



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE
NORTH

Volume 3, Issue 11

November 2004

Notes from VanMor

Fence Staining:

A Natural Cedar Tone is required for the staining of fences. The stain that has been used by most residents in the past is the Kelly Moore TWP Cedar Tone. However, this product is soon to stop selling in the store and would have to be special ordered. Home Depot sells a similar stain that would also be acceptable. It is Cedar Natural Tone DP-533 by Behr, a product that has been around for a long time and comes highly recommended.

Pets:

1. Texas has a Leash law. Any pet outside a contained area are required to have a leash on.
2. Please be courteous of neighbors and pick up after your pets. Pet Waste transmits disease.
3. The drinking fountains are for owners, residents, and visitors only. If a pet needs a drink, please bring a necessary bowl to fill up with water; please don't let them drink directly from fountain.

HOA Assessments & Dues:

The assessment rate for 2005 has been calculated, and it will be the same as last year. Look for your statements to be mailed out in November.

Mailbox Tampering:

Speaking of mail, please remember that it is a federal crime to open a mailbox other than your own. Putting a flyer or solicitation in another's mailbox is taken very seriously by the US Postal Inspection Service.

DHL Deliveries:

DHL, formerly Airborne Express, has been given the OK to enter the community and resume delivery directly to homeowners.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact VanMor.

Need Help Maintaining Our Neighborhood Directory

We currently have a voluntary electronic neighborhood directory of addresses and phone numbers. Due to increased family responsibilities, the person who maintains it can no longer fill that role. We are looking for someone willing to take responsibility for updating and maintaining the directory. If you can help, please contact Kimberly Fisher at kimberlyf@houston.rr.com.

To All Loen Ladies...

I am very interested in forming a ladies group in LOEN and would like to hear from other ladies who might also be interested. My goal is to create a sense of community in our neighborhood, but the structure and shape of our group will take the ideas and vision of many. If you would be interested in participating on a start up committee, I'd love to hear from you. Please call me, Becky Vogel, at 713-856-6130, or email me at kvogel2263@aol.com.

Neighborhood News

Neighbor had a baby? Child with a great athletic or academic achievement? Group activities with information to share? We want your news!!!!!! Please submit to Jillian at jbarkley@houston.rr.com.



Lakes on Eldridge North

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

VanMor Properties, Inc. 281-493-0668
Fax 281-493-5654
Kate Loeffler, Manager
Dorinda Obsta (Dori), Administrative Assistant
Gate Attendant 713-856-6127
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Cy-Fair Fire Department - (emergency) 281-466-6161
(non-emergency) 281-550-6663
Poison Control 1-800-764-7661
Texas DPS 713-681-1761
Waste Management 713-695-4055
(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)
Aqua Services 713-983-3602
(Service or emergencies 24 hrs) 713-983-3604
Harris County Tax Office 713-224-1919
Reliant Energy 713-207-7777
(give pole # of street light which is out)
Entex (gas) 713-659-2111
Time Warner Cable 713-462-9000
Houston Chronicle 713-220-7211
Metro Transit Info 713-635-4000
Kirk Elementary 713-849-8250
Truitt Middle School 281-856-1100
Cy-Falls High School 281-856-1000
Newsletter Publisher
Peel, Inc. 806-385-6444
Adver./Donna Sommer dsommerPEELinc.com, 832-237-4684

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Jillian Barkley 713-856-5912 (LOEN)
GOT NEWS??? *Deadline for submitting articles for the Lakes On Eldridge North Newsletter is the 15th of each month.. Submissions are subject to space limitations and editorial approval. E-mail your information to Jillian Barkley, jbarkley@houston.rr.com, not VanMor.*
PERSONAL CLASSIFIED ADS: *Deadline for submitting personal classified ads is the 10th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Please contact Jillian Barkley, 713-856-5912, jbarkley@houston.rr.com.*
ADS: *Deadline for submitting ads is the 10th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Please contact Donna Sommer, 832-237-4684, dsommer@PEELinc.com for information on advertising.*

