

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.

Landscape Committee
Meetings are held the
second Monday of each
month in room 608 at
7:00PM.

Pool Committee Meetings
are held the second
Tuesday of each month in
room 600 at
7:30PM.

Board of Directors
Meetings are held the
third Monday of each
month in room 600,
(unless otherwise noted)
at 7:00PM.

Please note: The Board,
Lake Committee and
Landscape Committee
will not meet in December.

For more information,
please contact Terri Salter
at MASC Austin
Properties, Inc. at:
(713) 776-1771 or
tsalter@mascapi.com.

On behalf of the Sugar Mill Board of Directors, we would like to wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season. Give each family member and friend a big hug, and reach out to those who have drifted away. It may have been another tough year for many of you in the energy industry and our hearts go out to you. Hop in your cars (and boats) and look at all the gorgeous holiday displays our residents have worked so hard on. They are sure to bring a smile to everyone's faces! We wish you all the very, very best that life has to offer!

Short-Term Rentals – Home owners across the country have discovered they can earn extra money by renting out part or all of their homes to people passing through town (such as for the 2017 Superbowl). However, offering short-term rentals in SugarLand is not allowed. Hosting a short-term rental is a violation of the City's residential zoning districts that could result in a fine up to \$2,000!! Residents who know of a short-term rental within the City are asked to contact the City's Code Enforcement Department at (281) 275-2170.

Shrubs, Trees, or Plants on a corner lot, may never obstruct views for oncoming traffic. Any plantings that are located within 10 feet of where the road begins at an intersection must be groomed so that they are under 2 feet in height, and/or at least 6 feet above the roadway. In addition, regardless of whether or not your home is located on a corner lot, trees must always be kept trimmed so they are at least 12 feet above the roadway and 8 feet above the sidewalk on all residential streets, per City ordinance.

Do You Have Jars of Change Cluttering Your Closet Floor? Go to www.coinstar.com and search for a nearby Coinstar machine. The machine will sort and count coins for you, and cashing them in is free if you redeem the money as a gift card from companies such as Amazon, BestBuy, Starbucks, Home Depot, or Lowe's. Near us, you will find machines at Foodtown on Eldridge and Walmart on Highway 6.

Bulkhead Numbers: If you live on the lake, it is really useful if you have your house number on your bulkhead. We recommend stickers or paint applied to the lakeside face of the bulkhead. It assists Lake Management when they want to help identify the location of a problem in the lake. It is also useful when someone is boating and finds an animal or a loose boat floating in the lake and they want to describe where they found it in a Nextdoor.com alert to everyone.

Be Courteous to Those With Wheelchairs or Strollers. If you are walking along the sidewalk or one of the walking paths behind our subdivision, please be courteous to those with strollers and wheelchairs. Please yield to them and walk on the grass to go around them. It is much more difficult for someone with a stroller or a wheelchair to have to navigate the grass!

Contractor Signs: Just a reminder that contractor signs are never permitted within Sugar Mill, even if the contractor is currently doing work on your property. Please advise your contractors not to place signs on your property.

Dual-Family Living - Within Sugar Mill, it is also a violation to rent a room or apartment within your home, garage or attic, regardless of how long the lease is for. Only single-family dwellings are permitted within Sugar Mill, and each single-family dwelling may only be occupied by one family consisting of one or more persons related by blood, marriage or legal adoption, or by no more than two unrelated persons living and cooking together as a single housekeeping unit.



From The Board (continued)

Moss on trees (as researched by the University of Florida): There are two different types of moss that you typically see on trees. Ball Moss appears as clumps typically on Oak trees. The second type of moss is commonly referred to as tree hair, or old man's beard, but is actually called Spanish Moss. It is most commonly found on Oak or Cypress trees. Both species of moss are in the Bromeliad family, so they get their nutrients from the air, and not the host tree. Moss attaches to the tree for support, but does not feed off of the tree. Although many homeowners think that moss kills trees, this is not typically the case because moss is not parasitic. The fact that ball moss can survive on utility lines, fences, rocks, and other non-plant substrates proves that this plant is not parasitic. If your tree is suffering after a heavy moss infestation, it is usually because of something else. An unhealthy tree can actually invite moss growth as the canopy thins and it lets in more sunlight for the moss to grow. According to the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the only damage that moss can cause to a tree is if it gets so thick that it prevents sunlight from reaching the leaves and buds of its host tree or plant, and in addition, the weight of the moss can also cause tree branches to break, especially during rains or wind storms. Moss is most commonly spread from one by pieces of the plant being physically moved by birds, animals or wind storms and by seed. While many of the copper based fungicides or herbicides will kill Moss, there is nothing they know of that can be sprayed on plants to prevent its growth before it is established. Physically removing it by hand is an alternative, but very labor intensive!

