

# GMBAC Community News

*A Voice for the 65,000 Residents of Greater Mission Bend!*



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**Happy Valentines Day!**

Love is friendship, friendship is love. If love fails, friendship should remain. For friendship is the foundation of love.

Author Unknown

## Free Property Tax Workshop

Saturday, January 25th, 2014 the Greater Mission Bend Area Council sponsored a Free Property Tax Workshop. The Workshop was held at the Community Volunteer Fire Station located at 16003 Bel-laire Blvd.



Tracy Jones with Tracy Jones Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP Attorneys at

Law led the workshop. Tracy covered basic information about how to protest your own property tax value, exemptions you may be entitled to, what happens if you don't pay, payment options and much more.

Both real estate property taxes were discussed.

Tracy stressed the importance of making sure the Taxing Authorities have accurate information on file. Incorrect information can lead to a very costly and time consuming situation and the Tax Payer usually ends up the loser.

Harris <http://www.hcad.org/> and Fort Bend <http://www.fbcad.org>

Counties both have excellent websites with a lot of good information.

Visit [http://gmbac.com/?page\\_id=2710](http://gmbac.com/?page_id=2710) for hand-outs and more pictures. Click on the Past Event Tab.

## Adopt A Road

The Kempthron Family is so passionate about keeping our community clean that they have adopted a mile of road on Summit Valley Drive, between Westpark Drive and Parkwest Central near McClendon Park.

Signs have been posted by the Harris County Commissioners Office on Summit Valley.

Dawn Kempthron orga-

nized the first Clean Up Day for January 11, 2014 and invited the GMBAC Members to help with the clean up.

Saturday, January 11th was a beautiful day to be outside but, choosing to pick up trash that was thrown on the ground by inconsiderate careless

people on such a nice day was done by concerned and dedicated residents of our community.



Harris County workers picked up the large piles of trash shortly after the event was over.

Read More and for pictures visit [http://gmbac.com/?page\\_id=2629](http://gmbac.com/?page_id=2629)

**Join 213 of Your  
Near-By Neighbors on  
[www.NextDoor.com](http://www.NextDoor.com)**

Nextdoor is a private neighborhood social network. Only residents in your subdivision are allowed to join. You do have the option of connecting with Near-by neighbors. Information and ideas are shared that help to make our area a better and safer place to live and work.

The Harris County Sheriff's Department is partnering with Nextdoor.

**"Led by Sheriff Adrian Garcia, this integration with Nextdoor will enable the HCSO to use Nextdoor to communicate directly with residents to build stronger, safer communities."**

**Do Your Federal Taxes  
For Free**

Let Free File do the hard work. Use Fillable Forms to prepare and e-file your federal return for free.

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Free-File:-Do-Your-Federal-Taxes-for-Free>

## Bayou Grocery Carts And Who You Know

By Winetta Billings, M.D.

So, how does one get grocery carts out of a bayou? Mary Davis, a long time Mission Bend resident was so concerned about this issue that she was willing to take on the task of organizing a

citizen clean up group with Trash Bash. I told her I would help get the word out, but as far as going down to the bayou and pulling carts out, forget it. Most likely I would fall in and they would have to waste time pulling me out.



Grocery Cart in Bayou near Bellaire & Addicks Clodine

While Mary worked on Trash Bash, I gave a shout out to Jolie Craft, engineer for the Greenbelt Association (they operate a number of the parks along the Mission Bend bayous) to see if she had any ideas.

She told me to contact Mr. Weber of the Harris County Flood Control District and gave me a map of the bayous which she said would have to be marked with the location of the carts. On a beautiful 70 degree winter day, which is a perk of living in Houston, I walked the bayous and made note of the carts.

Mary took it from there and contacted Mr. Weber. In less than an hour, he put in a work order to have the grocery carts removed.

The point is, when we get involved in our community and have organizations in place like GMBAC, and other community based groups like the HOA's, the Greenbelt Association and municipal utility districts, we CAN make a difference. One way or another, someone will know someone we can reach out to for help. Hats off to Mary Davis who cared enough to take time from her busy schedule to improve her community.



## The PINNACLE Senior Center of Fort Bend County

**Fort Bend County and City of Houston Officials are inviting**

**the community to join in celebrating a**

**Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

**The PINNACLE Senior Center of Fort Bend County**

**(Located across from Christa McAuliffe Middle School)**

**5525-C Hobby Road, Houston TX 77053**

**Friday February 14, 2014**

**10:00-11:30 a.m.**

*R.S.V.P. to 281-403-8000 or [Christopher.Harvey@fortbendcountytexas.gov](mailto:Christopher.Harvey@fortbendcountytexas.gov)*

## Explore the new West Oaks Mall website and win prizes!



**Jan. 30 - Feb. 16, 2014**

Want to win an Ultimate Movie Pack to Edwards Stadium 14 & PRX at West Oaks Mall or a two-hour private art lesson with Katy Visual and Performing Arts Center at West Oaks Mall? Browse their website and find answers to five easy questions, then use our Contact page to email us your answers. Make sure to provide your full name

and email address to be entered into the drawing.

