

# GMBAC Community News

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The Greater Mission Bend Area Council Wishes Everyone Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for 2014

## Free Property Tax Workshop

Learn basic information about how you can protest your own property value, exemptions you may be entitled to, what happens if you don't pay, payment options and much more.

Both real estate and business personal property taxes will be discussed.

**Bring Your Questions!**

**9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.**

**Saturday**

**January 25th, 2014**

**Community Volunteer**

**Fire Station**

**16003 Bellaire Blvd., 77083**

**Presented by:**

**Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP**

**Attorneys at Law**

So that we will be better prepared, please R.S.V.P. to:

[Information@gmbac.com](mailto:Information@gmbac.com)

I am proud to be paying taxes in the United States. The only thing is I could be just as proud for half of the money.

**Arthur Godfrey**

## Local Fire Department Has PPC Rating of Two

The Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating for our local Fire Department, EMS District #100, was changed to a 2 by the Texas Department of Insurance. The change is due to recent improvements made by our Community Volunteer Fire Department.

**This new rating could mean a savings on insurance rates for property owners.**

There is no law that requires an insurance carrier to factor in the PPC Rating when determining a rate for a property owner. A call to your current insurance carrier before making the decision to renew your current policy is recommended.

We would like to thank Fire Chief, Steve Fowler and his team for providing excellent service to our community.



Visit <http://www.communityvfd.org/> to learn more about our Community Volunteer Fire Department.

## Annual Fort Bend County Food Drive

To make sure families in Fort Bend County have a meal on the table this holiday season, the City of Sugar Land will host its annual food drive at Sugar Land City Hall in partnership with Channel 13's Share Your Holidays Food Drive.

**Save the Date**

**Friday, December 6**

**8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Sugar Land City Hall**

**2700 Town Center Blvd. N**

For some, food and shelter are hard to find. Many are living at or below the poverty level. Families are forced to decide between things like a proper meal and paying rent. But with one donation, you can make a difference in someone's life. Whether it's donating one can or one hundred, it all contributes to spreading the holiday spirit and care.

To make sure donations provide the most nutritious food possible, it is recommended for citizens to

donate canned goods, beans, dried fruit, flour, rice, sugar, powdered and canned milk, baby formula and other non-perishable food items. Diapers are also needed.

Spread the cheer and the joy!

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

**Winston Churchill**

### Visit West Oaks Mall for the Holidays

Santa, Fashion Entrepreneurs, Winter Gift Workshop and Hunger Games 2 – Catching Fire among the Season's Festivities

[www.gmbac.com](http://www.gmbac.com)

## Tree Lighting Event in the Plaza

*Sugar Land's 11th Annual Tree Lighting Event will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2013 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Sugar Land Town Square*

Come out and enjoy the lighting of the 40 foot Christmas tree with a special appearance by Santa Claus at the City of Sugar Land's 11th Annual Tree Lighting event!

This year's event goes

will be enchanted with a mixture of theatrical and audio presentations by some of the communities most popular performers all while juggling elves capture their attention by creating holiday magic as they walk up and down the streets of Town Square. Activity stations hosted by local retailers and businesses will be available for hands-on fun and a variety of

restaurants will have delightful treats available for purchase all evening.



## The Nutcracker

This holiday treat your lovelies to The Nutcracker, that shimmering, glittering spectacle of holiday cheer. Follow Clara on her journey from the family party to the Land of the Sweets. You'll see a Christmas tree that grows to magnificent heights, dancing dolls, flying cooks and lots and lots of beautiful snow. With music by Tchaikovsky and stunning sets by Desmond Heeley, Ben Stevenson's production

has something to delight every member of the family. It just wouldn't be the holidays without The Nutcracker.

**November 29 - December 29, 2013**

**7:30 PM - November 29\*, 30\* & Dec. 1\*, 7, 8\*, 12\*, 13, 14, 15\*, 17\*, 18\*, 19\*, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27\*, 28**

**2:00 PM November 30 & Dec. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29**

**Age recommendation:**

**2 years and up.**

Performance held in the *Brown Theater at Wortham Theater Center*

*501 Texas Street*

*(at Smith Street)*

\*Indicates discounted performance

<http://www.houstonballet.org/TheNutcracker/>

## Basic Sugar Cookie Recipe

1 cup butter, softened  
 1 cup sugar  
 1 large egg  
 1-1/2 tsp vanilla  
 3 cups all-purpose flour  
 1-1/4 tsp baking powder  
 1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.  
 2. In a small bowl, mix together the flour and baking powder, and set aside.

