

Volume 4, Issue 10 October 2005

Board Notes July 2005

The board of directors of Lakes on Eldridge Community Association met on July 19, 2005. The following is a summary of what was discussed.

The Board reviewed the financial statements for the month ended July 31, 2005. The Association had cash balances of \$241,107 in the Operating Fund and \$1210,624 in the Replacement Fund. For the three months ended July 31, 2005 the Association had Total Income of \$541,093, Total Expenses of \$515,765 and an Operating Surplus in the amount of \$25,328. The financial statements were accepted.

The board approved refurbishing and correcting mistakes on two directional signs for \$425. The gate repair committee reported that 40 feet of broken track is being replace at Eldridge Way gate for \$1,160.

The managing agent reported that were 223 active service requests and that 190 had been closed in the month of June 2005.

Two board members whose terms were expiring agreed to stand for re-election.

Board meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday 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.

Ladies Bunco Group

Ladies...our Bunco group is looking for a few new members.

We meet the 4th Thursday of each month for breakfast, Bunco, lunch and conversation. If you would like to meet a nice group of women and play Bunco (no experience necessary), please call Mary at 713-856-7998. Also, we are planning a trip down to the Houston Museum of Natural Science in November to see the Princess Di



exhibit. Even if you don't want to play Bunco, you can join us for the museum trip. Call Mary if you're interested.

Official Newsletter www.lakesoneldridge.net



Come to the Great Kirk Pumpkin Patch!!!

It's back! The annual Kirk Pumpkin Patch will be open for 3 days only at Pecan's Restaurant on Tanner Road.

October 19, 20 and 21st you can load up the kids and bring your camera to take great fall pictures amongst the pumpkins.

While there, purchase pumpkins to help support this great neighborhood elementary school. Pumpkins are just \$5.00 each. Thanks to the generous donation of the pumpkins by Pecan's Grill, all money raised will go to the Kirk PTO that provides additional educational tools, playground equipment and so much more for the children and staff of the Kirk Tigers!

Come out with the kids and play between 4-8pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, October 19-21st. Don't miss one of the most fun events of the fall season!!



View the Lakes on Eldridge Community Newsletter each month on-line at www. PEELinc.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AMI	.713-932-1122				
Gate Attendant	.713-937-8825				
Sheriff - (non-emergency)	.713-221-6000				
Cy-Fair Fire Department - (emergency)					
(non-emergency)	.281-550-6663				
Poison Control 1					
Texas DPS					
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					
(give pole # of street which is out)					
Entex (gas)	. 713-659-2111				
Time Warner Cable					
Houston Chronicle					
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, Incadvertising@PEELinc.com,	512-989-8905				
Adver. Donna Sommer djsommer@PEELinc.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
	•

Visit the Association Website: www.lakesoneldridge.net

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

THE PARENTS OF WESTVIEW SCHOOL VENDOR FAIR!!

Come shop at The Parents of Westview Vendor Fair being held in conjunction with The Westview School's annual Book Fair! You'll enjoy browsing for home décor, beauty products, unique crafts, gifts galore and more! It's all to have fun while supporting one of the best schools in the country creating options and opportunities for children with Autism. It's happening Thursday, October 6th from 9am – 2pm and 6-9pm. Come shop day or evening!The Westview School Auditorium, 1830 Kersten (off of Hammerly, west of Beltway 8).For more information contact Donna Beisel at <u>dbeisel@houston.rr.com</u>

Quick Reminders

□ Pet Owners – <u>"Scoop your Poop!</u>" For the health and safety of other residents, please bring a bag with you and clean up and dispose of any waste created by your dog. IT'S THE LAW! You must also keep your dog under control AND on a leash at all times. IT'S THE LAW!

□ Please remember to place trash out on TRASH DAYS ONLY, and return cans to your storage location on the same day. Trash and trash containers should be visible on trash days only, and should not be set where they block the sidewalk. Trash should not be put out for extended periods of time.

□ Vandalism is taken very seriously at Lakes on Eldridge. Anyone found vandalizing or causing damage to LOE property, including parks, playgrounds, nature areas, signs, lakes, etc., have and will continue to be prosecuted.

☐ As a reminder to all residents, any exterior modification, alteration, change or addition must be submitted and approvedbythe Architectural Committee prior to the start of construction. Forms and guidelines are available on the website <u>www.lakesoneldridge.</u> <u>net</u> or at AMI. If you are considering any of the following, please contact the committee or submit application: playhouse or swing set, outbuildings, permanent or portable basketball goals, gazebos, front yard accessories, outdoor lighting, application for sealants, stains, or paint on fences, front yard school or youth affiliated sport signs.

