

Volume 4, Issue 5 May 2005 Official Newsletter www.lakesoneldridge.net

Board Notes - March 2005

The board of directors of Lakes on Eldridge Community Association met on March 21, 2005. The following is a summary of what was discussed.

The Board reviewed the financial statements for the month ended February 28, 2005. The Association had cash balances of \$453,185 in the Operating Fund and \$131,749 in the Replacement Fund. For the month ended February 28, 2005 the Association had Total Income of \$191,352, Total Expenses of \$176,603 and an Operating Surplus in the amount of \$14,749. The financial statements were accepted.

The managing agent distributed copies of the federal tax return for 2004 as prepared by O'Neal & Holmes and as signed by the treasurer, Bob Adams. A \$913 refund was applied to the 2005 estimated taxes.

On a motion duly made the Board approved the 2004 audit report. The auditor gave an unqualified opinion.

The Gate Committee recommended to the board, the replacement of the single ½ horsepower motors on the Ginger Ponds gate with dual motors. On a motion duly made the Board approved replacement of the Ginger Ponds entry side motor with the dual motor arrangement.

On motions duly made the Board approved \$1,270 for power washing at the Beach Club and several monuments and \$995 plus materials to repair the inside of the tower and install a security barrier at the top of the spiral stairs. The Board reviewed proposal from four contractors to repaint the interior of the Beach club and the outside restrooms and narrowed the choice to BEMN Services and Bayou City Remodeling. A decision was to be made following receipt of information regarding a faux finish for the Beach club walls and whether the contractors were able to perform the work.

The managing agent reported there were 208 active service requests and that 82 had been closed and 97 new items opened during the month of February 2005.

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.

Yard of the Month at Lakes on Eldridge

It's time for yard of the month. LOE would like to recognize those neighbors whose yards stand out from the rest. The extra time, energy and money these residents expend on their lawns, and the imaginative touches they bring to their landscaping not only enhance the value of the homes around them, but also foster a positive image of the entire neighborhood. If you would like to nominate one of your neighbors for the Yard of the Month please contact one of the Yard of the Month coordinator: Michelle Perez 832-731-0943 or mperez51@houston.rr.com. First yard to be selected in June.

While Driving Around

Due to the wet weather and cool temperatures the past couple months many homeowners are facing problems with mildew growing on siding and stucco – especially on the north or shaded portions of their homes. Left untreated the mildew is not only unsightly but can seriously damage paint and stucco resulting in expensive repairs.

Mildew, however, is easily removed when treated early. One of the simplest methods is a 10% solution of bleach and water applied with a garden sprayer. Wait 10 or 15 minutes and re-apply as needed. The typical pump-up garden sprayer will reach quite high on a house and the mildew most often disappears. Just spray with plain water afterward to rinse away any residue. Tougher problems may require stronger measures where a pressure washer is needed. Any number of contractors can safely provide this service if you have never used one (or don't care to!). Of course you want to be careful to cover any sensitive landscaping that might get hit by the spray or the run-off.

Treating mildew early keeps your home and community looking its best and helps avoid repainting more often than really needed. Check your home today to see if you are affected.

View the Lakes on Eldridge Community
Newsletter each month on-line at
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Lakes on Eldridge - May 2005 1

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 Control1	-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	
Houston Chronicle	.713-220-7211
Metro Transit Info	.713-635-4000
Kirk Elementary	713-849-8250
Truitt Middle School	
Cy-Falls High School	.281-856-1000
Cy-Ridge High School	
Newsletter Publisher	
Peel, Inc	.806-385-6444
Adver. Donna Sommer djsommer@aol.com,	832-237-4684



Officer Adrian Conejo of the Houston Police Department, was honored as the Chamber's March Officer of the Month. Presenting the award was Chairman of the Board Ron Roberson of Caldwell Watson Real Estate. Sponsors for the award were Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce and Willowbrook Mall.