License Plate Recognition Cameras (LPR's) – in 2009, the first Sugar Land LPR's were installed in North Sugar Land, at major intersections entering our City. They are also active at Sugar Land Town Square, First Colony Mall, and Cullinan Park. These are NOT red light cameras. Since they have been installed, 38 stolen vehicles have been recovered. What most people don't realize is that criminals are stealing cars in Houston, and then burglarizing Sugar Land homes with these stolen cars. By stopping these cars as they enter our City, we are preventing burglaries as well. These cameras have also been instrumental in helping the Police investigate leads, deter criminal activity, apprehend people with outstanding warrants, catch Mall shoplifters, and find missing persons. The City of Sugar Land's goal is to eventually install LPR's at major intersections throughout our City. This is how the camera's work: A crime occurs. A witness then provides the police with a vehicle description and all or part of a license plate number. A designated police staff member (who is authorized to access the system) searches the database for the suspect vehicle and its license plate number. The driver cannot be identified, but the license plate is recorded for up to 30 days. This information is then purged, unless it is needed as evidence as part of a criminal investigation. Information will not be shared with the public unless required by law in certain legal matters. The use of the LPR system will be consistent with privacy laws and the constitutional rights of individuals. City Council will review findings from the pilot program report at an upcoming meeting and discuss their next steps.

District 1 Town Hall Meeting – if any of you missed Council Member Porter's meeting in October, please type the following url into your browser to view it. Please note that the speaking doesn't start until the 24-minute mark. Here is the link to the Facebook Live recording: <https://www.facebook.com/SugarLandTXgov/videos/1181957731827448/>.

Holiday Reminders: Christmas decorations may only be displayed after Thanksgiving, and must be taken down one week after the holiday (typically New Year's Day). For all other holidays throughout the year, decorations must be removed within one week after the holiday passes. Please be mindful not to shine any spotlights at your neighbors' windows, and be certain that security lights are on a motion detector and not left on. Please test your security lights to make sure when they do come on, they are not shining on neighbor's homes.

Keep Unsupervised Animals Inside! The City of Sugar Land prohibits animals from roaming freely – including cats. Keeping your cats inside will prevent them from bringing their prizes (mice, birds) inside your home as gifts for you, and it will also prolong their lives. Cats that roam have a greater risk of catching diseases, getting into deadly fights with other cats, and falling prey to the many coyotes, hawks and bobcats that are being pushed out of their habitats and into our backyards by all the recent commercial and residential developments. These wild animals have been seen in Sugar Mill, and have been responsible for the death of many ducks and cats within our community. Keep your animals inside and buy them a few more toys to keep them happy!

The City of Sugar Land has advised us that the following crimes are on the increase:

“Jugging” - this is where criminals follow you as you leave the bank and follow you home to rob you.

“Sliders” - this is where a criminal slides in through your driver-side door to steal your purse while you are pumping gas.

“Car Burglaries” - criminals are opening unlocked car doors and stealing items. They can also open your garage door if you keep your garage door opener in your unlocked car. Lock your car!! Car burglaries can also occur by breaking the window or breaking the lock to the vehicle, so please do not leave valuables visible, better yet – don't leave them in your car!

“Valets” – you go to a restaurant and valet park your expensive car. The valet notifies their buddies that a fancy car just pulled up to the restaurant. They give them the license plate number, which they plug into a public app. The app gives them your home address. They know they have at least one hour to rummage through your home. These same criminals are also watching for fancy cars parking at worship centers, so be careful!

From The Board (continued)

Meet your Sugar Land Mayor and Council Members that represent Sugar Mill!



<u>Name:</u>	<u>Title:</u>	<u>Email:</u>
Joe R. Zimmerman	Mayor	jzimmer@sugarlandtx.gov
Himesh Gandhi	AtLarge 1	hgandhi@sugarlandtx.gov
Mary Joyce	AtLarge 2	mjoyce@sugarlandtx.gov
Steve R. Porter	District 1	sporter@sugarlandtx.gov

Role of City Council: Appoint City Manager on administrative ability, approve the City's budget, establish City policy, and they are the legislative body.

