



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE

Volume 4, Issue 2
February 2005

www.lakesoneldridge.net

Valentine's Day Facts The Reason for Valentine's Day

Early History of Valentine's Day:

- One thought is: The early origins of Valentine's Day can be traced back to the ancient Roman celebration of Lupercalia, which was held on February 15. The celebration of Lupercalia honored the gods Lupercus and Faunus and the founders of Rome.

- Another thought is: There were two saints named Valentine and a priest a named Valentine. One saint was executed on February 14th and 227 years later, Pope Gelasius named February 14, Valentine's Day for him. The priest named Valentine disobeyed the Emperor and secretly married couples.

- And another thought is: Birds and fowl select their mates on February 14th.

Modern History of Valentine's Day:

- Began in France and England.
- The first box of Valentine's candy was in the late 1800's.
- The Duke of Orleans (a frenchman) sent the first Valentine, after being captured in 1415. He sent it on Valentine's Day to his wife. (source: Sunniebunniezz.com)
- "The oldest known greeting card in existence, is a Valentine card made in the 1400's and can be admired at the British Museum (London)." (source: NetOGRAM)
- Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's.

Symbols of Valentine's Day:

- Cupid (The Roman God of Love)
- Doves
- Love Birds
- Roses
- Hearts
- Arrows
- Lacy Doilies

Facts About Valentine's Day:

- Over 1 billion Valentine cards are sent in the U.S each year.

- Some of the countries that celebrate Valentine's Day:

The United States
Canada
Mexico
United Kingdom
France
Australia

- Over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.

Information retrieved from <http://familyinternet.about.com/library/blvalentinesdayfacts.htm>, January 16, 2005.



February Monthly Meetings of Interest

5 – Wine Tasting

3, 10, 17, 24 – LOE Merry Stitchers

11 – Ladies Bible study

21 – Board of Directors meeting

24 – LOE Book Club

25 – LOE Coffee Club

Vehicle Decal

We cherish our life behind our gated community. It's quiet, pleasant, and private and it limits the amount of people who can come in. Therefore, all resident vehicles must display the proper LOE decal to enter the community. This is in effort to reduce the amount of unauthorized traffic in the community.

Vehicles that do not have a proper vehicle decal displayed will be asked to show identification to enter the community. If you need a decal, you can contact AMI at 713.932.1122.

**View the
Lakes on Eldridge
Community Newsletter
each month online at
www.PEELinc.com**

Lakes on Eldridge

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| AMI..... | 713-932-1122 |
| Gate Attendant | 713-937-8825 |
| Sheriff - (non-emergency)..... | 713-221-6000 |
| 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 Source..... | 713-983-3602 |
| (Service or emergencies 24hrs)..... | 713-983-3604 |
| Harris County Tax Office | 713-224-1919 |
| Reliant Energy | 713-207-7777 |
| (give pole # of street 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 |
| Cy-Ridge High School..... | 281-807-8000 |
| Newsletter Publisher | |
| Peel, Inc..... | 806-385-6444 |
| Adver. Donna Sommer..... | djsommer@aol.com, 832-237-4684 |

LOE Board Of Directors

To contact a member of the Board of Directors, call Alex Taylor with AMI at 713-932-1122. Leave the number where you can be reached. Mr. Taylor will then forward your message to one of the following board members:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Nikki Favero..... | President |
| Bronson Clay..... | Vice President |
| Lindsay Buchanan..... | Secretary |
| Bob Adams..... | Treasurer |
| Michelle Perez..... | At Large |

Airport Noise

LOE is now in the flight pattern for both Intercontinental and Hobby Airports, which means air traffic has significantly increased. If you are concerned over the noise make a call to one or all of the numbers below. It is the number of calls and the people taking time to make them that make the most effective appeal for change for this situation.

- Houston Airport Noise Complaints Hotline: 281 233-3900
- Air Traffic Approach Number: 281 230-8441
- FAA Hotline: 1-800-255-1111

Board Notes

December 2004

The board of directors of Lakes on Eldridge Community Association met on December 20, 2004. The following is a summary of what was discussed.