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	
Michelle Perez	

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

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Radack Says Bond Issue Will Be Needed To Meet Growing Demand For Infrastructure

HOUSTON (March 16, 2005) – Harris County needs your help if it's going to provide the infrastructure needed to keep traffic moving and the area growing, Precinct 3 Commissioner Steve Radack says.

Radack, who was the guest speaker at the March 15 general membership luncheon of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce, suggested a bond issue would soon be needed to provide needed funding for a host of infrastructure projects.

"Harris County commissioners are rapidly running out of money," Radack said. "We're going to have to have a bond election, which will be challenging. Government is here to help when it comes to building roads, but we don't like paying the full bill. And if we pay the full bill, we don't have enough money to go around."

According to Radack, 60 percent of road projects under design won't get built without a successful bond election, and even then

growth will outpace funds for construction.

"We have to get real," he said. "We need a bond election. We're going to have to grow just like the (Cypress-Fairbanks) school district is going to have to grow, and just like the colleges are going to have to grow. And we'd better be prepared to grow, or else we're going to lose out on what we have going for us."

With government providing the proper infrastructure to meet growing demands, the area will continue to prosper, Radack said.

"If we don't provide infrastructure," he said, "decay sets in and then we have all kinds of problems."

One of the major projects Radack and Precinct 4 Commissioner Jerry Eversole are working on is the extension of the Grand Parkway from Interstate 10 to U.S. 290. Radack is confident that project is making strides.

"Precinct 3 has acquired 50 percent of the land necessary, thanks to people who have donated land between I-10 and 290," Radack said. "My personal prediction is that I think it's possible we could see the Grand Parkway toll road under construction in fewer than two years, and construction shouldn't take more than a year."

The general membership luncheon of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce is held on the third Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The April, June, August, October and December luncheons will be held at the Raveneuax Country Club, 9415 Cypresswood, and the May, July, September and November luncheons will be held at the Crowne Plaza-Brookhollow Hotel, 12801 Northwest Freeway at Pinemont. For reservations, call 281-955-1100. For more information about the Chamber, log onto www.cyfairchamber.com.



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"Family Open House"

Lakes on Eldridge is pleased to report a successful conclusion to the "Family Open House" event held on 9th of April at Pine Forest Country Club, with about 30 confirmed golfers. Upon arriving LOE and LOEN residents encountered a warm welcome to the country club by current members and staff. Each resident received a gift bag that included a golf towel with Pine Forest logo, golf ball, shoehorn, divot repair

tool, golf cards, and information about the club

The breath taking beauty of the country club and the friendliness of the people at the country club fascinated children and adults alike. So close to LOE, Pine Forest is a true treasure with it's scenic golf course, seven tennis courts including two that are clay, and beautiful amenities.

We would like to thank everyone at Pine Forest country club for putting on such a wonderful event for LOE and LOEN residents. If you happened to miss the open house but would like to find out more about the club, you can contact Midge Copeland at (281) 463-0900.



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LOE Dolphin Swim Team is Under Way

The LOE Dolphins welcome our new Coaches, Sabrina Holub and Angie Womack, to the pool deck. Our head Coach Sabrina also coaches Fleet at Watkins Elementary. Angie grew up swimming for the Concord Bridge Dolphins and previously swam for and managed the Langham Creek High School Swim Team. WELCOME Coaches Sabrina & Angie!

Important dates to remember:

May 10th @ 5:00pm Swim Team Pictures

May 13th @ 5:00pm Time Trials (MANDATORY)

Reminder: Afternoon Practice Schedule

4:30-5:30 - 11 yrs. and Up

5:40-6:10 - 8 yrs. and Under

6:15-7:00 - 7 and 8, 9 and 10

Pizza Parties every Friday after practice, see you there!