Vanmor Properties, Inc. Contacts

Manager - Kate Loeffler
Administrative Assistant - Dorinda Obsta (Dori)
1505 Highway 6 South, Suite 110; Houston, Texas 77077
Phone - 281-493-0668 • Facsimile - 281-493-5654

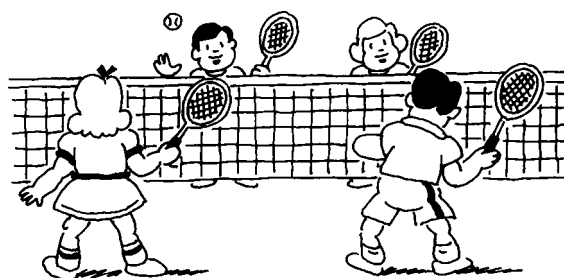
Attention Cyclists

Cyclist looking for a group to ride with. If you are a cyclist in the neighborhood and ride with a group or would like to, please email Chong Park at chong.h.park@exxonmobile.com.



Attention Tennis Players

I'm a new resident of LOEN looking for tennis players! If you would like to play in the neighborhood, possibly two mornings per week, call Jean at 713-466-6818 or 713-882-1795.



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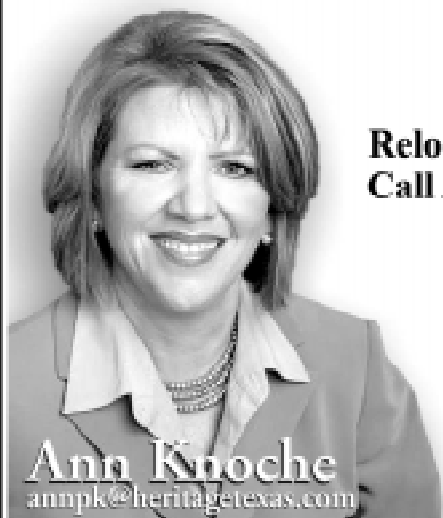
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LAKEs

ON ELDRIDGE NORTH

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Ann Knoche
annpk@heritagetexas.com

**Relocating? Moving Up? Scaling Down?
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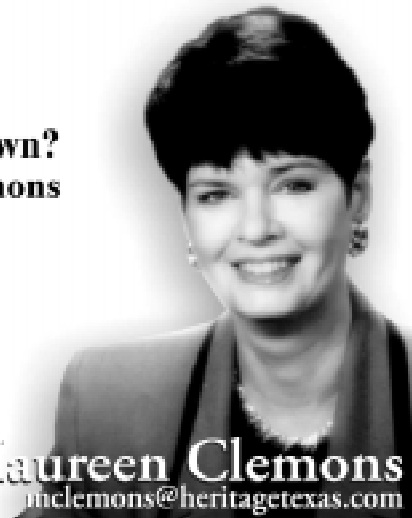
281.493.3880

Ext. 1911

Ext. 1904



heritagetexas.com



Maureen Clemons
mclemons@heritagetexas.com



Lakes on Eldridge North

Quest To Be Our Best.....Kirk Elementary 2004-2005

There's so much to celebrate at the little school house on Tanner Road, so get ready to do some reading. It's well worth the time, because your Kirk Tigers have been hard at work and hard at play for the past several weeks—broadening their horizons both academically and socially, developing into responsible, compassionate little people of whom we all can be extremely proud.

We probably are beaming the brightest over our first (and we hope, annual) Fall Festival, held on the school grounds October 2. This unique event combined fundraising with lots of family fun for students and faculty alike. Our amazing PTO devoted countless hours to coordinating the festival and appealing to numerous neighborhood businesses for support, and we couldn't be more pleased with the results. Despite a few rain sprinkles and an overcast sky, our Kirk families and friends filled the playground and enjoyed a carnival of games and activities, including several fantastic moonwalks (one in the shape of gigantic tiger, of course). Amidst live music, folks enjoyed the day, complete with wonderful food; a gift basket raffle; and a silent auction with fabulous items, all of which was made possible through the generosity of numerous volunteers, donors, and sponsors.