The Board reviewed the financial statements for the period ending November 30, 2004. The Association had cash balances of \$42,821 in the Operating Fund and \$93,512 in the Replacement Fund. For the eleven months ended November 30, 2004 the Association had Total Income of \$791,739, Total Expenses of \$801,199 and an Operating Deficit in the amount of \$9,460. The financial statements were accepted.

For storage purposes, new shelves are being designed and considered for the clubhouse. The board reviewed the Beach Club reservation policies and draft revisions will be made in an effort to both clarify and better enforce policies.

Seasonal colors have been installed, and the diseased pear trees on Eldridge Parkway had been removed and replaced with crape myrtles.

The revised pool management contract was reviewed and approved. The board reviewed bids to repair vandalism damage to the clubhouse tower.

The managing agent reported that the North Harris County Regional Water Authority was increasing rates for pumpage from \$.34 to \$.59 per 1,000 gallons effective the second quarter of 2005.

The Board approved the renewal of the Association's insurance but requested the managing agent obtain an insurance appraisal to confirm whether the Association's property was properly valued.

Board meetings are generally held on the third Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the Beach Club. It is recommended that homeowners who wish to attend confirm the dates with AMI since they change occasionally. In addition, homeowners are welcome to bring business before the Board but are required to inform AMI of their intension to do so in order to be placed on the agenda.

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*If you would like to submit an article or any information for the Lakes On Eldridge Newsletter, you may do so by sending the information in **Word Format, Courier New, size 10**, to mperez51@houston.rr.com. This information should include your name. All information should be received **no later than the 12th of the month** and is subject to editorial approval as well as space limitations.*



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All entries must be received by February 10, 2005.

Drawing will take place February 11, 2005. A \$75.00 Value

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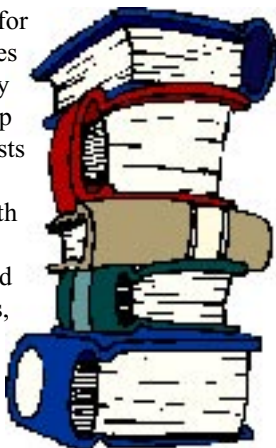
Lakes on Eldridge

LOE Book Club

The LOE Book Club is back in action for the new year. Our February selection takes us into the turmoil of Afghanistan. We try to select a wide range of books, so keep checking and, if you see one that interests you, please join us.

We meet the 4th Thursday of each month in the clubhouse at 7:30 P.M.

February 24th – *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. An epic tale of fathers and sons, of friendship and betrayal, that takes us from the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy to the atrocities of the present. The unforgettable, heartbreaking story of the unlikely friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father's servant, *The Kite Runner* is a beautifully crafted novel set in a country in the process of being destroyed. It is about the power of reading, the price of betrayal, and the possibility of redemption. And it is also about the power of fathers over sons -- their love, their sacrifices, their lies. The first Afghan novel to be written in English, *The Kite Runner* tells a sweeping story of family, love, and friendship against a backdrop of history that has not been told in fiction before, bringing to mind the large canvases of the Russian writers of the nineteenth century. But just as it is old-fashioned in its narration, it is contemporary in its subject -- the devastating history of Afghanistan over the past thirty years.