Morning Practice Schedule starting May 31st

8:00-8:40 - 8 yrs. and under

8:45-9:25 - 7 and 8, 9 and 10

9:30-10:30 - 11 yrs. and up

DOLPHINS SWIM MEET SCHEDULE

May 21st Home vs. Windsong

May 28th Away @ Canyon Gate

June 4th Away @ Bear Creek

June 11th Home vs. Concord Bridge

June 18th Away @ Enchanted Valley

June 25th Away Divisionals

June 27th End of Season Party at Pecan's

July 2nd and 3rd End of Season Invitationals

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LOE Dolphins Swim Team

We are off to a great season we know a lot of you have been practicing year round. Keep up the good work. Remember Swim season is April 25th thru July 3rd. Please try to stay for Divisionals and Red, White and Blue Meet and Ponderosa. There are Swim Team Social Gatherings and Pizza parties every Friday throughout the season this is a great way to get to know the other swimmers and Families in the neighborhood. We will have poster drawings and fun activities for everyone. Time Trials is a very important event and every swimmer needs to be time prior to our first meet. These are the NWAL rules that we must follow. Please try to be at Time Trials or make arrangements with the Coach.

I would also like to take this time and Thanks our Swim Team Board members for all their hard work throughout the Off Season. Please feel free to ask any of the Board members questions that you may have. A special Thanks to Rosa Clay for her dedication to LOEST Fundraising.

Mary Beth Taylor President Team Representative

Kent Vinall Vice President Team Rep Elect

Kathryn Gauci Secretary/Computer

Peter Gross Treasurer

Renee Dye Clerk of Course / Computer

Kindra Rokhsaz Head of Volunteers Jillian Barkley Member at Large

Our first Swim Meet is at LOE Beach Club May 21st, 2005 Please check NWAL website for all Summer League Swimming information www.nwal.org

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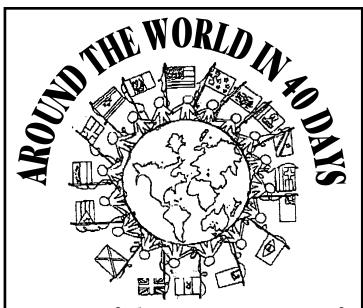
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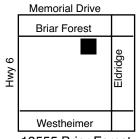
"Around the World in 40 Days" is a cultural awareness program that will introduce children to the cultures of exotic lands and people. The children will learn through the aid of cooking, art and creative movement. Children will explore many cultures over the course of the summer including Japanese, Italian, Mexican, Indian and Hawaiian. We will also feature the American culture with a patriotic week and a Native American study.

Registration is now in progress. Sign up today for a WORLD of Fun!

SESSION I June 1 - June 24 SESSION II July 5 - July 29

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Finding Joy

Did you know that joy can be found in the crises and difficult circumstances of our lives? Joy seems to be an ingredient that is often missing in the stressful lives of today's women. Do you know what the Bible says about joy? The Living Free Bible study that meets at the Lakes On Eldridge Beach Club every Tuesday morning from 9:30-11:30 will begin a new four-week study of joy on April 5. The new study written by Traci Mullins for the Women of Faith Bible Study Series is Finding Joy. In the foreword, Luci Swindoll says, "Somebody had the good sense to say to me, 'Luci, if you want to give yourself a gift, learn all you can about the Bible. Start going to a Bible class and don't stop until you have some knowledge under your belt. You won't be sorry."

In addition to the gift of knowledge, you may find the gift of joy at this Bible study. Ladies from all denominations attend this event and have found new friends, prayer partners, and the peace and joy of the Lord. Seating is limited so please e-mail your name and telephone number to SABLeggett@aol.com or call Martha Butler at 281-890-5111 so we can order your study guide.



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LOE Welcome Committee

It is our pleasure to welcome any new residents to Lakes on Eldridge gated community. We hope you take advantage of the amentities that are here including the swimming pool, tennis courts, sand volley ball court, playground areas, and clubhouse for reservations and neighborhood group activities.

