



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE

Volume 4, Issue 3
March 2005

www.lakesoneldridge.net

Family Open House

On April 9th, you and your family are invited to Pine Forest Country Club to a Family Open House from 1:00 pm till 5:00 pm.

What can you do at Family Open House?

- Play golf
- Play Tennis
- Children can enjoy moonwalk and playground area
- Complementary refreshments will be provided for your enjoyment
- Attend tennis clinic with the resident pro at 2:30

This event is exclusively for Lakes on Eldridge and Lakes on Eldridge North residents hosted by LOE and Pine Forest and is at no charge to you. Call today to make your reservations to check out this breathtakingly beautiful facility.

RSVP to Midge Copeland
(281) 463-0900

(You must mention that you are a LOE or LOEN resident)

This is a private club with dress code: no denim, collared shirt and bermuda shorts required.



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Pine Forest Country Club is a private membership country club. This brochure should not be considered as an offer of membership. For membership information, please call 281-3632910.

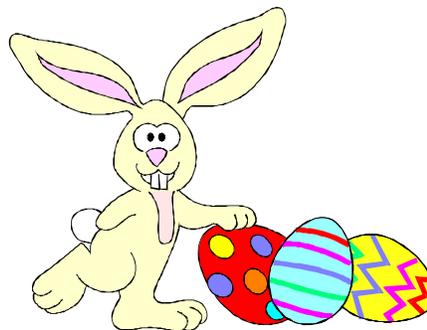
Egg Hunt Volunteers Needed

The annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children of Lakes of Eldridge will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 12, 2005 in front of the Beach Club. We need volunteers to prepare for this fun event.

The hunt is on to fill the following:

- **Egg Hunt Flyer Distributor** - flyers need to be distributed to each home in the neighborhood. One volunteer is needed per section of the neighborhood
- **Egg Collectors** - homes in several sections of the neighborhood are needed to collect the eggs and bring them to the Beach Club to be hidden prior to the hunt.
- **Set Up and Decorations** – basic table set up and decoration help is needed the morning of the hunt;
- **Refreshments** - cookies, muffins, and fresh fruit are needed for the refreshment table, enough for approximately 100 adults and children.
- **Egg Hiders** – help is needed to hide the eggs prior to the hunt. Volunteers are asked to be at the club no later than 9:00 a.m.
- **Clean Up Crew** – volunteers are needed to clean up after the hunt.

If you would like to help with any of the above, please call Elizabeth Tobin at (832) 467-1369 or Michelle Perez (832) 731-0943 by Friday, February 25, 2005. Thanks!



**View the Lakes on Eldridge Community
Newsletter each month on-line 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 |
| Bob Adams..... | Secretary |
| Lindsay Buchanan..... | 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

Lakes on Eldridge Swim Team DOLPHIN NEWS

Dolphins we would like to welcome everyone back for a fun 2005 season. We have the registration dates set for the team and we are also working on our new team website. Check it out: <http://www.loedolphins.org>. Parents Kent Vinall and Kathryn Gauci are organizing the website and doing a great job. We have a wonderful new coach this season, Sabrina Holub. She is presently coaching for Fleet Aquatics at Watkins Elementary. You are welcome to call the Fleet office for times when Sabrina will be coaching to start swimming early or go watch her in action (www.fleetswimming.com).

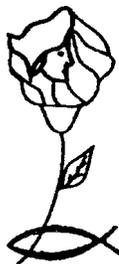
The swim team is open to children ages 4 to 18. Please see the website for registration fee information. We need teens age 15 – 18 to score crucial points for our team. This is a fun way to meet other teens in the neighborhood. Kids in the 15 – 18 age group will have no registration fee.

Registration Dates at the Lakes on Eldridge Beach Club

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| April 3 rd 2005 | 3:00 to 5:00 |
| April 7 th 2005 | 6:30 to 8:30 |

Please try to attend on of these Registration dates. Returning swimmers are guaranteed a spot if they register by April 3rd. There are a limited number of spots available on the swim team. The start of the season is April 26th. The parents meeting will be held on the evening of the 25th. More information regarding the season will be distributed by email and through the website. Please contact Mary Beth Taylor if you need more information: seahorses61@sbcglobal.net or (713) 983-6434.