We encourage all Kirk families, friends, and neighbors to share their gratitude and support these wonderful sponsors:

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Re/MAX: David Flory, Teresa
& Steve Hardcastle
The Vanderhider family

We also send a huge THANK YOU to the following businesses and families who donated items for our silent auction. They, too, deserve our steadfast support:

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Lakes on Eldridge North

Kirk Elementary - (Continued from Page 4)

On the education front, the goal of our awesome Kirk staff this year is to nurture our students to think effectively and to discipline themselves in making important decisions. When faced with a problem or a challenge, how do you react? Our hope is to equip our Kirk Tigers with the skills to thoughtfully consider the choices they make everyday, whether in response to challenging school work; family issues; conflicts with friends; or any number of difficult situations. We want Kirk to be a "thought-full" place, where cooperation, compassion, and strong character are the first order of business.

On that note, we have continued our "Building Better Relationships" (BBR) program, in which we highlight a new character trait every six weeks. We began the school year focusing on "effort," and lots of our Tigers were seen sporting "E" stickers in recognition of having demonstrated extra effort in the classroom. We presently are concentrating on "responsibility." Our Kirk Tigers must learn the value of their promises and the importance of following through on commitments. Our students need to be responsible for their school work, as well as for any obligations they may have at home. Instilling a sense of responsibility early in life paves the way for an easier transition into the teen years and into adulthood. We encourage all parents to model these character traits and take time to praise your children when you see them doing the same.

We have been a busy group since the last newsletter update. September included a visit from author Amy McDonald; Scout Rallies; Pizza Nights at Cici's and Dominoes; Skate Night; our fall fundraiser; school portraits; Art After School; a focus on Hispanic Heritage; a

Fifth Grade food drive benefiting Bear Creek Assistance Ministries; and the kickoff for a new year of Destination ImagiNation, with participation now open to all grades!

October was equally busy with the continuation of after-school programs; our fabulous Fall Festival; the renewal of our Mentor program; the Scholastic Book Fair; the start of Junior Achievement; the Royal Reading Quest in which all students were challenged to read a total of 30,000 books (for the "prize" of having Principal Linda Jefferson sport a snazzy new hair color)—stay tuned for the results; a visit with our Second Graders from author Susan Crummel; our annual Pumpkin Patch fundraiser at Pecan's Grill; the availability of a new after-school option for interested students and families called the "Good News Club" sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship; and a wonderful evening program by our Fourth Grade P.E. students.

November looks to be just as busy with fundraiser deliveries; Jump Rope For Heart, benefiting the American Heart Association; pizza and skate nights; after-school programs; Exchange City Field Trip for our Fifth Grade Tigers; and Feast Days in celebration of Thanksgiving.

To say the least, Kirk Elementary is whizzing through another year and having a ball every step of the way. Our Kirk Tigers are strong and confident, and they have the unwavering support of an amazing faculty. We also have the invaluable support of our friends and business partners, who, together with our Kirk families, have created a truly wonderful neighborhood school. Go Tigers!

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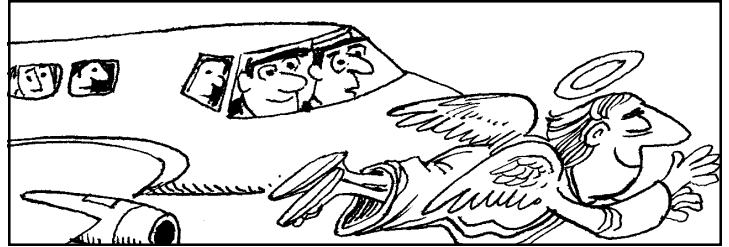
Lakes on Eldridge North

Get To Know Grace School!