 \Box Please notify us of any unsafe conditions that need repair or maintenance via email.



Ann Knoche is Getting the Word Out on...



FAMILY EVENTS

If you are looking for a great place to take the kids to enjoy some fall family fun, look no further than...

7th Annual Halloween Boo-Bash

Sunday, October 30th • 1:00-4:00 p.m. • Trader's Village 7979 N. Eldridge Rd. • 281-890-5500 Live Musical Entertainment and Activities. Monster Sized Trick-or-Treating

Church Bazaar

Sunday, October 9th • 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. • St. John Vianney Catholic Church 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail • 281-497-1500 BBQ dinner, Arts & Crafts Booths, Silent Auction, Games, Children's Rides

Noah's Ark Carnival

Monday, October 31st • 6:00-8:00 p.m Tallowood Baptist Church 555 Tallowood • 713-468-8241 \$3.00 Children and \$4.00 Adults

Relocating? Moving Up? Scaling Down? Call Ann Knoche





Ann Knoche

Lakes on Eldridge

LOE Book Club



WANTED

Avid readers to join us the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. for the L.O.E. Book Club. We try to read a wide variety of material, so if this month's selection doesn't appeal to you, maybe next month's will. Do join us when we tackle a book on which you have comments or opinions. We will again be meeting in various members' homes, so call or e-mail Celeste Fritz, 713-896-6942, <u>cfritztx@houston.rr.com</u> for additional information.

October 27th – <u>Pride and Prejudice</u> by Jane Austen. Many consider this rich social commentary to be Jane Austen's finest novel. It is certainly among her more famous ones. Austen sets her

entertaining study of manners and misconceptions against the backdrop of a class-conscious society in 18th-century England.

Spirited, intelligent Elizabeth Bennet is alternately enchanted and affronted by Mr. Darcy. She is quick to suspend her usual, more rational



judgment when it comes to him. She also is quick to believe the worst gossip about this haughty, opinionated man, who soon manages to alienate Elizabeth and her family. But is the condescending air that Mr. Darcy wars an indication of his real character? Or has Elizabeth's pride gotten in the way of her chance for true romance?

Book club will be taking the months of November and December off to enjoy the holidays. We hope to see <u>you</u> at our January meeting.

Santa Clause is coming!!!

Santa Claus arrives in different ways in different lands. In Lakes on Eldridge, Santa's sleigh comes in the form of a fire truck. That's right, Santa is coming back this year. Look for next month's newsletter for the exact date, sometime in the first 2 weeks of December. This will be a fun time for the kids to visit Santa, while Lakes on Eldridge helps the less fortunate by donating new toys and nonperishable food items. Look for more details in the following newsletter!!

I am looking for some volunteers to help with pictures and other planning. This would be a great opportunity for that high schooler looking to do some volunteer work to put on their resume. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Michelle at 832-731-0943 or mperez51@houston.rr.com.

Mike Andre Lakes on Eldridge Homeowner Seeking customers that exhibit pride in ownership in their homes and personal belongings and want to establish a long term relationship with a reliable agent.



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Hearts and Hands Holíday Market 2005

Shop 'til you drop at the 19th annual Hearts and Hands Holiday Market, October 25-26, 2005, presented by the United Methodist Women of Memorial Drive United Methodist Church. With over 70 artisans and merchants offering a wonderful array of merchandise including holiday and year 'round decorative accessories, jewelry, clothing, handbags, toys, baby items, pewter, glassware, pottery, stationery, gourmet foods, and garden art, you're sure to find something for everyone on your gift list! For even more great items, don't miss the Silent Auction and UMW Market.

If all of the shopping makes you hungry, you'll be able to purchase a tasty boxed lunch by Tres Market along with homemade baked goods, jams, and jellies. Frozen entrees to go will be available so that you can have quick meals on hand throughout the holidays.

Admission to Hearts and Hands is free and proceeds benefit local and global missions. Hearts and Hands will be open on Tuesday, October 25, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Wednesday, October 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Memorial Drive United Methodist Church is located at 12955 Memorial Drive between the Sam Houston Tollway and Wilcrest. Additional parking on both days can be found at The Connection Center, 13194 Memorial Drive, with shuttle service available on Tuesday only, October 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please call 713-468-8356.