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Here are some tips to get your garden ready for Spring

- Prepare beds for planting flowers.
- Check with your local county agent for the average last killing freeze date for your area. Killing freezes can occur after this date.
- Prune evergreens and summer flowering trees and shrubs in early March.
- Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs as soon as they finish blooming.
- Select and order caladium bulbs as well as geranium and coleus plants for late April and early May planting. Do not plant caladiums until soil temperature reaches 70 E.
- As camellia and azalea plants finish blooming, fertilize them with three pounds of azalea-camellia fertilizer.
Start hanging baskets of petunias and other annuals for another dimension in landscape color.

Beware of closeout sales on bare-root trees and shrubs. The chance of survival is rather low on bare-root plants this late in the season.

Relocating?

Moving Up?

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annpk@heritagetexas.com

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Lakes on Eldridge

Tanner Road Update

During the past couple of weeks it appears that work has come to a standstill on the Tanner Road Expansion Project and several owners have called to request information. We called the Harris County Precinct 4 office and here's what we found out:

Rain is a problem for road construction. For each day of rain we can expect construction to be delayed for two days – possibly more if the ground is really saturated. The section from North Eldridge to Brittmore Park is currently scheduled for completion by March 31, 2005 (not too far away) but may be delayed some because of February's rains. What delay there may be has not yet been determined but Precinct 4's engineering staff is working on that task.

For those interested in finding out more you may contact Harris County Precinct 4 directly at (281) 353-8424.

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.

Stressing Neighborhood Safety

We have many residents who like to take advantage of our beautiful streets and sidewalks for walking, jogging, riding bikes, and other activities. We welcome and encourage this, but ask each of you to take the proper precautions to protect yourselves and your families from accidents or mishaps. It is particularly difficult at dawn and dusk for motorists to see pedestrians, and vice versa. Further, we have too many motorists who are speeding and not stopping at stop signs. The following procedures and precautions are highly recommended:

- Use the sidewalks for walking, jogging, pushing strollers, roller blading, etc. This will make it safer for you as well as authorized motorized vehicles that may not see you.
- We ask that every resident obey all traffic signs and laws - observe posted speed limits, come to a complete stop at stop signs, etc., and that they ask the same of family members, friends, and visitors.
- Bicycles should be ridden in the streets, not the sidewalk, and should obey all traffic signs the same as authorized motorized vehicles.
- Non licensed drivers and non-licensed motorized vehicles (specified in another article) are not allowed in Lakes on Eldridge.

Please be courteous to your neighbors. The more we expect of ourselves, the more we can expect of our friends and neighbors, so let's set a great example to give others something to follow. It's our responsibility to ensure our own safety!



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Board Notes January 2005

The board of directors of Lakes on Eldridge Community Association met on January 17, 2005. The following is a summary of what was discussed.

The Board reviewed the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2004. The Association had cash balances of \$215,573 in the Operating Fund and \$89,581 in the Replacement Fund. For the year ended December 31, 2004 the Association had Total Income of \$867,154, Total Expenses of \$887,354 and an Operating Deficit in the amount of \$20,200. The financial statements were accepted.

The Board reviewed proposals from Fisher-Smoucha to perform an insurance appraisal for \$1,200 or to perform a reserve study for \$2,800. On a motion duly made the Board approved the insurance appraisal but asked that the managing agent determine whether there would be additional savings if a reserve study were to be performed later in the year.

The Board approved the division of the storeroom in clubhouse on condition that the swim team participate in the cost.

The managing agent distributed copies of the fully executed pool management contract for the Directors' files. The agreement had been approved and executed at the December 2004 board Meeting.

The managing agent reported that he had met with B&M Construction and Cummins Construction regarding revised quotes to close off the tower by flooring over the opening and installing a locking door or trap door. Arundel Services had declined to quote on the basis it did not feel fully qualified for the work.

The managing agent distributed copies of a proposal from Greater Houston Pool Management for skimmer repairs in the amount of \$900.00. The Board deferred a decision pending receipt of a reply from Greater Houston whether there were less expensive alternatives.

