The Sugar Mill Community Board of Directors is now comprised of Bill Cure, John Randall, Bob Sheffield, Hank Ochel and Debra Blesener.

Bill Cure presented the financial report. John Randall presented the summary of accomplishments from 2011 and then the evening drew to a close with the drawing of tickets for the winners of the door prizes. See picture on page 4.

Bill Cure, President

Sugar Mill 2012 Pool Schedules - Fun In The Sun!



7TH STREET POOL

May weekends: 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 26th, 27th

Saturday 12:00 pm- 8:00 pm
 Sunday 1:00 pm- 8:00 pm

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Saturday 5/26/2012 10:30 am - 8:00 pm
 Sunday 5/27/2012 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Monday 5/28/2012 12:00pm - 8:00 pm

06/01/2012-06/03/2012

Friday 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 Saturday 10:30 am - 8:00 pm
 Sunday 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm

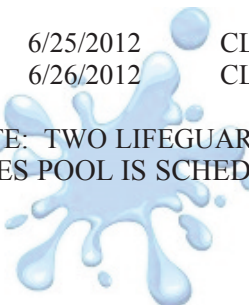
06/04/2012 – 08/19/2012

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

Exceptions:

Monday 6/25/2012 CLOSED
 Tuesday 6/26/2012 CLOSED

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



LAKE CENTER POOL

May weekends: 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 26th, 27th

Saturday 12:00 pm- 8:00 pm
 Sunday 1:00 pm- 8:00 pm

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Saturday 5/26/2012 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 Sunday 5/27/2012 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Monday 5/28/2012 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

06/01/2012-06/03/2012

Friday 10:30 am - 8:00 pm
 Saturday 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Sunday 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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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

August weekends

8/25/2012 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 8/26/2012 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.

Spring is Blooming in Sugar Creek!



Mark your calendar! Sugar Land Garden Club will be holding its 13th Annual Garden Tour, which is open to the public in Sugar Creek, on Saturday, May 12th., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain or shine). Tickets with a map are

\$12.00 and available at each garden the day of the tour.

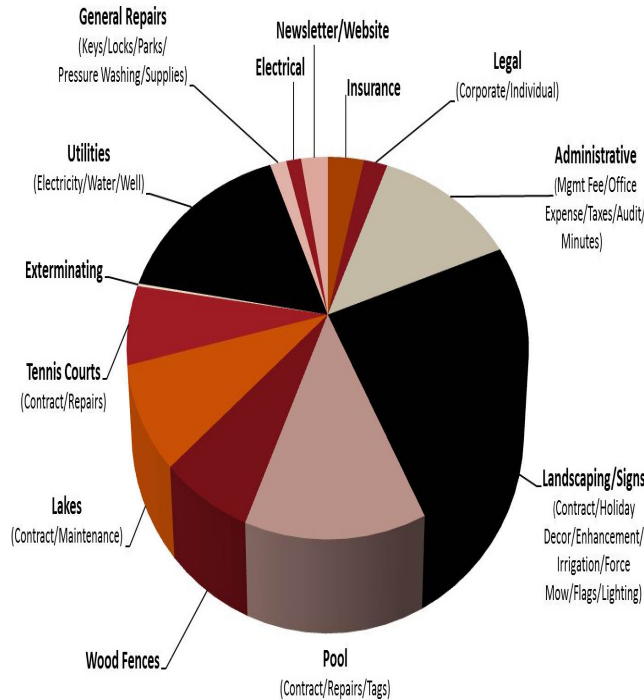
Flowers are popping out all over the Sugar Creek Subdivision. There's something for everyone. So come spend the day with us and stroll through these delightful gardens and enjoy the vibrant flowers, citrus, vegetable gardens, flowing water features, sparkling pools, a sandy beach, outdoor kitchens, unique garden art & great curb appeal. You will definitely walk away with some great ideas for your own garden.