As the neighborhood welcome committee, we would like to give some general information about the community and activities in the immediate area. So please see the list below of helpful tips and activities (also helpful reminders for "not so new" residents as well). If you would like some printed brochures or more information about anything listed below, please contact Catherine Spellings 713-896-1652 or 713-628-7083 or Deborah Dunaway 713-983-9651.

- Trash Days: Mondays and Thursdays
- Board Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month at clubhouse
- Annual Homeowners Meeting: Usually in September
- Website: www.lakesoneldridge.net
- Dogs must be on leashes
- · All resident cars must have decal
- The Memorial Area Newcomers Club (MANC) was established for the purpose of welcoming newcomers to this area. Through its numerous social activities MANC provides an opportunity to develop lasting friendships with other women in the vicinity. Each month there is a luncheon featuring a program or speaker of interest for members and their guests. Throughout the month

there are smaller activity groups of common interest. Memorial Area New Comers Club meets at Lakeside Country Club. Contact information:

President: manc homepage@sbcglobal.net (713) 896-4439 Membership: (281) 920-5681

2. Bear Creek Community Center (BCCC) is located at 3055 Bear Creek Drive Houston, Texas 77084 and offers many activities which include: language classes, ballroom and line dancing, exercise classes in simple strtch, aerobics, yoga, tai chi, ceramics, gardening, card games, duplicate bridge, canasta, 42, Pinochle, futime art groups, defenseive driving, horseshoe court, soccer fields, walking and nature trails, playgrounds,picnic and bbq pavilions, equestitrian trails,aviary, and off leash dog park! They also have bus trips for those 50 years and older to museums, opry, Galveston, and other activites.

Phone: (281) 859-1566 http://www.pct3.hctx.net/ccBearCreek/ Hours: 7 A.M. until 9 P.M. (Monday - Thursday)

7 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. (Friday)

Friday evening & Saturday (by reservation)

3. LOE Clubs/Groups include book club, stitchers, bible study, swim team. Some activites held at the LOE clubhouse include Pot Luck Dinners, Wine Tasting, and Happy Hours out on the town. Watch your newsletter for more information.



LOEN RESIDENTS



Christian Women's Club Meets At Pine Forest County Club

Christian Women's Club meets on the third Wednesday of every month at the Pine Forest Country Club. The meeting includes a special feature, guest speaker, and luncheon. The cost is \$17.00. You do not have to be Christian to attend. Complimentary childcare if provided at a nearby church facility. For more information or to make reservation, e-mail SABLeggett@aol.com or call Mary at 281-277-7090.

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LOEStitchers



The stitchers are having a great time. We will be starting a "new resident" welcome committee soon, so watch for information in the newsletter.

Currently, stitchers are working on grandbaby sweater sets, newborn baby caps for the hospitals, afghans, quilts, fun fur scarves and needlepoint.

If you would like to learn how to knit, crochet, or any other needlework, we would be glad to help you learn. And even if you don't do any needlework, please come and join us for refreshments, fun conversation and neighborhood fellowships on any Thursday at the clubhouse from 9:30am-12:00pm.

For information call Catherine Spellings at 713-896-1652 or 713-628-7083.

Visit the Association Website: www.lakesoneldridge.net

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Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center and Tenet Health

Officials of the Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center celebrated the grand opening of a new facility and the ground-breaking for another on their campus on Monday, March 14.

As part of an \$8 million facility expansion, a new 12-bed intensive care unit was opened. A second floor expansion and 300 additional parking spaces were also part of the renovations. The current 10-bed ICU will remain open. Administration, staff and members of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce were on hand for the ribbon cutting.

on cutting.

President and CEO Terry Wheeler, the staff and administration of the Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center break ground on the \$4.6 million expansion and renovations of the Emergency Department.

Moments later, the festivities were re-convened at a second location to break ground on an expansion and renovation of the Emergency Department. The \$4.6 project will include an increase from 18 to 29 beds and a dedicated minor care "fast track" wing. In addition, a cardiac treatment unit will be housed in the Emergency Department. MedHost, a touch screen patient software system will be deployed throughout the expansion. 43,000 patients were served by the Emergency Department in 2004.