Winners will be notified via email and announced on the Home page and Events page on February 18, 2014.

- What children's class does Katy Visual and Performing Arts Center (KVPAC) offer at West Oaks Mall in 2014?

- What is the name of the nail salon at West Oaks Mall?

- Where can I get frozen yogurt in West Oaks Mall?

- Name at least three jewelry stores at West Oaks Mall.

- Name two movies reviewed in the January 16th post "At the Movies"?

<http://www.shopwestoaksmall.com/>

(Copy & Paste the above URL to your browser)



Plumeria

### Third Annual GMBAC Plant Swap

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A Plant Swap

sponsored by

the Greater Mission  
Bend Area Council

will be held on

May 17th, 2014

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

at

George Bush Park

16756 Westheimer  
Parkway Pavilion #3

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**Barter Don't Buy!**

No Money Changes  
Hands just plants and  
plant related items.

For Details Visit

<http://plantswap.gmbac.com/>

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**In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt. ~Margaret Atwood**



### Grow Onions in a Windowsill

Next time you want to add some garnish to your food, sweet spice to your soup, to whip up a savory dish or to make a nice, crunchy salad, all you'll need to do is pluck some from your vertical onion garden. And you don't even have to worry about storing them.

For instructions visit Auntie Dogma's Garden Spot

<https://auntiedogmasgardenspot.wordpress.com/2013/05/15/>



## FEBRUARY "CAN DO, EVEN IN COLD" LIST

By: Randy Lemmon

### Newsletter Committee

Would you like to be a member of the GMBAC Newsletter Committee?

We could use your help!

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

### Local Housing Market

Visit HAR (The Houston Association of Realtors) Website for information about home sales in your subdivision as well as other subdivision Information.

<http://www.har.com/neighborhoods/showSearchResults?zip=77083>

### Maintenance Tip

The older type security systems with door & window 'contact' points sometimes malfunction because the contacts go bad.

Replacing all of the contacts is cheaper than getting an upgraded system.

- ◆ You can and should apply pre-emergent herbicide on lawns and beds.
- ◆ You can and should do tree pruning and deep-root feeding.
- ◆ You can and should have had beds built (and resting) for veggie gardening.
- ◆ You can and should have put out tulips.
- ◆ You can prune crape myrtles.
- ◆ You can continue to use cool-season herbicides like Bonide Weed Beater Ultra.
- ◆ You can put down organic fertilizers, like Micro Life or Sweet Green if you simply must fertilize.
- ◆ You can and should have used dormant oil on plants with any signs of scale from last year.
- ◆ You can plant containerized trees.
- ◆ You can get your already-built vegetable and landscape beds covered in mulch.
- ◆ You can put down humates to improve soil or break down thatch.
- ◆ FEBRUARY "WAIT ANOTHER WEEK FOR WARMER TEMPS" LIST
- ◆ Wait another week or two to apply early green-up fertilizers like 15-5-10.
- ◆ Wait another week or two to prune roses.
- ◆ Wait another week or two to prune fruit trees, especially citrus.
- ◆ Wait another week or two to plant late-blooming bulbs like amaryllis and crocus.
- ◆ If you forgot to apply pre-emergent herbicide early in February, get it done now.
- ◆ Prepare to "scalp" the yard to avoid thatch buildup this year. (Bag the clippings, too.)
- ◆ If you do scalp, do a humate application. Yes, again.
- ◆ Don't feed azaleas yet, unless you're convinced they are done blooming.
- ◆ Start cheating Mother Nature with veggie transplants (like tomatoes) now.

Read more: <http://www.ktrh.com/onair/gardenline-with-randy-lemmon-25172/despite-the-lingerin-winter-you-can-still-get-busy-12038008/#ixzz2sqJIOs5y>



## What's Going on at the Children's Museum?

### USA TODAY'S "BEST MUSEUM FOR FAMILIES" POLL!

Vote every day through Feb. 17!

The Children's Museum of Houston **needs your vote!** The Museum is in the running for "**Best Museum for Families**" in USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards.

The only museum in Texas to be nominated, the Children's Museum of Houston is competing against 19 other museums across the country.

**Supporters of the Museum may vote every day through Feb. 17!**

Vote Now ... it takes just a few seconds!

<http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-museum-for-families/>