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Please support the businesses that advertise in the Lakes on Eldridge Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Lakes on Eldridge residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales representative, Donna Sommer @ 832-237-4684 or at dsommer@peelinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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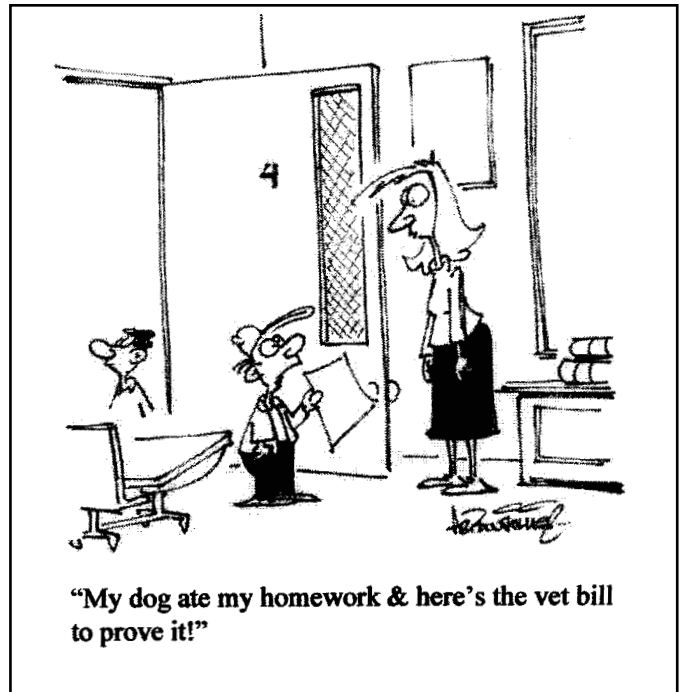
Lakes on Eldridge

Maintenance Fees

2005 Maintenance Fees are due and are late after February 28, 2005. Your Maintenance Fees fund the operation of the community such as landscaping, pool maintenance and repairs, insurance and reserving for the future major repairs or replacements. For more information contact AMI or mail your payments with your property address to:

AMI
9575 Katy Freeway, Suite 130
Houston, Texas 77024-1453
Phone: 713.932.1122
Fax: 713.932.6059
E-mail: ami@amitx.com
Web: www.amitx.com
AMS: ams.amitx.com

Please support the businesses that advertise in your newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible to provide your newsletter to all the residents in your subdivision at no charge. No homeowners association dollars were used to produce this newsletter.





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Cy-Fair Libraries

Four Harris County library branches are located in the Cy-Fair area. The Barbara Bush Library is on Cypresswood, the Northwest Branch is on Regency Green Drive in Cypress and the Bear Creek Branch is on Clay Road, just south of Cy-Fair. Cy-Fair College, located on Barker Cypress at the intersection of West Road, is host to the area's fourth county branch library.



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Lakes on Eldridge



Deputy Roland "Ted" Dahlin of Harris County Constable's Office Precinct 4 was honored as the Chamber's October Officer of the month. Presenting the award was sponsor Kathi Schmidt and Susan White of Reach Unlimited, Inc. Willowbrook Mall was also a sponsor.



Deputy Craig Darlow of Harris County Sheriff's Department District IV received the November Officer of the month award from sponsor Travis Fogle of Silverado Senior Living. Willowbrook Mall also sponsored the award.



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LOE Coffee Club

The coffee club has had a great mix of ladies. This is an opportunity to get together for coffee, conversation, friendship and hopes of increasing community togetherness. We meet every 4th Friday of the month. You are invited to the clubhouse January 25th, 9:30 at the Clubhouse.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you want more information, please contact Michelle at 832-731-0943 or mperez51@houston.rr.com

Cy-Fair Performing Arts

Cy-Fair has more than its share of culture. In addition to plays, concerts and art exhibitions in Houston and other nearby communities, the Cy-Fair College and the Cy-Fair Independent School District provide fine arts activities within the local area. Supplementing fine arts performances at the schools is the Community Council Art Foundation. The number of arts scholarships offered has increased since the organization was organized in 1988. An art and collectibles auction has been a successful fund-raiser.

Applause Theatre Company is a non-profit youth musical theatre and school located in northwest Houston by Willowbrook Mall. Applause offers programs for beginners to advance with our Broadway series, workshops and acting classes.