The managing agent distributed copies of the mosquito control agreement from Excalibur Pest Control for the 2005 mosquito season at \$68.00 per spraying. The Board requested another quote.

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 intention to do so in order to be placed on the agenda.



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Lakes on Eldridge

How's Your Fence?

Many of the fences in LOE are showing the effects of water spray and weather. While cedar normally goes gray as it ages, sprinklers have caused many ugly stains. Mold has also appeared on some fences that do not get much exposure to the sun. Some homeowners have power washed their fences to improve their appearance, which it certainly does, but at the same time that washing strips the cedar of some of its natural oils that protect it and that normally make it a long-lasting fence material.

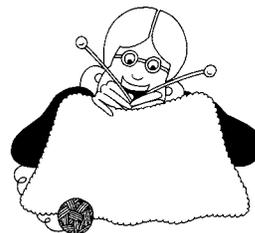
LOE has traditionally not allowed these fences to be stained or painted. At its December meeting, however, the LOE Board approved the use of a clear preservative to protect and improve the appearance of cedar fences. Painting and staining of fences is still not allowed.

Obviously, a clear preservative should be applied only after cleaning the fence carefully. There are several preservative and cleaning products on the market, including Flood-CWF and Savogram Liquid TSP, among others. You should consult with your favorite home improvement store for specifics.

Please check the condition of your cedar fence and, if necessary, take appropriate steps to improve its conditions.

**Visit the Association Website:
www.lakesoneldridge.net**

LOE Stitchers



Strong and growing with 18 members, the LOE stitchers do all kinds of needlework, from quilting to hook rugs. You name it they do it. The stitchers meet every Thursday from 9:30-Noon at the Club House. It is a great time visiting with other neighbors and planning some great trips to fabric and yarn shops.

Future plans would be to start a bridge group for beginners, novices, intermediate and skilled players. There is someone willing to teach for those interested in learning and joining with their neighbors for some fun. Then how about a Happy Hour for couples and singles?

If you are interested in any of the above, please contact Catherine at (713) 896-1652 or catherinespellings@msn.com.

Meeting dates:

March 3, 10, 17, 24

April 7, 14, 21, 28

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Service for Financial Aid.

Lakes on Eldridge

L.O.E. Book Club

We get together in the clubhouse the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Call or e-mail Celeste Fritz, 713-896-6942, cfritztx@houston.rr.com for additional information. Discussion is usually led by the person who nominated the selection for the month.

March 24th – **Miss Julia Speaks Her Mind** by Ann B. Ross. After the unexpected death of her husband of 44 years, Julia Springer is more than just a grieving widow, she's a rich one. She's also a woman on the verge of finding herself. Freed at last from her husband's sheltering, often suffocating gaze, Miss Julia realizes that she must learn to manage her money, to run her own household, and to carry on the substantial reputation that her husband built in their small Southern town. It's a tall order, and one she's excited to take on. But just when she thinks she's got her new life under control, an unexpected visitor arrives with news that would send anyone, let alone a proper Southern lady, into a tailspin. How Julia copes with the news of her husband's secret life, and learns to rebuild her own, is the subject of this charming, often zany and always riveting novel.



April 28th – **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** by Mark Haddon. Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow. This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.

CLASSIFIEDS

Driving Help Wanted: Looking for a person to drop off and pick up a 4 year old girl at her school. Please contact: 832-467-2762.

Found: A small Dog found on January 31. near Heather Run, Lakes on Eldridge S. Please identify the dog and claim it. or I will

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Lakes on Eldridge

HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 341 Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors January 17, 2005

The following is in excerpt from the MUD minutes that may be of interest to LOE residents. For full copy of minutes, visit website at www.lakesoneldridge.net.

