

# SYDNEY HARBOUR

News For The Residents at Sydney Harbour

May 2014 Volume 2, Issue 5

## YARD <sup>OF THE</sup> MONTH



The **Yard of the Month for April** has been awarded to **Meri Dunaway, 17823 Obelisk Bay**. Congratulations and thank you for helping make Sydney Harbour a community that we can all be proud to call home.

## UPCOMING HOA BOARD MEETING

The HOA Board of Directors will hold a Board meeting on May 6th, 2014, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the neighborhood clubhouse. If we have your e-mail address, you will be reminded by e-mail. If we do not have your e-mail address and you would like to be added to the neighborhood e-mail, please send it to [sydneyharbour2009@yahoo.com](mailto:sydneyharbour2009@yahoo.com).

## LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Welcome to spring! We will soon be going into a typical Houston summer that presents its own unique set of challenges for our lawns and landscaping.

The Landscape Committee has some great plans for the spring of 2014. Funding for our Committee is expected soon.

The most commonly used grass in this community is St. Augustine. This grass thrives on proper watering and fertilizing. If you haven't already fertilized your lawn, you should do so now. Grass will derive nutrients from the grass clippings for the summer. Adjust your mower so that you don't remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade. Taller grass shades the soil, reduces evaporation and helps prevent weeds.

If you have the opportunity to change or add to your

landscaping, consider native plants and grasses. Once established, they will require 30/40% less water to maintain and are less prone to fungus and disease.

Yes, you can DROWN YOUR PLANTS AND LAWN IN THE SUMMER. Water wisely. Water lawn and gardens in the early morning. The sun is low, winds are calm, and temperatures are cooler. Watering during the day is less efficient because of water evaporation. Watering at night will promote disease and fungus. To determine if your grass is getting enough water is by simply stepping on it. If it springs back, it has enough moisture. If not, water to the depth of at least 1 inch to promote a healthy root system.

The Landscape Committee wishes you all a happy and safe summer.

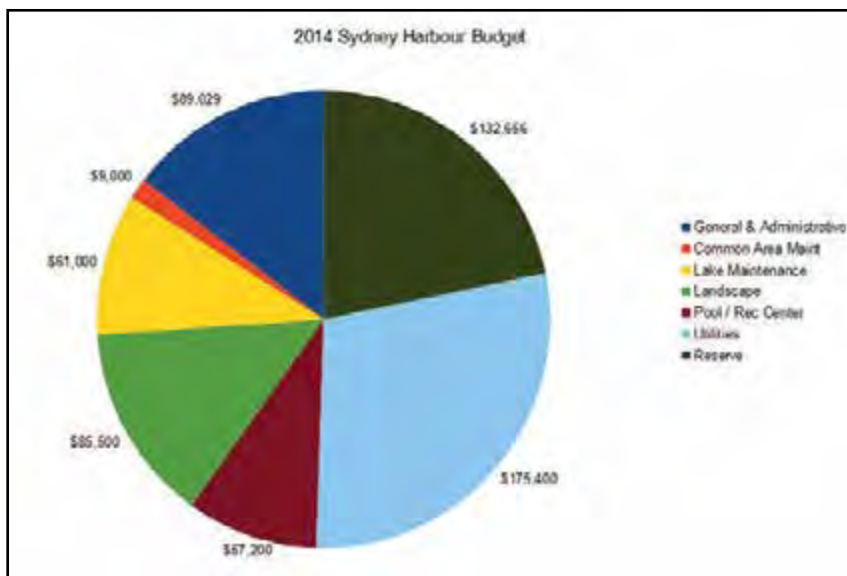
## Sydney Harbour 2013 Spending

Attached is a graph that reflects the 2014 budget which is based on the 2013 spending as handed out at the 2014 Annual Meeting in March. The Board has a lot of questions as to what is behind these numbers, but wants you to know what it knows.

The HOA Board of Directors is forming a Budget and Audit Committee with Mark Christensen as contact Director, to gain understanding of the details. This will take some time but the Board will report to the residents along the way.

The bottom line is less rosy than it appears. The HOA was able to allocate \$153,611.85 into Schedule Reserve (i.e., savings) which is encouraging. However, the HOA balance sheet shows \$478,617.97 to be owed to the Developer. So, despite the positive income statement, the HOA balance sheet is technically in the red by \$61,906.40. Obviously, a top priority is to understand this debt to the Developer; the Board will report to residents as it learns itself.