President and CEO Terry Wheeler cuts the ribbon as Tenet Health's Senior Vice President, Regional Operations Robert Smith, the staff and administration of the Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center look on.



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Although edging is not required, it is encouraged for maintenance purposes and to define the shape of planting beds. Loose brick, plastic, concrete scallop and corrugated aluminum, wire wickets, vertical timbers, railroad ties, etc., are not in character with the desired landscape effect and are prohibited by Lakes on Eldridge's Design Guidelines. Among the acceptable edging is Ryerson steel, brick set in mortar, horizontal timbers (2 inches by 4 inches, 2 inches by 6 inches, 4 inches by 4 inches, and 4 inches by 6 inches). No landscape timbers laid horizontally, stone set in mortar, and continuous concrete bands will be permitted.

Spring is a great time to plant and to make sure your beds are up to the standards of your community. A copy of the Design Guidelines is available on the Lakes on Eldridge website or may be requested via AMI at 713-932-1122.

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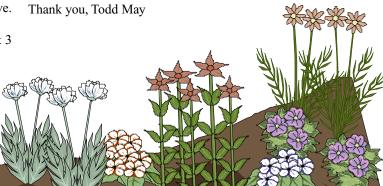
Landscaping Tips

- 1) If you haven't fertilized your lawn, this needs to be done now! Other items below you can do as well.
- 2) With St. Augustine grass in full growth pattern right now, we can start filling in low areas with sand (no more than 1"in. at a time) and lightly rake in. Do this after your grass has been cut, makes things a lot easier. After this you can fertilize your grass.
- 3) Dethatching and aerating your grass (if needed) should be done now. Lower mower height down as low as you can get it with out going into dirt. Dethatch first, then pick up debris left over, make sure you clean up real well. Afterwards you can go ahead and Aerate. Any plugs that are left over can stay in the grass, they will dissolve. You can fertilize after these functions.
- 4) Make sure that you are on a regular watering program at least 3 to 4 times per week, etc.
- 5) The fertilizer that you use is recommended for St. Augustine grass or Bermuda (Southern Grasses), like a 28-5-10 or equivalent, slow release fertilizer that will last about 3 to 4 months.
- 6) You can also start treating for Chinch Bugs, Sod Webworms, Grubs, etc. (right around the corner and needs to be treated for prevention), your local Nursery, Home Depot, Loews, etc. will have

these products. This will also take of any Ant problems at the same time, treat all areas of your lawn.

7) You still have at least through April and May to fertilize your Azaleas, after May you should stop, no more fertilizer unless it is Iron to help in greening. If Azaleas have finished blooming go ahead and trim back fairly heavy, because you do not want to trim any later due to any blooms that may have developed for fall or early Spring blooms, etc.

*Please note that the Dethatching and Aeration machine can be rented at most Rental Stores.







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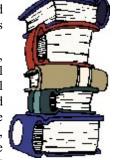


LOE Book Club

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. The person who nominated the selection for the month usually leads discussion.

May 26th – At the request of several members, Pride and Prejudice will be postponed until sometime in the fall. Instead, May's book will be: Galileo's Daughter by Dava Sobel. Inspired by her long fascination with Galileo, and by the remarkable surviving letters of his daughter, which Sobel has translated into English for the first time, Galileo's Daughter is a book of great



originality and power, a biography unlike any ever written on Galileo. Sobel, the author of the bestseller Longitude, brings Galileo to life as never before—boldly compelled to explain the truths he discovered, human in his frailties and faith, devoted to family, especially to his eldest daughter.