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Highlights

- ♦ *Purchase Money Loans*
- ♦ *Refinancing Loans*
- ♦ *Home Equity Loans*
- ♦ *0 Down Payment Loans*
- ♦ *Construction to Permanent*
- ♦ *Stated Income Loans*

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Clubhouse Update

The clubhouse is in need of some serious updating. Because this is a one time expense and to keep the assessment fees down, we are asking for volunteer donations of any amount for the clubhouse update. You may add this to your assessment fee or you may send a separate check to

AMI

9575 Katy Freeway, Suite 130

Houston, Texas 77024-1453

Your one-time donation will go a long way in helping improve our community and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers needed

We are always looking for volunteers in the community. You drive the policies and procedures. But without your involvement, this is left up to a handful of people. So if you are interested in helping the community, please visit the website, register as a member and list your interests to volunteer and we will contact you.

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Lakes on Eldridge

Awakening

By: Janet L. Hall

Waking up to chaos and clutter can instantly drain you of your energy and put your spirit in a foul mood, even causing you to become depressed.

As a professional organizer, I'm often asked, * Where do I start? * I always suggest one of two areas, your bedroom or your important home or office files.

Many have disagreed, stating that they would prefer to start with a room that others may see when visiting.

But I'm here to tell you, don't worry about those areas... yet. My saying is, * you can drop by anytime to visit me but if you want to visit my house to see how clean it is, make an appointment! * (there is a difference between clean, neat, and organized, but that's another article <g>).

Organizing and cleaning those areas will only make your Spirit soar temporarily. Those areas will NOT feed your Spirit in the way it needs to be feed in the morning, BEFORE you get out of bed! (unless you sleep in one of those areas <g>).

So why not start decluttering and * Overhauling * the room in which you awake every morning? Take care of you boudoir first! It's the first room you see in the morning and the last room you see at night.

Your bedroom can set the stage for your day and how your Spirit will feel, react, and cope throughout the rest of the day.

EDITORSTIP: After reading this article, place it next to your bed with a pencil and before you get out of bed reread and answer the following:

Now, look around you. What do you see? Chaos and clutter or calm and organization?

What beauty can a new morning bring you? What is your vision of your day?

Listen. What do you hear? Bickering, * Can't find....*, or laughter and a birds song?

Start this new day by listening to nature outside your window. Sing, whistle, hum, or play music that lifts your spirit and refreshes. (I sing to myself, * You've got to wake up every morning with a smile on your face and show the world all the love in your heart... Carole King)

What do you smell? Dirty socks, moldy * stuff * or a fresh cut lawn, sun dried sheets, or the fragrance of flowers?

Inhale and infuse yourself with power for the day with fresh clean scents around you. A scented candle, fresh flowers on your nightstand, scented soaps, lotions, or oils.

What do you feel? Overwhelmed, depressed, drained, or rejuvenated and renewed?

Renew and elevate your Spirit by embracing the day upon waking, take a big stretch, read an affirmation, your spiritual book, or a daily inspiration. Pray or meditate.

Write down what you would like to see, hear, smell, and feel when you first awake. What do you have to do to feed your senses and your Spirit?

When you start clearing the clutter out of your senses, you will begin to become open and aware to receiving those things that can feed your body, soul, and spirit.

If you feed your spirit and your mind upon waking, you'll day will run smoother. You'll become more aware of what's going on around you and within you.

Alan Cohen, author of A Deep Breath of Life, writes in one of his daily inspirations for heart-centered living: *...Each day is like a life unto itself, and so the first minutes of each day are the formative minutes. We must take special care to sound the keynote that will set the tone for our entire day. How do you begin your day? Do you spend it with God, in peace, in attunement with yourself? Or do you pop out of bed and immediately dive into the busy-ness of the day, postponing your soul's needs in favor of lesser activities? *

He goes on to say, * Take at least the first 20 minutes of your day to meditate, pray, read an inspiring book, practice yoga or tai chi, walk in the woods, sing, dance, or engage in any practice that links you to a higher power. Establish your center, and the day that follows will reflect clarity, strength, and love. Any time you spend with Spirit will be returned throughout the day. Even a few seconds of closing your eyes and remembering the presence of love will make a big difference. At the end of your day, be with God before entering sleep. The formative minutes will build the consciousness that makes a productive life. *

If you'd like to learn to mediate or need help in this area, John Edward, author of Understanding Your Angels and Meeting Your Guides, has a wonderful audiotape with some amazing exercises.