Please join us for coffee and conversation
Tuesday, November 16, 2004
8:15 AM to 9:30 AM
Lesli Higginbotham's home (LOEN)
5914 Caddo Terrace

Joining us will be Suzanne Todd, Head of School,
Elaine Brill, Director of Admissions
and Mary Ann Benoche, Head of Early Childhood School

If you have any questions, please call Lesli at 713-849-0787
or e-mail at lsiggy@sbcglobal.net



In pilot's jargon an angel is 1,000 feet. For example, 22 angels is 22,000 feet.

Zoning Options

Don't forget to check the Cy-Fair ISD website(www.cfsd.net) this month to see what the new zoning options will be for LOEN and Kirk Elementary. Remember to send feed back directly to the Cy-Fair board of trustees.

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St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School Blessing of the Pets

Monday, October 4th, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School celebrated their Annual Blessing of the Pets. Students, faculty, parents, parishioners and pastoral staff gathered around the St. Francis of Assisi statue to participate in the blessing. Students were able to bring their family pets from home and have them blessed. It is always a fun day for the whole St. Elizabeth Ann Seton community. Father Bob, Father Ed and Father Quang all participated in the blessing. What great pastoral support for the students and their pets. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Community love their pets unconditionally as God loves us unconditionally.



Upcoming Events at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School

Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony
CLCHall
November 11th @ 10:00 A.M.

Open House
January 26, 2005
9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. and
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Senior Citizen Lunch
CLCHall
January 31st @ 11:00 A.M.

New Family Registration
February 22nd
School Office

All events are located at:
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*Have A Safe &
Happy Thanksgiving!*



Lakes on Eldridge North

Thyme Out for Gardening: Planting for Winter Landscape

Usually by the first week in November, fall, as we know it in Houston, has arrived. Although the weather is a little cooler, there is still a lot of life left in the landscape. If you enjoy gardening, our usually mild fall and winter temperatures can be a blessing and a curse. On the positive side, we enter another growing season as our temperature drops. We can have beautiful color and fresh herbs and vegetables throughout the winter and the cooler temperatures make it more comfortable to work in the yard. On the negative side, we never truly get a break from garden maintenance. We can't just clean and put away the garden tools like they do up north. I don't know about you, but I haven't been able to keep up with the fall weeds! We still need to monitor the rain and our watering because some plants are still growing enough to need extra moisture. And we also should keep an eye on the thermometer – our occasional hard freezes can kill the more tender plants in our landscapes. But back to the positive side: during the 3 snows we've had in Houston during the last 30 plus years, I never knew anyone who had to shovel their driveway!

So even though our Houston winter landscapes require some work, let's talk about ways to make the most of our additional growing season and add some interest to our winter landscape. If you haven't already done so during our previous discussions on landscape planning, think about the mix of plants you have in your existing landscape – it's not too late to make some changes. Despite our mild climate, many of our trees, shrubs, and perennials are deciduous over the winter, losing their leaves as part of their natural dormancy cycle. Too many deciduous plants can make your landscape a little bleak and the loss of cover leaves birds and other wildlife unprotected from the cold and from predators. While some folks have too many deciduous

plants, others go overboard on the evergreens. It's nice to have the green color during the winter and the birds appreciate the cover, but too much of a good thing can be monotonous.

Varying your landscape with a combination of different types of evergreens and deciduous plants will provide a lot of winter interest. Install trees and shrubs that have interesting bark to add texture and architecture to your garden and add plants with berries for color – you can feed the birds at the same time. As I've mentioned before, wildlife also adds movement and interest to the garden. I enjoy watching the mockingbird antics as they fight over yaupon berries! If more people put bird-friendly plants in their landscapes, we'll see a wider variety of songbirds visit our neighborhood as the construction activity winds down.