The voices of Galileo and his daughter, Suor Maria Celeste, echo down the centuries through letters and writings, which Sobel masterfully weaves into her narrative, building toward the crescendo of history's most dramatic collision between science and religion. In the process, she illuminates an entire era, when the flamboyant Medici grand dukes became Galileo's patrons, when the bubonic plague wreaked its terrible devastation and prayer was the most effective medicine, when the Thirty Years' War tipped fortunes across Europe, and when one man fought, through his trial and betrayal by his former friend, Pope Urban VIII, to reconcile the Heaven he revered as a good Catholic with the heavens he revealed thorough his telescope.

June 23rd - Stolen Lives by Malika Oufkir. On August 15th, 1972, Malika Oufkir was probably the most privileged teenager in all Morocco. The eldest daughter of King Hassan II's top aide, she had been raised in the opulent seclusion of the monarch's harem. But within 24 hours, her father would be tried and summarily executed for treason, and she and her entire family would be arrested and imprisoned in a remote desert penal colony. For the next 20 years, her accommodations would only grow worse. Malika Oufkir's memory of her 20-year incarceration -- most of it in vermin-infested solitary confinement -- rivets your attention and educates your senses.

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WEBSITE FEATURES...

- 1. Read Your Community news and the approved minutes of the Board
- 2. Be Informed of Upcoming Events in your community
- 3. View or download your Governing Documents
- 4. View Alerts
- 5. Utilize the Classifieds to buy, sell or exchange items
- 6. Download important forms from the Links section

Before you register, please obtain your password from your webmaster by calling 713-984-7252.

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.

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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.

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.

Article Submissions

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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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

The hurricane season for our area is from June 1st to November 30th of each year. It is important that all residents of the area are knowledgeable and prepared in the event that a hurricane should strike our area.

WHAT IS A HURRICANE?

A hurricane is a type of tropical low pressure system accompanied by thunderstorms and, in the Northern Hemisphere, a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface with sustained winds of 74 mph or greater.

<u>Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale</u> classifies hurricanes as follows:

Tropical Storm: - Winds of 39-73 mph **Category 1 Hurricane:** - Winds 74-95 mph – This is a **minimal** hurricane.

Category 2 Hurricane: - Winds 96-110 mph – This is a **moderate** hurricane.

Category 3 Hurricane: - Winds 111-130 mph – This is an **extensive** hurricane

Category 4 Hurricane: - Winds 131-155 mph – This is an **extreme** hurricane

Category 5 Hurricane: - Winds 156 mph and up – This is a **catastrophic** hurricane.

Weather Terms To Know:

Hurricane Advisory – This is an early warning given by the National Hurricane Center to prepare you for a hurricane strike well in advance of hurricane watches and warnings.

Hurricane Watch – A Hurricane Watch indicates that a specific area could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning – A Hurricane Warning indicates that a specific area could experience sustained winds of at least 74 mph within 24 hours.

Storm Surge – A Storm Surge is a massive dome of water up to 100 miles wide that sweeps across the coast line near where a hurricane makes landfall.

Flood – Over the last 30 years, more deaths have occurred from a hurricane's freshwater (rain) flooding than any other hurricane hazard.

BE PREPARED:

Develop a Family Plan:

1. Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's

vulnerability to **storm surge**, **flooding and** wind.

- 2.Locate a safe room or the safest area in your home for hurricane hazards. Stay away from windows, skylights and glass doors. A small interior room is usually the safest place. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- 3. Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
- 4. Make a plan for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate your home.
- 5. Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
- 6.Check your insurance coverage flood damage is not usually covered by homeowner insurance.
- 7. Stock non-perishable emergency supplies
- 8. Use a NOAA weather radio. Remember to replace its battery every 6 months.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing securely fastened collars with up-to-date identification tags

Create a Disaster Supply Kit:

- 1. **Water** -At least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- 2. Food Enough for at least 3 to 7 days.-Non-perishable packaged or canned food and juices
 - -Foods for infants or the elderly
 - -Snack foods
 - -Pet food
 - -Paper plates/plastic utensils plus a utility
 - -Cooking tools/fuel
 - -A manual can opener.
- 3. Portable Battery Powered Radio/ Television - and extra batteries
- 4. First Aid Kit and Manual/ Medicines/ Prescription Drugs
- 5. Toiletries/Hygiene Items/Moisture Wipes
- 6. Flashlight/Batteries
- 7. Candles and Matches Keep these in a waterproof container
- 8. Needle & Thread
- 9. Plastic Garbage Bags
- 10. Personal Identification, Credit Card and Cash Banks and ATMs may not be

open or available for an extended period

- 11. **Special needs** Such as diapers, copies of prescriptions, hearing aid batteries, spare eyeglasses, etc.
- 12. Keys An extra set of car keys
- 13. Important Documents In a waterproof container place copies of insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card marriage certificate, passport, etc. Also pet care items such as proper identification, immunization records etc.
- Sentimental Documents Photographs, albums, etc.
- Camera and Film To document the damage after the hurricane for insurance purposes.

Securing Your Home:

- 1. **Windows:** Protect all windows by preparing 5/8" plywood panels. Taping may not be sufficient.
- 2. **Garage Doors:** Reinforce all garage doors so that they are able to withstand high winds.
- Landscaping/Trees: Assess your property to ensure that landscaping and trees do not become a wind hazard. Trim dead wood and weak/overhanging branches from all trees.
 - Any dead tree near a home is a hazard have it removed. Consider landscaping materials other than gravel/rocks.

Once a Hurricane Warning is Issued:

Install the window plywood panels

Secure or bring inside all lawn furniture and other objects that could become a projectile in high winds

Listen carefully for safety instructions from local officials via the local radio station/ T.V.

If necessary go to your designated "Safe Room"

Monitor NOAA Weather Radio

Fill your vehicles gas tanks

Fill a bathtub with water-not for drinkingbut to use to flush toilets. No electricity may mean no power to run municipal water pumps. Water can be manually dumped into the toilet tank for flushing.

(Continued on Page 17)

Hurricane - (Continued on Page 17)

WHAT TO DO AFTER THE HURRICANE:

- 1. Stay tuned to a local radio/T.V. station for situation updates and advice and instruction about emergency medical aid, food and housing availability, and other forms of assistance.
- 2. If a hurricane forces you into a public shelter, remain there until informed by local officials that it is safe to return to your home.
- 3. Do not drive unless it is absolutely necessary.
- 4. Avoid loose or dangling wires and power lines
- 5. Stay away from riverbanks, bayous and streams until all potential flooding is past.
- 6. Open refrigerators and freezers only when necessary. A freezer without power should keep food in satisfactory condition up to 36 hours if it is kept closed.
- 7. Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding, even after the hurricane or tropical storm has weakened.
- 8. Stay away from floodwaters, flooded roads and washed-out bridges. DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO PLAY IN FLOOD WATERS. There are biological and environmental dangers in water such as oil, gasoline, sewage, fire ants, downed electrical power lines, snakes, etc.
- 9. Take pictures of the damage of both the building and its contents for insurance claims.
- 10. Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home
- 11. Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.

This is not a comprehensive list – it is a guideline. This information has been obtained from a number of sources including the internet, KPRC/Channel 2 and The Houston Chronicle.

HURRICANE PREPARATION

June 1 through November 30 is the Atlantic Hurricane Season. If a hurricane is predicted for the Houston area, the Houston/Galveston Weather Service Offices and the local Emergency Management Coordinator (Civil Defense Director) will release statements to the news media on the position and the intensity of the hurricane and their recommendations of which areas should be evacuated.

AMI hopes that the following checklist will assist you should a hurricane emergency arise:

HURRICANE CHECKLIST

- Have you planned and evacuation route? Do you know where the nearest shelter is?
- Trim dead or weak branches from trees.
- ____ Do you have flood insurance? There is a 30-day waiting period before coverage is effective. Property insurance normally excludes flood.