I love the mediating exercise in which Mr. Edwards teaches; how to * breath in Universal positive energy and force out any negative energy you are holding in your body. Giving your body permission to surrender your negative energy.

I'd like to give you permission to rid yourself of all the negative clutter and stuff in your bedroom.

If something reminds you of how much weight you've gained, get rid of it!

If something makes you sad or unhappy, get rid of it!

If something brings back bad memories, get rid of it!

If something makes you feel dated, get rid of it!

If something is broken (you'll never use it again or will cost more to fix then replace), or irreparable, get rid of it!

(Awakening-continued on page 15)

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Lakes on Eldridge

(Awakening-continued from page 14)

If something from your past would embarrass your loved ones after you gone, get rid of it!

If something doesn't mean anything to you any longer, get rid of it!

Wall by wall, inch by inch, surface area by surface area, all the clutter and stuff that you've STUFFED into the one place you should be able to go to relax, reflect, make love, sleep, and meet your Spirit in the morning can be sorted through using my TEASER technique. (For a FREE copy of my TEASER, click: <mailto:teaser@sendfree.com?subject=web>) This is an auto-responder; you will receive the TEASER via email within seconds of hitting the send key.

Nine Additional Steps to Get Started:

1. Decide how much time you have or are willing to dedicate to creating your own personal paradise.
2. Set a timer for the length of time you have set aside to declutter.
3. Take the phone off the hook.
4. Turn off the computer and TV.
5. Don't answer the door.
6. If you have children, make sure they have an activity to do or have someone watch over or play with them (or maybe they can help <g>).
7. Stay focused by NOT leaving the room.
8. Do NOT bring anything else into the room you're decluttering that doesn't belong there.

9. Do NOT run out and buy storage items until AFTER you have sorted through your stuff!

Remember it's not about being neat; anyone can straighten or tidy up. It's about utilizing your bedroom and space for what it's meant to do – a place to rest the soul and Spirit.

For more Organizing Tips and Exercises for your Master Bedroom, click <http://www.overhall.com/masterbedroom.htm> Look to this day!

For it is life, the very life or life.

In its brief course

Lie all the verities and realities of

Your existence:

The bliss of growth;

The glory of action;

The splendor of achievement;

For yesterday is but a dream,

And tomorrow is only a vision;

But today, well lived, makes every

Yesterday a dream of happiness,

And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day!

--Kalidasa (Translated from the Sanskrit)

Look for ways the Universe spoils you today and everyday.

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Lakes on Eldridge

Lawn Maintenance Tips

1) You can start any time and trim back your Crepe Myrtles, between now and end of February. It is best to trim back only what has grown this past year and lightly about no more than 18" inches to 2' ft. And no further, otherwise you lose that multi-trunk tree look. Make sure to remove any rubbing branches and unsightly weak branches and sucker growth. As far as fertilizing the best type is any fertilizer that you would use for Azaleas or Camellias will work just fine, etc.

2) During freezing weather make sure to use a cloth material for covering your plants instead of plastic material, plastic will freeze a plant quicker than conventional cloth. Also always water extremely well prior to any freeze, will also help keep plants from freezing, because the plants aren't under any type of stress, etc.

3) Just because it feels cool and there is no rain doesn't mean that your grass and shrubs are ok, they still need to be watered on a regular basis (unless it is raining), how often is usually 2-times per week and the time it will run would be cut in half or even less depending on location, saturation, and evaporation, etc.

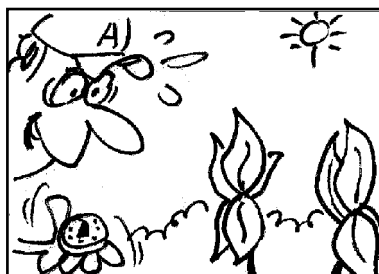
4) Yes even though it is cold you can still plant just about any type of shrub and or tree this time of year. Planting now will help get the roots established and ready for hot summer heat, and not worry about plants suffering from heat, so it is an ideal time to plant.