3. In a large bowl, mix together butter and sugar until light and creamy. Beat in egg and vanilla.  
 4. Gradually add in flour and baking powder mixture until stiff.  
 5. Roll out dough about 1/4 inch thick and use cookie cutters to cut out desired shapes.  
 6. Place on prepared ungreased cookie sheets and bake for 7-8 minutes or until

edges turn a golden brown.  
 Makes about 2 dozen  
 Use a cookie cutter to form them into Christmas trees, angels, or other holiday shapes, add some green and red sprinkles, and you're ready to serve up a special treat for friends and family that is sure to become a holiday tradition.  
 Happy Holidays...and happy baking!



## Dickens on the Strand

**December 7-8**  
**Galveston Island;**  
**Strand Street,**  
**Between 21st - 25th**  
**Streets**  
**Galveston Historical**  
**Foundation**  
**Peggy Clark**  
**502 20th Street;**  
**Galveston, TX**  
**77550-2014**  
**(409) 765-3432; Fax**  
**(409) 765-7851**  
**Music: Victorian**  
**Christmas Music**  
**Activities: Victorian**  
**Christmas Festival**  
**Presented by**  
**Galveston Historical**  
**Foundation**

Dickens on the Strand will take you and your family on an enchanted journey through history as a bustling 19th Century cityscape comes to life. For an entire weekend, hundreds of costumed vendors and performers laden will provide a look at the pomp and pageantry of the British Empire, at a time when commercial and cultural ties provided a strong connection between London and Texas' largest and richest city. Centered in Galveston's The Strand National Historic Landmark District, located approximately one hour south of downtown Houston, the family festival will include

parades, non-stop entertainment on the festival's stages, plus strolling carolers and roving street musicians, bagpipers and entertainers. Additionally, costumed vendors peddle their wares from street stalls and rolling carts laden with tasty culinary delights and Victorian-inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, holiday decorations and gift items.



To a joyful present and a well-remembered past.

Best wishes for happy Holidays and a magnificent New Year.

Author Unknown

**GMBAC**  
P.O. Box 720692  
Houston, Texas 77272

**Fax:** 713.634.2861  
[Information@gmbac.com](mailto:Information@gmbac.com)

GMBAC working for you!



**We're on the Web!**  
[www.GMBAC.com](http://www.GMBAC.com)

## Important Numbers

Harris County Sheriff	713-775-6044
Fort Bend County Sheriff	281-342-3411
Harris County CAD	713-957-7800
Fort Bend CAD	281-344-8623
Alief ISD	281-498-8110
Fort Bend ISD	281-634-1000
Report Graffiti – Harris County	713-759-9454
Report Graffiti – Fort Bend	<a href="http://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/">http://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/</a>
Emergency	911
Non-Emergency – Harris County	311
Non-Emergency – Fort Bend	<a href="http://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/">http://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/</a>

## Next Door.com

[www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com) is a free Neighborhood Social Networking Service for neighborhoods in the United States and is now running in every state in approximately 12,000 subdivisions.

Approximately 550 of those are in the Houston area. It allows users to connect with people who live in their neighborhood.

Currently there are almost 200 Nextdoor Member Residents in 7 different HOA's located in the Greater Mission Bend area sharing information relating to our community including criminal activity, classified ads and much more. The numbers are growing weekly.

**It is free to join and anyone living in a subdivision can set up an account for their subdivision.**

October 9, 2013 News Article

“HOUSTON (KTRK) — Social media now brings neighbors together across the City of Houston all year around. A new website and app called ‘Nextdoor’ can make it that much easier to stay ‘in the know’ when it comes to what’s happening right where you live. Houston’s Police Chief Charles McClelland announced his department will use these private websites and apps to increase and strengthen the relationships between people living in the participating neighborhoods and the department, to inform them on important matters.”

Read More: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=9278981>

This service will also soon be available to those of us living in Harris County outside the City Limits of Houston.