For advance tickets contact:
 Cheryl Swanson
 281.242.1773
 Please visit:
www.sugarlandgardenclub.org

2327 Country Club Blvd.
 39 Charleston North
 711 Longview Dr.
 3114 Groveshire Ct.
 802 Merrick Dr.
 906 Teague Circle
 2815 Fairway Dr.
 2807 Fairway Dr.
 6 Bendwood

Sugar Mill 2011 Expense Summary:

Expense Item	Expenditure
Insurance	\$21,194.99
Legal	\$13,780.69
Administrative	\$80,960.49
Landscaping/Signs	\$149,665.46
Pool	\$76,259.90
Fences	\$40,405.51
Lake	\$52,506.82
Tennis Courts	\$41,451.14
Exterminating	\$1,428.96
Utilities	\$102,666.55
General Repairs	\$9,538.57
Electrical	\$8,717.9
Newsletter/Website	\$15,584.34
Total	\$614,161.32



City Council Approves High-Density Apartments In Imperial Sugar Historic District 2

On April 3, 2012 the City of Sugar Land City Council gave preliminary approval to the Planned Development document that would allow construction of 325 high-density apartments in the Imperial Sugar Historic District 2. The vote to approve these apartments was 6-1. At large council member Jacquie Chuamette cast the only vote against the apartments.

A "second reading" of the ordinance approving the Planned Development document and a "final" binding vote was scheduled for the City Council Meeting on April 17, 2012 (the day after the deadline for this newsletter).

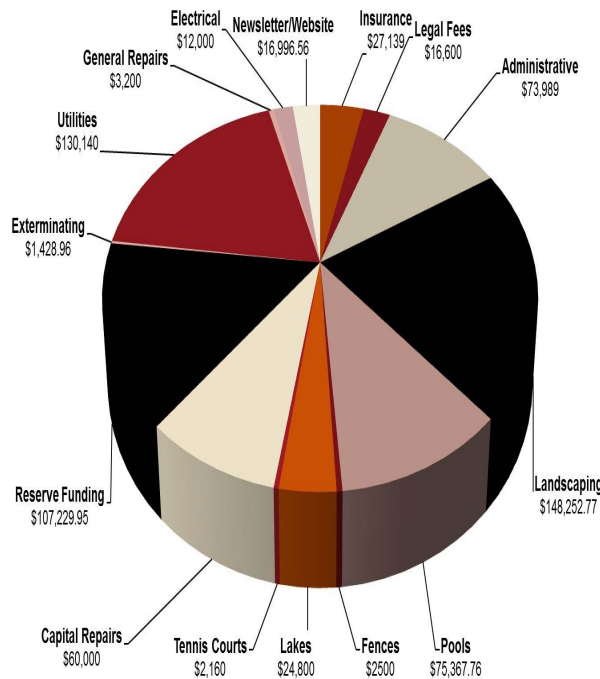
A final development plan will have to be approved before construction of the high-density apartments can proceed. The time frame for approval of the final development plan is 12-24 months.

There is a movement that is developing to trying to overturn the City Council's approval of the Planned Development document by forcing citywide referendum vote. A petition drive is being organized to collect sufficient signatures of registered voters to force the city to hold the vote. Petitions will be available for signature at the polls for the City elections on May 12 and the primary elections on May 29.

For more information visit www.sustainablesugarland.com.

Sugar Mill 2012 Budget Summary:

Expense Item	Expenditure
Insurance	\$27,139.00
Legal	\$16,600.00
Administrative	\$73,989.00
Landscaping/Signs	\$148,252.77
Pool	\$75,367.76
Fences	\$2,500.00
Lake	\$24,800.00
Tennis Courts	\$2,160.00
Capital Repairs	\$60,000.00
Reserves	\$107,229.95
Exterminating	\$1,428.96
Utilities	\$130,140.00
General Repairs	\$3,200.00
Electrical	\$12,000.00
Newsletter/Website	\$16,996.56
Total	\$701,804.00



We Won!



2012 Annual Meeting
Door Prizes Winners!

Paint Like A Pro

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.

- 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.

Attention All Sugar Mill Residents!

C/O MASC Austin Properties, Inc.
13726 Florence Road
Sugar Land, TX 77498
www.sugarmillhoa.net
(713) 776-1771



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SUGAR MILL IDENTIFICATION CARDS

1. If you are a **NEW** resident of Sugar Mill and **DO NOT HAVE** an I.D. Card, please complete the form below and return it to the above address along with a photo of each family member. The photos must fit into the 1" X 1" square at the bottom of this form. Please print the name of the family member on the back of their photo.
2. If you **ALREADY HAVE** a card, you must have it validated for the current year. Mail your cards to the above address for validation. **Photos (especially children) should be updated every two or three years. (There is no charge for updating photos)**
3. If you have **LOST** your I.D. Card, there will be a \$5.00 fee for each replacement card. To replace a lost I.D. card, please send a new photo of the family member, with his/her name printed on the back, to the above address. Make your check payable to the Sugar Mill Community Association, Inc.