DURING A HURRICANE WATCH: LISTEN TO THE RADIO OR TV FOR HURRICANE PROGRESS REPORTS.

- ___ Check to be sure you have emergency supplies.
- ___ Fill all your cars with fuel.
- ____ Bring in all outdoor objects like lawn furniture, toys, garden tools, etc. Anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Protect your windows. While permanent shutters are the best protection, ½" plywood panels may be cut to fit each window. Mark which board fits which window and screw them into pre-drilled holes 18" apart.
- Turn refrigerator & freezer to coldest settings. Open only when absolutely necessary.
- ____ Move boats to a designated safe place, or moor them securely. Secure boats to trailer with chain or rope. Use tie-downs to anchor the trailer to the ground.

DURING A HURRICANE WARNING: KEEP YOUR RADIO OR TV ON AT ALL TIMES.

- ___ Get to shelter. When inside, avoid elevators and stay away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
 - ___ Fill all bathtubs, jugs, bottles, pots & pans with water.

IF POWER IS LOST, TURN OFF MAJOR APPLIANCES TO REDUCE POWER SURGE WHEN ELECTRICITY IS RESTORED.

IF YOU MUST EVACUATE:

- ____ Leave as soon as possible, avoiding flooded roads. Watch for washed out bridges.
- ___ Unplug all appliances. Turn off electricity and main water valve.
- ____ Tell someone outside the storm area where you are going.
- ____ If time permits, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding.
- ___ Take emergency supplies, warm protective clothing and blankets or sleeping bags with you.
- ____ Don't forget your cellular phone and battery pack for recharging.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TO HAVE ON HAND...

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- ____ Portable radio with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- ____ Emergency food & water (bottled water and food that doesn't require refrigeration or cooking)
- ___ Hand operated can opener
- ____ Essential medicines (at least a 5 day supply)
- ___ Cash & credit cards (to buy necessities for at least 5 days)
- ___ Sturdy shoes and work gloves

AFTER THE STORM:

Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company, police or fire department.

Beware of snakes, insects or animals driven to higher ground by flood water.

Check gas, electrical and water lines for damage. Wear heavy shoes and work gloves to protect against debris and broken glass.

Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.

Check refrigerated foods for spoilage.

If you sustain any damage from the storm, report it as soon as possible to your insurance agent.

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.

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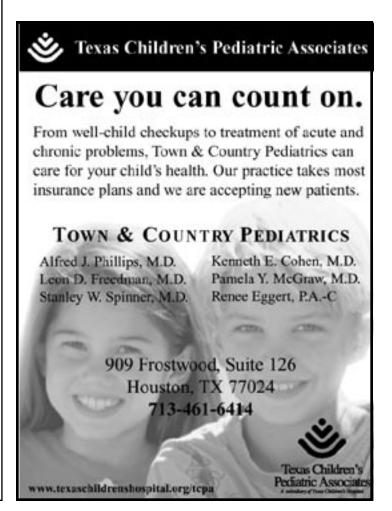
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Business Classifieds are \$45.00. Please contact Donna Sommer, djsommer@aol.com, 832-237-4684.



Health Briefs March 2005

Laser Is A New Effective Treatment For Severe Acne

HOUSTON – Laser technology may become one of the safest and most effective means to fight severe acne, said a dermatologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

The Candela Smooth Beam Laser has been recently FDA approved for the treatment of acne. In studies of acne on the back in volunteers, there was 98 percent improvement after four treatments.

"Patients are leaving here amazed," said Dr. Ramsey Markus, assistant professor of dermatology at Baylor. "The laser appears to be effective with very few side effects, mainly mild redness that goes away within a few hours."

The new technology heats the skin and shrinks oil glands, improving acne gradually during three to five treatments that are generally less than 15 minutes each. Physicians treat regions of the body that tend to develop acne, such as the face, back or shoulders.

According to clinical studies, a 60 percent improvement occurs after just one treatment.



The laser stands for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation.

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