Sugar Mill is in District 1

What does "AtLarge" mean? It means they represent all of Sugar Land, as opposed to just one district. Sugar Land operates under the "council-manager" form of government. Under this system, City Council appoints the City Manager, who acts as the chief executive officer of the government. The City Manager carries out policy and administers city programs. All 7 Council Members (Mayor, 4 District Members, and 2 AtLarge Positions) have equal voting rights. All department heads - including the City Attorney, Police Chief and Fire Chief - are ultimately responsible to the City Manager.

<u>City Managers:</u>	<u>Title & Responsibilities:</u>	<u>Email:</u>
Allen Bogard	City Manager (Public Affairs, Strategic Initiatives)	citymgr@sugarlandtx.gov
Steve Griffith	1st Ass't City Mgr, Public Safety (City Secretary, Fire Dept, Legal, Municipal Court, Police, Public Safety Dispatch, Sugar Land Regional Airport)	sgriffith@sugarlandtx.gov
Jim Callaway	Ass't City Mgr, Community Dev'l (Engineering, Permits & Inspections, Planning)	jcallaway@sugarlandtx.gov
Mike Goodrum	Assistant City Mgr, Mgmt Svcs (Environmental & Neighborhood Services, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Parks & Recreation, Public Works)	mgoodrum@sugarlandtx.gov
Exec Director Jennifer May	Executive Director of Business & Governmental Affairs (Communications, Economic Development, Intergovernmental Relations)	jmay@sugarlandtx.gov

Marion's Fishing Corner

At long last, a change is in the air.....

As we do every year at this time, I'd like to talk a little about the "fall turnover". For anyone who may not know, turnover is a phenomenon that occurs every year at this time to all of our area lakes and reservoirs. This is how it normally occurs: As our average daytime and nighttime temperatures go down, the top layer of water in the lake begins to cool. The advent of shorter days and longer nights accelerates this process. With cool water being heavier than warm water, the cool upper layer will eventually "sink" to the bottom of the lake. This in turn forces the warmer bottom layer to the surface. As this all occurs, it disturbs silt and sediment from the bottom of the lake and normally causes the water clarity to decrease. Also, dissolved oxygen levels are affected. All of these factors combined will usually disrupt the fish's feeding habits. The combination of unstable oxygen content, murky water, and changing PH levels will usually negatively affect fishing success for a while. Luckily, the affects of the fall turnover only last a short time. After several days of stable weather, the water conditions should improve and the fish will get back to their normal feeding patterns.

Turnover is a normal occurrence that happens to all lakes in our area. It is a short-lived interruption to some otherwise very favorable fishing conditions. So when these less-than-ideal conditions exist, just be patient and give the lake a few days to stabilize. Overall, the fall of the year is still my favorite time to be on the water.

Remember to catch and release, because a bass is far to 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 24 years.

From The Board (continued)

The Police Department has asked that we remind all of you that if you are selling an item on Craig's List, don't invite people to your home. Bring the item and meet the prospective buyers in front of the police station for safety.

Lighting of the Lake: Call your friends now to reserve a spot on their boat so you may witness the magnificence of the Sugar Mill Lighting of the Lake. This year's boat regatta will be held 5:30pm on Sunday, December 18th. This is a time-honored tradition, and is great fun for the young, old, and those lying about their age you know who you are!

Thank you.
Sugar Mill HOA
Board of Directors

Yard Of The Month Winners! Congratulations!!



October 2016 "Yard of the Month"
Jesse Garza & Merridee Heidt-Garza at
1002 Mill Run Dr.

Jesse and Dee work really hard to landscape & maintain their yard and it really shows!



November 2016 "Yard of the Month"
Cecilia & Monte Jochens at
703 Millpond Dr.

Cecilia & Monte Jochens have lived in their home at 703 Millpond Dr. for 25 years. They have re-landscaped three times in that quarter of a century. They have devoted themselves to using lots of colorful flowers, southern plants and shrubs. They feel their beautiful yard makes them & their neighbors very happy and are thankful for this wonderful recognition.

As a thank-you gift, both winners received a \$25.00 gift certificate from the Caldwell Nursery in Rosenberg.