VALIDATION OF I.D. CARDS WILL BE DONE BY MAIL OR AT THE OFFICES OF MASC AUSTIN PROPERTIES, INC. MONDAY – FRIDAY BETWEEN 9 AM – 5 PM

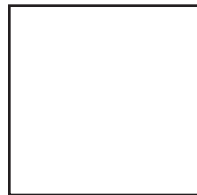
Please note, you will notice a difference in the 2012 validation. Your card will be punched with a new imprint, indicating validation for 2012.

As soon as your Assessments have been paid for the current year, we will be happy to validate and return your cards to you. These cards should be carried with you whenever you are using any of the Sugar Mill Facilities, i.e. Swimming Pool, Tennis Courts, and Lake Areas.

Mail to: MASC Austin Properties Inc., 13726 Florence Road, Sugar Land, Texas 77498

LAST NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ HOME PHONE: _____
 ADULT NAME: _____ ADULT NAME: _____
 CHILD'S NAME: _____ AGE: _____ M/F _____
 CHILD'S NAME: _____ AGE: _____ M/F _____
 CHILD'S NAME: _____ AGE: _____ M/F _____
 CHILD'S NAME: _____ AGE: _____ M/F _____

PHOTOS MUST FIT IN THIS 1" X 1" SQUARE:



***POOL GUEST POLICY:**
Sugar Mill residents are allowed 4 guests per family at the swimming Pool Facilities.

Important Numbers

Sugar Mill's Board of Directors:

Name	Position	Contact #	Email Address
Bill Cure	President	281-491-9536	bill.cure@gmail.com
John Randall	Vice President	281-313-4716	john16329@msn.com
Hank Ochel	Secretary	281-293-4376	hank_ochel@me.com
Robert Sheffield	Treasurer	281-242-0453	rsheffield81@comcast.net
Debra Blesener	Asst. Secretary	713-628-6991	debrablesener@gmail.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

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

Terri Salter
 Property Manager
 713-776-1771

Marion's Fishing Corner:

Do bass see colors?

I know we have talked about this before in the past, but I think it's worth reviewing again. Can bass really distinguish between different colors? Well, not only can bass see colors, but they have a very astute sense of color perception.

To the human eye, almost every color will eventually fade to gray as the bait sinks deeper into the water column. The exceptions to this are black and purple. These two colors remain distinguishable at any depth. It all has to do with light penetration. As colors are taken deeper underwater, they fade to shades of gray because the rays of light can only penetrate the water to a certain depth. Naturally, the clearer the water, the longer each color remains visible. The first color to turn gray is any shade of red. This is followed by orange, yellow, and so on. Other than black and purple, blue will hold it's identity at greater depths than any of the other colors.

But you have to remember that a bass's eye is very different from a human eye. Unlike our eyes, the eyes of a fish are made up of "rods and cones" that work very differently from

ours. A bass's eyes are much more adapt at gathering any available light and magnifying that light to help see objects and distinguish colors. So what we see is not necessarily what a bass sees. We are looking down into the water from above, but the bass is looking horizontally and silhouetting objects against the surrounding environment. Research shows that fish can see colors far deeper and in far lower light conditions than we can.

So what does all this mean to the fisherman? Well, this makes artificial bait selection more interesting. When fish are really turned on and actively feeding, any color will catch fish. During these periods, making your lure look alive is a lot more important than what color it is. But during times when fish are in a neutral mood and rather lethargic, subtle differences in bait presentation can make a big difference. I have seen times when plastic worms of a certain color would draw strikes when the same worm of a different color would go unnoticed.

When choosing colors for soft plastics, I like to follow this simple rule: light colors on bright days and clear water, and dark colors on cloudy days or murky water. Good examples of light

colors are watermelon, watermelon seed, pumpkinseed, chartreuse pepper and watermelon candy. There are many, many variations but these are a good basic starting point. Examples of dark colors are black, black neon, black/blue, junebug and green pumpkin. Normally, when I'm fishing deep water(12 feet or more) I will choose dark colored worms for reasons stated earlier.

So the next time you take to the water and fish soft plastics, give some consideration to light and water clarity conditions. Experimenting with different worm color combinations just might get you a few more bites during your time on the water.