Largest cost items are Utilities, Landscaping, Lake and Pool.



Utilities include electricity, street lights, water & sewer and well pumping for the lakes. These costs are surprisingly high and the Board will be investigating cost reduction alternatives. Landscaping, Lake and Pool each have committees that will have responsibility to manage cost as they have in the past.

## POOL OPENING, REGISTRATION & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Summer is fast approaching and swim time will be here. The Sydney Harbour pool will open on Saturday, May 17, at 10:00 am. Pool registration will also take place at this time. You must have a pool card to gain entrance to the pool. If you don't have a pool card, bring proof of ownership (driver's license with home address, electric bill, etc.) to receive your card. If you rent your home, you may apply for a pool card but must provide written consent from the owner/landlord.

We will also have an Ice Cream Social to celebrate summer. Bring your family for an ice cream to enjoy your first 2014 day of swimming. We look forward to seeing everyone.

### THE TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS FOR MAY 17 ACTIVITIES

10:00 am - 9:00 pm Pool Opening

10:00 am - 12:00 noon Registration

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Ice Cream Social

## STERLING WEBSITE

This information will give you access to your personal information by logging onto [www.sterlingasi.net](http://www.sterlingasi.net). Welcome to your community's access website information page. For your convenience; you can now go online to access your account and to provide you with any forms or other information that pertains to your community. At this point, you can access your account balance, your assessment amount, payment information, and your account contact information.

The website has two tool bars which have beneficial information for homeowners. One tool bar is related to your community association information and the other to your individual information. Below are some of the more commonly used features:

- By clicking on the "Home" tab, located on the top tool bar, you will find your most commonly used resources such as your

pool forms, bylaws and restrictions, helpful links, community event calendar, and other useful resources.

- To see if your assessment payment has been posted or for a history of past payments look under the "Account Detail" tab which can be found on the second toolbar.
- The "Account Link" tab allows you to link multiple properties that you may own under the same log in.
- The "Architectural" and "Compliance" tabs provide you with a history of past letters and applications and allow you to respond directly to the support personal associated with that function.
- The "E-Payment" tab informs you how to pay your assessments on-line.
- The "User Profile" tab allows you to update your contact information and subscribe to receive information online.

## Your Cypress Specialist



When was the last time  
you went upstairs?

If it's time to sell your  
empty nest, call me.

I'm the empty nest specialist!



If you need a pre HUD, property information or  
help marketing your listings, *I'm always here to help!*

**Gina Baker**  
Broker Associate

Office: 281.304.1344  
[www.ginabaker.com](http://www.ginabaker.com)



Cell: 281.685.0306

26321 NORTHWEST FRWY #100 • CYPRESS TX, 77429



# SYDNEY HARBOUR

## Sydney Harbour Real Estate Corner

Activity: January 1, 2014– March 31, 2014

*Presented by Kathy Emery*

HOME SALES		# OF HOMES	PRICE RANGES
Active	1 Story	3	\$253,500-388,610
	2 Story	7	\$322,000-494,751
Pending	1 Story	1	\$239,500
Pending	2 Story	1	\$315,000
Sold	1 Story	4	\$229,000-355,000
	2 Story	6	\$310,000-415,000

*This representation is based on data supplied by the Houston Association of Realtors.  
Neither the Association nor its MLS guarantees is in any way responsible for its accuracy.*



## COMMUNICATIONS

Do you receive the newsletter? Do you receive neighborhood e-mails? Have you signed up on the Sydney Harbour website? These are all methods of communication within our neighborhood and will be used to share information. If you don't have access to this information, please sign up in the following manners.

**Newsletter:** Send your name and address to [www.sterlingasi.com](http://www.sterlingasi.com) or [servicedesk@sterlingasi.com](mailto:servicedesk@sterlingasi.com).

**Neighborhood Emails:** Send a note to [sydneyharbour2009@yahoo.com](mailto:sydneyharbour2009@yahoo.com)

**Sydney Harbour Website:** Log on to [www.sydneyharbourhoa.org](http://www.sydneyharbourhoa.org) and register.

Brilliant Energy Texas OUC #10140

# BRILLIANT ENERGY

Easy Online Sign-Up at

**BrilliantElectricity.com**

USE "NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER" AS REFERRAL

BRILLIANT ENERGY = SERIOUSLY LOW RATES

BRILLIANT ENERGY'S ELECTRICITY RATES CHALLENGE  
THE RATES OF EVERY OTHER PROVIDER IN TEXAS!