November, December and January are our best months to plant trees and shrubs as even the evergreens have slowed their growth. Transplanting during the cooler months while the trees and shrubs are in a state of dormancy reduces their shock as they adjust to a new environment. If you want to put in plants that have fall and winter berries, now is the best time to select them. In some plant species, for example the yaupon holly, only the female plant will produce berries and the male and female look alike. The reason that the dwarf yaupon so many of us have in our landscapes doesn't have berries is because it is a male selection called "Stokes". There has been a female dwarf yaupon on the market for about 5 years called "First Lady," but it's harder to find. It's much easier to find full-sized female yaupons in the garden centers. By selecting the plant in the fall when berries are produced, you can be assured of buying a female plant and, where there is a choice available, of

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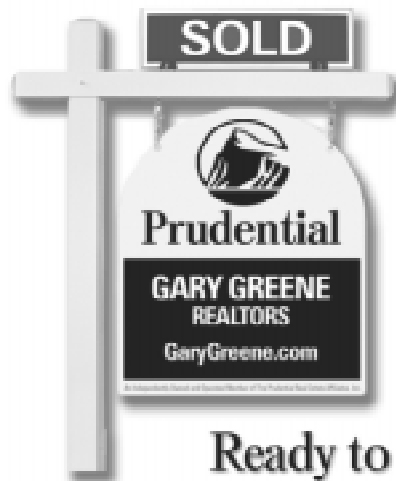


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Thyme Out - (Continued from Page 8)

getting a plant with the color of berries you want.

Here are a few more small trees and shrubs that are attractive to birds and people during the winter and are available in most nurseries: American Holly, Possumhaw holly, southern wax myrtle, and American beauty berry. Please remember that it's best to leave the berries on landscape plants for the birds. Know your plants – although the berries look pretty, many can be toxic if eaten by people and their pets.

Grasses can also provide fall and winter interest through their movement, color and structure if you leave the showy seed heads (called inflorescences) alone – don't trim them back until early spring. While many of you may already have some fountain grass in your garden, several of our native grasses will do well in the flowerbed. The easiest to find are probably gulf muhly (for sunny areas), Lindheimer muhly (needs full sun and excellent drainage), and inland sea oats (for shady areas).

If you install new trees, shrubs and perennials this month, you'll really begin to see their benefits in your landscape next year as they grow in. What if you don't want to wait that long for winter interest? And what if you don't want to make any changes to your tree and shrub line-up? Then put some color in your landscape with cool season annuals. Pansies are probably the best known of this group. Annuals are plants that complete their lifecycle of developing, flowering, and producing seed in one growing season. The plants we call our cool season annuals are those that grow all summer long in northern gardens yet can't tolerate our summer sun and heat. For these plants to survive in Houston, we need to grow them during fall, winter, and early spring so that they will have the sun, yet cooler temperatures and slightly drier conditions they need.

Although some of the nurseries have had these annuals since September,

November is really the better month to plant them. If you plant them too early, the heat can weaken or kill them. If you buy transplants and plant them in containers or in a sunny area of your flowerbeds now and add some slow release fertilizer in your soil, they should last until March or perhaps April if conditions are right. Because they are actively growing, these annuals will probably need supplemental watering during dry spells and the application of some water-soluble fertilizer about once a month. Bugs come out to nibble when we hit a warm spell and weeds can interfere with growth, so check on your plants once in a while.

Despite our mild winters, growing cool season annuals is not a perfect proposition. These plants are not native to our area (unfortunately there aren't a lot of winter-blooming native plants) and although they usually do well, they can be sensitive to our temperature fluctuations. Most of the cool

(Continued on Page 10)

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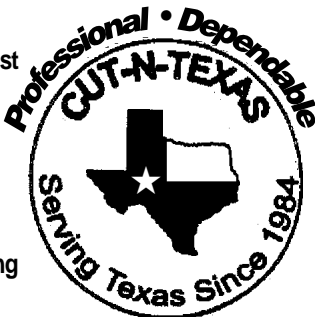
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Thyme Out - (Continued from Page 9)

season annuals should be protected during a freeze. As you think about protecting your tender plants, remember that each yard is a little different. The temperature in our neighborhood tends to be colder than it is in neighborhoods south of us. The orientation of your home in the neighborhood can affect the temperature in your yard and the amount of wind you receive. Plants on the south side of the house or garage are more protected than those exposed to the cold fronts coming in from the north. When in doubt, it's always best to try and protect your plants when you can. Smaller container plants can be brought inside, while larger container plants and those in the ground will require a little more effort.