Happy gardening & I'll see you "around the block".-Cheryl Swanson

Important Numbers

Sugar Mill's Board of Directors:

Name	Position	Contact #	Email Address
Bill Cure	President	281-491-9536	bill.cure@ gm ail.com
Robert Sheffield	V ice-President	281-242-0453	rsheffield81@ com cast.net
Harry Schippers	A sst. Secretary	281-242-2398	H arryschippers@ w indstream .net
CeAnne Ochel	Treasurer	281-565-0611	ceanneoche l@ gm ail.com
Suzie Bacon	Secretary	281-733-9848	suzie77046@ yahoo .com

City Dispatch	281-275-2525
Police (Non-Emergency)	281-275-2020
Fire Department	281-275-2873
Police Department	281-275-2500
City Hall	281-275-2700
Sugar Land Library	281-277-8934
Sugar Land Post Office	800-275-8777
Police (Emergency)	911
Sherriff's Department	281-341-4700
Crime Stoppers	281-342-8477
Kemper High School	281-634-2300
Sugar Land Middle School	281-634-3080
Sugar Middle Elementary	281-634-4440
Fort Bend ISD	281-634-1000
Animal Control	281-275-2364
Ask City	281-275-2489

MASC Austin Properties, Inc.
945 Eldridge Road
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Terri Salter
Property Manager
713-776-1771 / TSalter@mascapi.com



Our Deed Restrictions and Guidelines Are Online

Get a copy of our deed restrictions and guidelines on the Sugar Mill HOA website at:
<http://www.sugarmillhoa.net/>

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send email to vickih@waynemurray.net.



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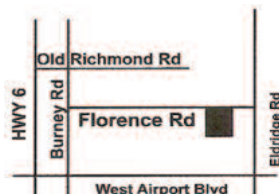
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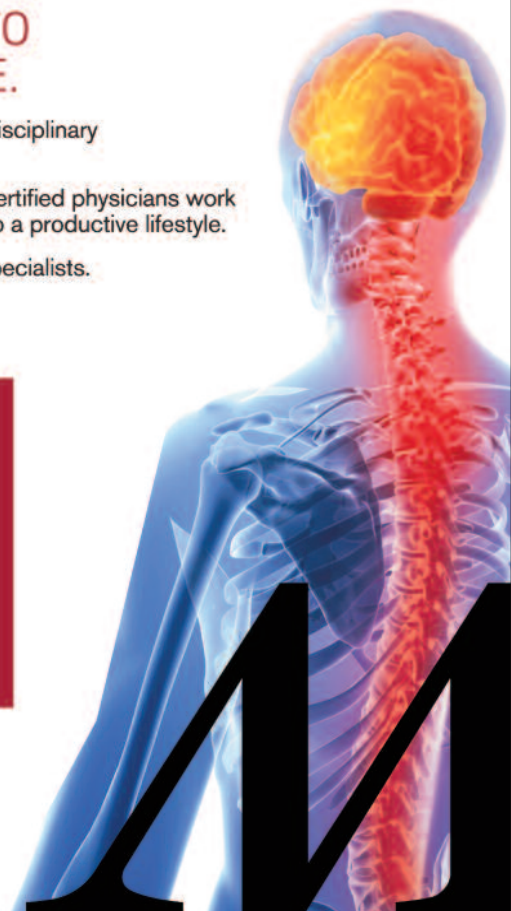
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Please note, email is not a secure means to communicate personal identification, i.e. social security number, date of birth, financial information, etc.



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MARTHA'S TIPS AND TRENDS TO HELP MAXIMIZE HOME BUYING AND SELLING

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WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Moving is hard: With all the logistical considerations of buying the home, closing, moving out of the

old place and then into the new, unpacking and then getting settled, you might be too overwhelmed to actually get out and meet the neighbors. But nothing will make your new house feel like a home like knowing the area and the people around you. Here's a few ways to get involved:

- ➔ **Get outside.** Nothing is quite as easy or effective as showing your face in the neighborhood. Do some yardwork, take frequent strolls or take the kids (or the dog) to a nearby park.
- ➔ **Volunteer.** Whether you can spare a few hours at your kids' school, with a service group or at

an animal shelter, volunteering will allow you to meet people while doing good. Try Volunteer-Match.org or contact your local municipality about opportunities.

- ➔ **Join a club.** Try your local library, events listings for the area or Meetup.com for groups that might share your interests.
- ➔ **Take a class.** Community colleges, local art and music schools, fitness centers and libraries all offer classes that provide you with the ability to learn something new while networking with neighbors.

- ➔ **Get connected online.** So much of our socializing is done online. Try joining Nextdoor (sugarmilltx.nextdoor.com), a social network dedicated to neighbors or searching for local Facebook pages.



Martha N. Lusk, CRS, ASP
 Re/Max Southwest
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