The Board next deferred the approval of an amendment to the District's current contract with Champions Hydro-Lawn, Inc. ("Champions") to provide for a price increase relative to the bi-annual maintenance fee for fertilization, after Mr. Saour reported that he has not received said amendment from Champions. Mr. Saour reminded the Board that the current contract provides for the maintenance of 14.11 acres at \$150.00 per acre, for a total annual cost of \$4,233.00, and the amendment, which was previously approved by the Board at its December 2004 meeting, will provide for a \$25.00 per acre increase, for a total cost of \$4,938.50 per annum. He then stated that the District's pro rata share of said costs will be 40% for its respective ownership and the pro rata share to be paid by Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 370 ("No. 370") will be 60% of said costs for its respective ownership.

With regard to the monthly maintenance by Champions of Turkey Creek south of the District, Mr. Saour presented Pay Estimate No. 16 from Champions in the amount of \$1,453.33, a copy of which is attached to the engineer's report. Mr. Saour advised the Board that the said pay estimate included maintenance work that was performed for the month of December and recommended that the Board authorize approval of same. After discussion on the matter, Director Russ moved that Pay Estimate No. 16 in the amount of \$1,453.33 be approved, as recommended by the

District's engineer. Director Rutenberg seconded said motion, which unanimously carried. Mr. Saour stated that the District's share of the monthly maintenance for mowing and weed eating this section of Turkey Creek for the said month is \$581.33 for its 40% ownership.

With regard to the monthly maintenance of the bottom of Turkey Creek being performed by Champions, Mr. Saour next presented Pay Estimate No. 10 in the amount of \$370.00, a copy of which is attached to the engineer's report, and advised that same was the maintenance costs for the month of December and recommended that the Board authorize approval of same. After discussion on the matter, Director Russ moved that Pay Estimate No. 10 be approved, and that payment be made by the District in the amount of \$370.00 to Champions, as recommended by the District's engineer. Director Rutenberg seconded said motion, which unanimously carried.

Mr. Saour next reported to the Board with regard to the status of the construction contract with BSH Construction, Inc. ("BSH") for the construction of modifications to the existing back slope drainage system for the District's existing detention facilities situated around Lakes on Eldridge South (the "Project"). He reported that the construction of the project is substantially complete and in connection therewith, presented the Board with Pay Estimate No. 2 (Final) in the amount of \$14,087.90 and recommended that the Board authorize approval of same. After discussion on the matter, Director Hoover moved that Pay Estimate 2 (Final) be approved, and that payment be made by the District in the amount of \$14,087.90 to BSH, as recommended by the District's engineer. Director Rutenberg seconded said motion, which unanimously carried.

There was next a discussion relative to the status of upgrading the existing 8" line owned by AquaUtility, located along Tanner Road, to a 12" line, as more fully set forth in the attached engineer's report.

Mr. Saour next advised the Board that the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") recently completed new preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps ("Maps") and advised that such Maps may now designate property within the District as being located within the floodplain that previously was not. Mr. Saour reported that, per the Board's prior authorization, Benchmark proceeded with a preliminary investigation relative to the revised Maps. He then presented and reviewed with the Board a map, which had been prepared by Benchmark, reflecting the areas in the District which are now determined to be within the 100 year flood zone. Mr. Saour then advised that the said areas are being evaluated further by obtaining detailed elevations of the areas. Mr. Saour advised that he will keep the Board apprised of any new developments regarding this matter.

Status Of Additional Back Slope Drainage Remediation

There was next a discussion with regard to the additional back slope drainage remediation for the District's existing detention facilities requested by the Lakes on Eldridge Homeowner's Association and a plan of financing relative to same. In connection therewith, Mr. Cohen advised the Board that he and Mr. Saour will coordinate with each other to discuss various options on financing the same.

With regard to the review and approval of stormwater quality management plans related to construction contracts, Mr. Saour reported that there are no such plans to present to the Board at his time.



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Lakes on Eldridge

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

It's been far too long since we updated the community on the happenings at the little school house on Tanner Road, so get ready to do some reading. And get ready to share our excitement over what is shaping up to be one of our best years ever.