LOCK-IN A LOW ELECTRICITY RATE FOR  
UP TO 3 YEARS

BRILLIANT ENERGY IS RECOMMENDED BY TEXAS ENERGY  
ANALYST, ALAN LAMMEY THE HOST OF THE "ENERGY  
WEEK" RADIO SHOW ON NEWSTALK 1070 KNTH!

Ask the "Energy Analyst"  
281.658.0395

**GREAT BUSINESS RATES TOO!**



## Bashans Painting & Home Repair

Commercial/Residential  
Free Estimates

**281-347-6702**



**281-731-3383 cell**



- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Garage Floor Epoxy
- Hardi Plank Installation
- Custom Staining
- Wood Replacement
- Roofing
- Sheetrock Repair
- Gutter Repair/Replacement
- Interior Carpentry
- Faux Painting
- Cabinet Painting
- Door Refinishing
- Wallpaper Removal and Texturizing
- Window Installation
- Pressure Washing
- Trash Removal
- Fence Repair/Replacement
- Ceiling Fan/Light Fixtures

**References Available • Fully Insured**  
**NO PAYMENT UNTIL COMPLETION**  
[bashanspainting@earthlink.net](mailto:bashanspainting@earthlink.net)

# DROWNING IS FAST & SILENT KEEP KIDS IN ARM'S REACH



## COLIN'S HOPE

WATER SAFETY TIPS AT  
[WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG](http://WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG)



Volunteer - Donate  
[COLINSHOPE.ORG](http://COLINSHOPE.ORG)



### May is National Water Safety Month

**Ongoing:** Volunteers needed to stuff & distribute water safety packets. [info@colinshope.org](mailto:info@colinshope.org)

**Ongoing:** Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed. [www.tinych.org/AthleteAmbassador](http://www.tinych.org/AthleteAmbassador)

**Now-June 21:** Donate \$30, get a free Schlitterbahn ticket. [www.tinych.org/tickets](http://www.tinych.org/tickets)

**May 5th:** Otter Spotter Day Storytime at Backwoods Austin from 10:30am-11:30am

**Take our Water Safety Quiz.** [www.colinshope.org/quiz/](http://www.colinshope.org/quiz/)

Keep your children and families safe in, near and around all bodies of water.

## LAYERS OF PROTECTION CAN PREVENT DROWNING



**CONSTANT  
VISUAL  
SUPERVISION**



**LEARN  
TO  
SWIM**



**WEAR  
LIFE  
JACKETS**



**KEEP BACKYARDS  
& BATHROOMS  
SAFER**



**MULTIPLE  
BARRIERS  
AROUND WATER**



**CHECK POOL  
& HOT TUB  
FIRST**



**STAY AWAY  
FROM  
DRAINS**



**BE SAFER  
AT THE  
BEACH**



**LEARN CPR  
& REFRESH  
SKILLS YEARLY**



**VISIT  
US  
ONLINE**

# SYDNEY HARBOUR

The curbs in my neighborhood are cracked and broken. How can I get them repaired?

To request service, please complete the online Work Order Request Form (WORF) at:

<http://www.hcp4.net/cad/worf.htm>

Requests for service can also be made by calling the Community Assistance Department at

281-353-8424, or the PDF format of the WORF can be faxed to 281-893-5589, or mailed to 1001 Preston, Ste. 950, Houston, Texas 77002.

After hours, weekends, or holidays, please contact the Harris County operator at 713-755-5000 to report road hazards, such as blinking traffic lights, missing manhole covers or storm drain grates, missing stop signs, etc.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



ADULT  
LUAU

Saturday, August 23rd  
7:30-10:30 P.M.



MADE IN  
THE U.S.A.



TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM

*Sell Us Your Car! We make buying and selling fun!*



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Management Company  
**Sterling Association Services, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 38113 Houston, TX 77238-8113  
 (p) 832.678.4500, (f) 281.598.4487  
[www.sterlingasi.com](http://www.sterlingasi.com), [servicedesk@sterlingasi.com](mailto:servicedesk@sterlingasi.com)

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Harris County Sheriff ..... 866.222.7100  
 Pct 4 Main Dispatch Number ..... 281.376.3472  
 Animal Control (Emergency) ..... 281.999.3191  
 Poison Control ..... 800.764.7661  
 Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department ..... 713.466.6161  
 Emergency ..... 911

### LOCAL UTILITY/SERVICE PROVIDERS

Electricity- Reliant Energy ..... 281-897-8808  
*You can choose your electric provider*  
 Water and Sewer-Eagle Management ..... 281.374.8989  
 Garbage Pick-up ..... Monday & Thursday  
 Recycle Pickup ..... Monday ONLY  
 Gas-CenterPoint Energy ..... 713-.659.2111  
 Telephone- AT&T ..... 800.464.7928  
*You can choose your telephone provider*  
 Cable-Comcast ..... 713.895.2539  
*You can choose your cable provider*

### PUBLIC SERVICES

United States Postal Service ..... 281.373.9125  
 ..... 16635 Spring Cypress Road  
 Metro Park and Ride ..... 713.635.4000

### MEDICAL FACILITIES

Methodist Hospital-Willowbrook ..... 281.477.1000  
 Cy-Fair Medical Center ..... 281.890.4285  
 Memorial Herman Hospital ..... 281.392.1111  
 North Cypress Medical Center ..... 281.894.0003

### COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Cy-Fair ISD Administration ..... 281-897-4000  
 ..... 10300 Jones Road  
 Farney Elementary School ..... 281-373-2850  
 ..... 14425 Barker Cypress  
 Goodson Middle School ..... 281-373-2350  
 ..... 17333 Huffmeister  
 Cy-Woods High School ..... 281-213-1727  
 ..... 16825 Spring Cypress Road

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

### Publisher

Peel, Inc. .... [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com), 512-263-9181  
 Article Submission ..... [sydneyharbour@PEELinc.com](mailto:sydneyharbour@PEELinc.com)  
 Advertising ..... [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com)

## STERLING ASI PERSONNEL

**Roxanne Martinez** ..... Association Manager  
 ..... 832.678.4500, [roxanne@sterlingasi.com](mailto:roxanne@sterlingasi.com)

**Janine Cruz** ..... Administrative Assistant  
 ..... 832-678-4500 ext. 205, [janine@sterlingasi.com](mailto:janine@sterlingasi.com)

**Lizbeth Garcia** ..... Administrative Assistant  
 ..... 832.678.4500 ext.206, [lizbeth@sterlingasi.com](mailto:lizbeth@sterlingasi.com)

*Any concerns or general questions for the association regarding violations, deed restrictions, acc applications, interest in joining a committee, clubhouse/pool rentals and any other questions regarding the property can be directed to Janine.*

**Sara Schouten** ..... Account Representative  
 ..... 832.678.4500 ext. 215, [sschouten@sterlingasi.com](mailto:sschouten@sterlingasi.com)

*Any accounting related questions, a payoff quote or a transfer fee, or just want to know how much is due on their account will be directed to Sara.*

**Angela Villegas** ..... Pool Card Administrator/Customer Service  
 ..... 832.678.4500 ext. 224, [angela@sterlingasi.com](mailto:angela@sterlingasi.com)

*Should homeowners need a pool card for access to the pool area or have any general questions they can ask for Janine, Lizbeth or Angela.*

Along with Janine, Lizbeth, Sara and Angela, we have 6 customer service representatives that are familiar with the Association and area readily available to assist homeowners.



**RE/MAX®**  
**Prestige**  
**HOUSTON**  
 NEW HOME TEAM



Alex Rezende

**(713) 516-6106**

**[www.HoustonNewHomeTeam.com](http://www.HoustonNewHomeTeam.com)**

**"Other agents list homes... we SELL them."**

RE/MAX Prestige (281) 640-8900. Each RE/MAX office is independently owned and operated.



**PEEL, INC.**

308 Meadowlark St. South  
Lakeway, TX 78734

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PEEL, INC.

SYD

# \$\$\$ HOW MUCH IS YOUR HOME WORTH?



"If you are buying or selling a home and would like answers, guidance, and service from a person you can trust: Call me"

View all available listings at:

**[www.ServingNWHoustonTX.com](http://www.ServingNWHoustonTX.com)**



**Jackie Spiro, ABR, SFR**

Realtor Associate RE/MAX Lakeland

**832.443.1162** Cell

**832.220.1240** Office

[JackieSpiro@remax.net](mailto:JackieSpiro@remax.net)