Happy New Year!



Lawn Care Tip Of The Month

If you are planting a groundcover under trees with a root system close to the surface, add about 15 centimeters of topsoil along with your 10 centimeters of organic matter. Then spread bone meal at a rate of two kilograms per 10 square meters to promote root development. Turn the bed to a depth of about 20 centimeters (the depth of a garden fork); mix thoroughly, then rake smooth.



The compass plant is so-called because its leaves tend to line up in a north-south direction.

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Teenage Jobseekers

The following young people are interested in making a little extra money. If you would like to be included, removed, or updated in the next issue, please contact Michelle Perez, mperez51@houston.rr.com. All information must be received by the 10th of the month.

Babysitting
Pet/Plant Sitter
Lawn Care
Car Washing
Window Washing
Power Washing Driveways
Website Design/PC Assist.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Michelle, 18 | 713-937-0727(LOE) |
| Eileen, 16 | 713-937-0727(LOE) |
| Courtney, 13 | 713-937-0288(LOE) |
| Craig, 14 | 713-937-0288(LOE) |
| Sage, 16 | 713-896-4933(LOE) |
| George, 16 | 713-467-0932(LOE) |
| Delania, 13 | 713-849-2812(LOE) |
| Gabby, 16*** | 713-849-4596(LOE) |
| Chelsea, 19 | SUMMER ONLY 713-983-7252(LOE) |
| Chinyere, 14 | 713-856-9495(LOE) |
| Jessica, 17 | 713-849-3692(LOE) |
| Katie, 16 | 713-896-7941(LOEN) |
| Patrick, 14 | 713-937-0727(LOE) |
| Ryan, 14 | 713-896-794(LOEN) |
| Kelechi, 13 | 713-856-9495(LOE) |
| Benny, 12 | 713-476-3750(LOE) |
| Jared, 17 | 832-467-9336(LOE) |
| Ryan, 17 | 832-243-9893(LOEN) |
| Katherine, 15** | 832-243-9893(LOEN) |
| Jessica, 13 | 713-937-1383(LOEN) |
| Erica, 12 | 713-937-1383(LOEN) |
| Brianna, 10 | 713-937-1383(LOEN) |
| Katie, 17 | 713-983-7717(LOE) |
| Thomas, 11 | 713-856-7372(LOEN) |
| Steven, 14 | 713-856-5666(LOEN) |
| James, 16 | 713-466-8298(LOEN) |
| Courtney, 12 | 713-493-0288(LOEN) |
| Tom, 14 | 713-466-6878(LOE) |
| Elisse, 16 | 713-896-9495(LOEN) |
| Leslie, 11** | 832-467-4842(LOEN) |
| Erika, 12** | 713-856-7192 (LOE) |
| Greta, 19 | Christmas & Summer Only 713-896-4170 (LOEN) |
| Joe, 18 | 832-876-4191 |
| Kate 13 | 713-466-6878(LOEN) |

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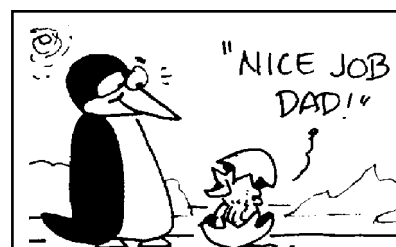
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Among emperor penguins, it is the male bird which hatches the eggs.



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|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Current Listings | 38* | 46* |
| Price Range | \$234,000 - 829,000 | \$244,000 - 979,000 |
| Sold in 2004 | 53 | 76 |
| Sales Price Range | \$195,000 - 905,000 | \$235,000 - 885,000 |
| Avg Days on Mkt | 117 | 97 |
| * As of 1/7/05. Source HAR/MLS * | | |

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