Following a wonderful holiday, our Kirk Tigers were back in action, broadening their horizons and exercising their minds through challenging school work and an array of extracurricular activities. Foremost on the list, of course, was our continued focus on building character. Our amazing students began the first six weeks of 2005 by turning their attention to developing the trait of "cooperation." Our Tigers learned that working together moves everyone forward. No one person is a whole chain, but each of us is a link. And if you take away just one, the chain is broken. Cooperation is at the heart of good relationships, and it is essential to teamwork. Many of our students were recognized for demonstrating cooperation during the six weeks, and they now have moved on to a character trait that is considered one of the most important in leading a fulfilling life – honesty.

Being an honest person involves not only telling the truth to other people but also being truthful with yourself. It is said that your character is who you are when no one else is around, and it often is times where we are alone that our honesty is put to the test. We want our Kirk Tigers to be proud of being truthful and to put that virtue into

practice. For example, a piece of jewelry found on the playground does not belong to the first finder...it belongs to whomever lost it. This six-weeks, you can join our Kirk Tigers in demonstrating integrity and honesty in all that we do.

On the academic front, the spotlight in January shone on all Kirk Elementary students during the Writing Wonderland. Our children created and collected their own stories and shared them with parents and faculty while enjoying yummy treats fit for the weather. They also participated in the annual Spelling Bee, with top honors going to Hannah Powers and Runner Up Tre' Figs. One of our stellar faculty members, Amy Price, also was recognized for her outstanding contributions to special-needs children through receiving the KIDS FIRST Award from the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. Congratulations Ms. Price!

Toward the end of January, we turned our attention to Asian American Pride. Students learned about the folk tales surrounding the lunar calendar, leading up to the celebration of the Chinese and Vietnamese New Year on February 9, complete with a dragon dance! First and Third Grades were treated to a visit by author Joe Hays, an award-winning storyteller from Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the entire school is gearing up for an exciting end-of-the-year research project, where each grade will begin a quest to use their own resources and

(Continued on Page 11)



Javier P.
Senior Research Technician, Lexicon Genetics
NHMCCD Graduate, 2003

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Kirk - (Continued from Page 10)

creativity to develop their own product! It's sure to be challenging and fun.

As for extracurricular activities, our Kirk Tigers are entrenched in a number of programs, some of which are familiar favorites, while others are new for this year. We have many students participating in Learning Safari; Mad Science; Art After School; Boy and Girl Scouts; and the Good News Club. Also, each grade has taken (or plans to take) a Field Trip to wonderful places like the Houston Zoo; the Children's Museum; Houston's Medical Museum of Science; Houston Natural Science Museum; Nature Trails; the Ropes Course; and Exchange City. Our students also enjoyed a sweet Valentine's Day exchange and have continued to enjoy Skate Nights and Pizza Nights at CiCi's and Dominoes.

On a final, serious note, our Tigers are in the midst of taking the TAKS tests. Some are complete, but others are yet to come, and our Kirk Family is pulling together to encourage and support every student in this endeavor. Kirk has performed well over the past few years, and we look forward to another successful semester.

To say the least, we are busy. But our Kirk Tigers are strong and confident, and they are supported by an active group of parents and faculty. We also have the invaluable support of our friends and business partners, who continue to help make Kirk a multi-dimensional place of learning, fellowship, and community. Go Tigers!

Kirk Elementary- Important Dates

- Prospective Parents Meeting Monday April 4 at 6:30pm in the Kirk Elementary Cafeteria
- Kindergarten Registration April 6
9-11am, 1-3pm, and 5-7pm

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Summer is approaching fast - it's just around the corner! We have an exciting new curriculum for the summer of 2005!

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Lakes on Eldridge

Truth About Mold

What do these things have in common: wine, penicillin, cheese, beer, and mushrooms? Can't guess? Here's a big hint: it's also the latest dubious health-scare, costing Texas consumers millions of dollars in higher insurance premiums and needless home "health" testing, and it's being used as a get-rich quick scheme for some personal injury lawyers. Ah, now you know - it's called MOLD. So how did this very common type of fungus, present in all sorts of good things we use on a daily basis and ever-present in our environment, grow into the major consumer crises that it has become today? The answer may surprise you. As a board certified allergist-immunologist, I have taught, done research and seen patients with a variety of immune-based medical conditions for the past 14 years. In the last several years, my clinical office has become increasingly populated by very frightened, sometimes angry individuals. They believe, or have been told, that they have "toxic mold disease." But do they really? First, let's examine some facts about mold. There are many different kinds of mold—at least 10,000 common types. Mold is everywhere, because it comfortable growth sites and is especially prosperous. Molds are not new — they have always been around us and always will be. It is not possible to "get rid of mold," nor would we even want to. Is mold harmful to people? Can molds cause memory loss, fatigue, or brain damage? For most people, the answer is a resounding, and hopefully reassuring, "NO!"