Remember our "catch and release" policy, because our bass are too valuable of a resource to catch just once.
 Good Luck, Marion

Good Luck,
 Marion
 May 2012

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



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POWER WASHING

- Is Your Home **GREEN** with Algae?
- Is Your Driveway, Patio or Pool Deck **BLACK** with Mildew?
- Have You Gotten One of **THOSE** Letters from Your HOA?
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MEDICAL SEMINARS & EVENTS
Methodist Sugar Land Hospital

VEIN SEMINAR

Join us for a seminar presented by Dr. Ulises Baltazar about Venous Insufficiency: causes, symptoms, who is at risk, treatments and prevention.

Wednesday, May 16
6 p.m.
Conference Center

Certificate for Free Vein Screening
Refreshments
Door Prizes

RSVP: 281-274-7500 or
SLRSVP@tmhs.org.



WOMEN'S HEALTH SEMINAR

Join us for a Women's Health Seminar about Gynecological Disorders and Minimally Invasive Treatments. Presented by Dr. Katherine Diase, Dr. Duc Le, Dr. Jagjit Khairah and Dr. Jane Starr.

Tuesday, May 22
6 p.m.
Conference Center

Refreshments
Door Prizes

RSVP: 281-274-7500 or
SLRSVP@tmhs.org.



NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVOR'S DAY
Celebration and Luncheon



Methodist Sugar Land Cancer Center welcomes cancer survivors, caregivers, community leaders, physicians and anyone passionate about the cause to join us as we honor America's cancer survivors.

Friday, June 1 • 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Conference Center

RSVP to Frances Goerlich 281-274-7930 or FGoerlich@tmhs.org.

Methodist Methodist
Sugar Land Hospital

16655 Southwest Freeway • Sugar Land, Texas 77479 • MethodistSugarLand.com

LEADING MEDICINE®

Sugar Mill Community Association, Inc.
c/o MASC Austin Properties, Inc.
13726 Florence Road
Sugar Land, TX 77498

Merry MINISTRIES

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Tuesday evenings 6:30 PM and
Wednesday mornings 9:30AM

In the Sanctuary of First United Methodist Church,
431 Eldridge Rd.

For more information or to sign up:
Merryministries.com or call (281) 491-6041

Grow Your Business!

Advertising in community newsletters is a cost effective way to market your business.

For more information, call:
281-652-5802

AD PRICING

Business Card:\$25/month, Quarter page:\$35/month. Pay 5 months, get 6th month free. For more details, contact Prepared Publications at (281) 652-5802 or via email: info@preparedpublications.com.

MARTHA'S

TIPS AND TRENDS TO HELP
MAXIMIZE HOME BUYING AND SELLING

Enjoy a Worry-Free Vacation

Whether you're headed to the beach, to visit relatives, or on a family adventure at a theme park, the last thing you want to worry about is the safety of your home while on vacation. Home inspection company Pillar To Post offers some practical tips to protect your home while you're away.

- Set timers on several lights around the house and schedule them to turn on and off at different times. Timers are inexpensive and can be purchased at most hardware retailers.
- Ask a neighbor to park their car in the driveway occasionally so it appears someone is home.
- Suspend delivery of newspapers and have the post office hold your mail, or have a neighbor collect it. If you'll be gone for more than one week, arrange to have someone mow the lawn in your absence.
- Use caution when communicating on Facebook or other social networks about vacation plans. Information spreads quickly and could reach the wrong person.



- Turn off the ringer on telephones, so they can't be heard from outside. Close window coverings on any ground-level rooms where valuables may be visible from the window.
- Turn the water heater down to its lowest setting. Maintaining the hot water at its everyday temperature during your absence wastes energy and money.
- Unplug appliances and electronics except the refrigerator and freezer.
- To prevent water leaks or a burst hose, turn off the water supply lines for the toilets, sinks and appliances.
- If possible, pack vacation gear in the car while it's in the garage so passersby don't see that you're leaving for vacation.

Once you've taken these steps to protect your home, it'll be easier to relax and enjoy your well-deserved getaway.



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

www.sugarmilltexas.com
mlusk@windstream.net

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Fast Fact

To tell if an egg is raw or hard-cooked, spin it. If it spins easily the egg is hard-cooked; if it wobbles, it's raw.



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