Generally, if it's dry and windy and a freeze is projected, water the soil around your plants thoroughly. Cover the flowerbeds as evening approaches. Visitors may wonder why our flowerbeds are draped in sheets and blankets during a frost, but it does give our tender plants another few degrees of warmth. Special frost blankets and row cover fabrics also work well to protect your plants. Plastic sheeting isn't the best product to use for cold protection because if you don't remove it from your plants before the sun comes up in the morning, the heat can build up too rapidly and kill the plants.

Of the ornamentals annuals, pansies, violas (including Johnny-jump-ups), dianthus, and ornamental kale and cabbage are probably our most cold tolerant annuals and don't need to be covered before a frost. The violas can tolerate a little more heat and will often last until June, sometimes reseeding for next year. Other good choices for seasonal color, although they need some cold protection, include snapdragons, cyclamen, larkspur, sweet pea, sweet alyssum, dusty miller and petunias.

Want to use something a little different for your winter interest? Try herbs and vegetables! Whether you're growing them in a container or in a well drained flower bed, cilantro, parsley, dill, calendula, and nasturtium are attractive, edible and prefer our cooler months. Parsley is technically a biennial (with a 2-year life cycle), but if you plant it here in the winter, it will flower and go to seed as soon as the weather gets hot. Cilantro and basil share the year in Houston gardens: when the weather gets hot and cilantro is fading, it's time to plant basil and when the cooler weather stops the basil, it's time to plant cilantro. Leaf lettuce varieties, hardy to about 25 degrees without protection, can be started by seed in a well drained flowerbed or container. Sprinkle the small seeds over the soil, press them lightly into the soil, sprinkle with water, and you're on your way to a winter salad bowl. Add radicchio and Osaka mustard to the plant mix for more color (and flavor).

Warm weather tends to make greens bitter; that's why we grow them here during the winter and early spring. If you have the space, it's a good idea to sow the seeds of herbs and leafy greens in the garden every couple of weeks during the season so that you'll have another supply coming should the weather affect your current crop. Swiss chard, especially one of the new

colorful varieties, is an attractive and edible addition to the garden. Swiss chard can be purchased as a transplant from many nurseries - the growth will be in a holding pattern during the winter and will accelerate in early spring. The plants I've mentioned are just a few of the many plants that are available to add to our winter garden enjoyment. We didn't even have a chance to talk about citrus! There's a lot more information available from local gardening resources and if you e-mail me, I'll be happy to send you a list. Also, I omitted the Latin names of plants during this month's column to save space and because most of the plants listed are well known. If you want to know the Latin names for proper identification, just e-mail me.

Other November gardening notes: If you're feeding the birds with birdseed, be aware that the seed can host a disease which can harm birds. Only put out enough seed to last a few days and clean the feeder frequently with a brush and a very diluted bleach solution. Rinse well and allow the feeder to dry before adding more seed. Throw out any seed that is moldy or "buggy." Did you have some hummingbirds this fall? We had six hanging around our street at one point and as they tend to come back to familiar territory, I hope we'll see even more in the future. While most of the Ruby Throated Hummingbirds migrate south by mid-November, local wildlife experts say that Houston is often visited by other species during the winter. Experts are now recommending that you leave your feeders up throughout the winter and spring to support the hummingbirds when their nectar sources aren't in bloom. If you're going to keep your feeder up, remember to clean the feeder and change the solution frequently (every 4 - 5 days in cooler weather).