The world is filled with mold spores — we breath it in our air, we eat it in our foods, and we drink it in our water every day with no ill effects. Some people do develop allergies and experience symptoms of asthma or hay fever when exposed to some mold spores. There are also a few mold-related diseases that can be serious, but these are extremely rare.

But what about the "experts" who claim to diagnose all sorts of mold related illnesses such as memory loss or learning disabilities? There is absolutely no proof to support these claims. And what about the dreaded "toxic mold?" The term itself seems to have been manufactured to arouse panic and fear among otherwise normal people. Some molds do produce "mycotoxins," but these are mostly of concern in the agriculture and food industries. Still, even though health risks may be vastly exaggerated, most people would rather not have excess, visible mold in their homes. If there is a lot of mold, it looks bad and it has an unpleasant odor. However, mold removal is relatively simple to accomplish. If you have mold, you have excess moisture and this source needs to be eliminated, whether it is a roof leak a shower leak condensation, or from some other source. Often, the mold can simply be cleaned off, and will not return if the moisture is removed.

Should you pay for a "mold test?" No. The nations' most reputable experts, including the US Center for Disease Control and the reigning

(Continued on Page 13)

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Mold - (Continued from Page 12)

mold expert from Harvard's School of Public Health, do not support most home mold testing. Remember, in a place with high humidity like the entire Gulf Coast, you will find at least some mold in virtually 100% of homes more than a couple of years old. If you see or smell mold in your home, clean it up, and stop the source of water. It's that simple. Should you find someone to blame? The mere presence of mold in a home or office does not automatically mean that someone has done something wrong. Unfortunately, our society today seems to be about everyone suing everyone else for things that used to be considered part of life.

Should you panic? To me, this is the most important issue of all. You need to react to mold based on the facts, not on the hysteria and hype you may have recently heard or read. The mold scare is already having a demonstrable and troubling effect on the Texas economy and on individual lives. Texas insurance rates are already more than double the national average and are continuing to rise based in large part on mold-related claims. Many people can no longer afford homeowner's insurance assuming they can even get coverage in the first place. Home sales are not going through because of mold concerns, and home sellers, Realtors, title companies and a host of other industries are being damaged, which will begin to show up as real job losses for real Texans.

The bottom line is this: if you are ill, see a physician. If he or she thinks you may have mold allergies ask to be tested by a reputable specialist who has the credentials to provide calm, reliable medical information - then follow your doctor's direction for treatment. Check the physician's credentials to determine their expertise claim in the diagnosis and management of mold-related allergic diseases. Don't be afraid to discuss with your doctor why he or she thinks mold is causing your problems. If you see or smell mold in your home, simply clean it up and plug the water leak. If you need an expert to help, find a reputable person or company trained in moisture issue management to find and fix the water source. And, perhaps most importantly of all, if someone comes to you to try and assess blame for the mold "exposure", ask yourself whether you want the aggravation, expense and frustration associated with trying to get compensated for the everyday risks associated with living on our planet. Is the stress, anxiety and guilty conscience really worth it? You be the judge.

Gailen Marshall, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP, is Director of the Division of Allergy & Clinical Immunology at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston and Chief, Allergy-Immunology Service at Memorial Hermann and Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospitals.

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Need To Post A Sign??

Every now and then you need to get information to the community in a quick manner. You type up your sign and tape it to the gates. It usually rolls or folds back because it is not very secure. Then when you are done, more than likely, there is tape residue left on the gate. Not a very pretty sight.