November is the traditional month to plant spring-blooming bulbs like amaryllis, daffodils, tulips, leucojum, and lilies. Consult "A Gardener's Guide to Growing Bulbs on the Gulf Coast" by Sally McQueen Squire (Houston, Texas: River Bend Publishing, 1998) for information on the best varieties and planting techniques. Until December, happy gardening!
By Lisa M. Rawl, Harris County Master Gardener, lmrjkk@earthlink.net

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Meetings will be held the third Wednesday of each month from 9-12. For location of meeting or any questions, please contact either Cindy (832-467-0950) cecklund@Houston.rr.com; Lisa (832-467-2781) lmrjkk@earthlink.net; or Belinda Walker (832-467-9391) jamewalk@prodigy.net.

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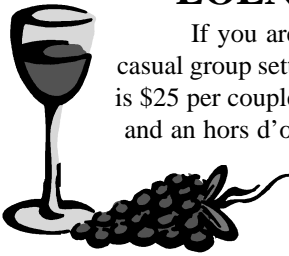
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Fluoride Level Change

The fluoride level in our drinking water has changed to from 0.2 ppm to 0.4 ppm. The ideal amount is 0.7ppm for older children and 0.3 ppm for infants. Contact your pediatrician or dentist to see if fluoride supplementation is necessary.

Neighborhood Volunteers Needed

We are looking for someone to keep up with local class and athletic offering for the neighborhood newsletter. We need someone to keep in touch with the YMCA, local youth sports organizations, and any other locations for continuing education. This person would type up the information on a monthly basis to be included in the newsletter.

We also need someone to write up short articles each month on what is taking place at Truit Middle School and Cy-Ridge High School. If you have a child or are a student at one of these schools please consider helping us! Thank you!

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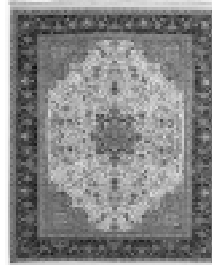
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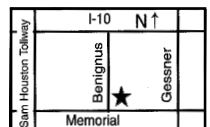
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Online registration starts November 9
On-site registration begins November 15

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Online registration available.
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Check Out The Events At The Center For The Arts

"In/Wetland," a unique indoor and outdoor exhibition of guest artist Jennifer Vanderpool, will be featured through Nov. 17. The Fall 2004 Cy-Fair College Student Exhibition will run Nov. 18 through Dec. 1. For information, call 281-290-5273. "A Taffetas Christmas" will be presented in the Black Box Theatre Nov. 18 through Dec. 12. For music lovers, Cy-Fair College and Langham Creek students will perform Faure's Requiem Nov. 5 and a holiday concert with a plethora of performers and music styles is set Dec. 3. For tickets call 281-290-5201.

Cy-fair College Continues Fall Film Series

Join Cy-Fair College professors and student organizations as they host free films and discussions held at the Barker Cypress campus and Fairbanks Center. The film series is part of an effort to promote cultural activities on campus. Among some of the upcoming features are "Salt of the Earth Nov. 4, "Not One Less" Nov. 16 and "City of God" Dec. 2, all at Barker Cypress, and "Beijing Bicycle" Nov. 1 and "Hera Pheri" Nov. 18 at the Fairbanks Center. Go to www.cy-faircollege.com or contact Robert O'Brien by phone at 281-290-3257 or e-mail at robert.obrien@nhmccd.edu for information.

Library Features Cy-Fair History Display

The Cy-Fair College Branch Library staff is seeking community input for a Cy-Fair History Display which will be on exhibit Nov. 15 to Nov. 30. Display organizers request area residents to loan copies or original Cy-Fair photos, journals, letters, church/business histories, small tools/utensils, clothing, games and other family memorabilia from 1800 to 1940. Children ages 3 to 17 can provide input with a picture they draw of their Cy-Fair area home, apartment, backyard or room. All entries need to be on 8 1/2" X 11" paper and all entries must be received by Nov. 7 to be included in the Cy-Fair History Display. For entry information, call Susan Green at 281-290-3242 or Monica Norem at 281-290-3244 or send an e-mail to cyfairlibrary@nhmccd.edu.

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