So here is a somewhat better solution. There will be black magnetic clips, and small poster board donated at the guardhouse. Type up your sign as usual, drop by the guardhouse, tape your sign to the poster board, and pick up 4 clips for each sign that needs to be posted. Use the clips at each corner of your sign and magnetically adhere to the gates. It's less messy, looks prettier and gives us a uniform style of posting information. When you are finished, please return all clips to the guardhouse.

If you need help typing up a sign, you can contact Michelle at 832-731-0943. If you would like to donate some clips or poster board, drop off at the guardhouse. (clips should be the black magnetic kind)

Also, get your information to the Webmaster to post your information on our website. See article about website for information.

LOE Coffee Club

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Cy-Fair College Hosts Israeli Druze Poet and Diplomat Reda Mansour

March 8 speaker event is open to the community

Find out how poetry affected diplomacy and relates to multiculturalism and learn about minorities in Israel with Israeli Druze Poet and Diplomat Reda Mansour, who will speak at Cy-Fair College March 8.

In his first talk at 9 a.m., Mansour will cover the challenges of writing poetry in Israel - a country where there are more than a hundred religious, ethnic and national communities.

In his 10 a.m. talk, Mansour will discuss 20th Century poets, who were often posted as diplomats, their affect on diplomacy and what their diplomatic journeys give to their poems.

At noon, Mansour will share information on the multi-lingual and multi-cultural heritage of minorities in Israel that have the same rich fabric of the Jewish majority.

This accomplished author and poet is also a PH.D candidate at Haifa University's Middle Eastern History Department and a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

During his career in the foreign service, he served as Ambassador of Israel to Ecuador. He's also served in the Israeli Embassy in Portugal and the Israeli Consulate in San Francisco.

Mansour has devoted his public activities in Israel for the promotion of dialogue between Arabs and Jews. In this realm, he has taken part in many projects aiming at the promotion of co-existence and cultural dialogue.

All talks are open to the community and will be held in the Conference Center, rooms 152 and 153 at Cy-Fair College, 9191 Barker Cypress.

Sponsoring this event are the Cy-Fair College Branch Library and Windows on the World program, as well as the Consulate General of Israel of the Southwest and the Houston World Affairs Council.

For information, call Elise Sheppard at 281-290-5248 or go to her web page at <http://faculty.nhmccd.edu/elsheppard/activities.htm>.

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GETTING STARTED

1. Visit www.lakesoneldridge.net (Please bookmark this page for your future visits)
2. You can register (by clicking on 'Member Section'). While registering, you will be asked the community password. Type in the community password you obtain from your webmaster.
3. After completing the registration process, you may browse the website.

If you require any assistance with the community website, please contact your webmaster 713-984-7252.

Numerous Teen Activities Set for Spring at Cy-Fair College

Cy-Fair area parents don't have to look too far to find quality, fun and educational activities for their children – just check out the library programs at Cy-Fair College Branch Library.

Teens On Campus Club activities for ages 12 to 18 are held the first Saturdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the library, room 131. Among the activities this spring are geocaching (a high-tech scavenger hunt) and make-your-own- ice cream sundae.

For the book lovers, there are several book discussion groups (limited to 15 teens per group) including the "Classics in Translation" for home schooled teens as well as "Contemporary" and "Graphic Novel" for all middle-school and high-school aged teens.

Among the spring special events are a film, "Promises," followed with a discussion; a guest poet and diplomat speaking on "Minorities in Israel", "Poetry and Diplomacy" and "Poetry and Multiculturalism"; Da Camera of Houston presenting the Enso String Quartet and a Prom Dreams Community Project.

Go online to www.cy-faircollege.com/library or check out Teen Librarian Elise Sheppard's web page <http://faculty.nhmccd.edu/elsheppard/activities.htm> for all the planned activities.

For teen program information, contact Sheppard at elise.j.sheppard@nhmccd.edu or call 281-290-5248.

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Yorkshire Academy's latest Parent Education Series showcased noted nutritionist and LOE resident, Anne Dubner. Ms. Dubner spoke to Yorkshire parents on "How to Survive the Supermarket". The next speaker will be a local storyteller, and as all Y.A. programs, is open to the community. Please call for more information @ 281 531-6088.

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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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