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 <u>mperez51@houston.rr.com</u>. 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.

Dear Friends Neighbors-

The Real Estate Market in our community is moving at a quick pace and I am thrilled to announce that I am joining an Elite Group of Realtors providing you the highest quality of service and expertise in the luxury housing market. My affiliation with **ROYAL OAKS FINE PROPERTIES**, centered in the hub of West Houston, will allow me to offer a superior level of personalized service, specialized marketing for our community, and the professional service you expect. I look forward to assisting you with all of your real estate needs...and promoting our fabulous community..



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Kay Horsch "A place to call home, not just an address."

Mosquitoes: More Than a Nuisance

(NAPSA)-As the cold weather slowly escapes, we find ourselves looking for more reasons to bask and play outdoors. But be advised: spending time outdoors may come with mosquito-related risks.

Mosquitoes inevitably accompany warm weather and are much more than just a nuisance during outings and picnics. Though typically feared for the dangers they pose internationally where they carry and transmit the infectious agents that cause malaria, lymphatic filariasis, yellow fever and dengue fever, mosquitoes should not be taken for granted in North America. Approximately 200 of the more than 3,000 mosquito species worldwide are found in North America,



Take preventative measures to protect yourself from mosquito-borne diseases. (photo courtesy of CDC)

and some are capable of transmitting a number of viruses causing encephalitis (swelling of the brain), including West Nile virus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 16,000 people in the United States have become ill with West Nile virus since it was first identified in New York in 1999. Serious symptoms resulting from West Nile virus can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness or paralysis, and the disease can even be fatal.

"Mosquitoes only need a small amount of water with nutrients to breed and survive, making them very hard to control," says Frank Meek, Technical Director for Orkin, Inc. "It is important to take prevention measures seriously to reduce populations and the accompanying risk of diseases."

Most cases of mosquito-related disease show up in late summer or early fall when populations are largely prevalent. Fortunately, a few preventative measures will allow you and your family to continue to enjoy the pleasures of the changing weather:

- When outdoors, spray an EPA-approved insect repellent on exposed skin and over clothing.
- During prime mosquito biting hours of dusk to dawn, wear long sleeves and pants in addition to repellent, or consider staying indoors.
- Make sure screens on windows and doors fit tightly and have no holes.
- Eliminate breeding sites by emptying standing water from objects around the home, including flower pots, buckets, tire swings and children's wading pools when not in use. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly.

In addition to these preventative measures, professional help is also available through Orkin, the only national pest control provider offering mosquito control and treatment services.

For more information on how to prevent mosquitoes, or for a free inspection, visit www.orkin.com or call 1-800-800-ORKIN. To learn more about mosquito-related diseases, visit www.cdc.gov.



Lori L. Blackmon RE/MAX West Houston Professionals Broker/Owner lorib@remax-westhoustonpro-texas.com 281-463-3300 X102 Office 713-705-3050 Mobile

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Family Fall Fun Day

Jersey Village Church of Christ 8810 Jones Road

Come join us October 29, 2005 from 3:00-6:00pm,with a Noah's Ark Play starting @ 3:00pm and other great activities to follow. We welcome adults and children of all ages; free. Refreshments will be served. For any questions, call our office @ 832-237-7550 or check the website, www.jvchurchofchrist.org.



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Lakes on Eldridge - October 2005 7

MotherWise News

The MotherWise bible study group had a fun evening of fellowship at its Dessert Social held on September 12, 2005. Approximately fifteen women attended who live in the Lakes on Eldridge, Lakes on Eldridge North, and Eldridge Park neighborhoods. To kick off its fall bible study, the group viewed the introductory segment of Dr. Kevin Leman's video seminar entitled "Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours". The evening concluded with a drawing for a basket of fall themed items.

MotherWise is a nondenominational group and all are welcome and invited to attend any of the meetings. The October MotherWise meetings will be held on October 10th and October 24th. It's not too late to join this great group! For further information about MotherWise, please call Kathy Prusak at 713-937-7707 or Elizabeth Tobin at 832-467-1369.

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.

Festival of Children

Are you looking for a wonderful family outing close to home? Then come out and enjoy the cooler weather at the Festival of Children on Saturday, October 15 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Hosted by Messiah Lutheran Church, and benefiting the scholarship fund of its Chrysalis Preschool and The Ark after school program, this day will include something for everyone.

There are moonwalks, games, snow cones, train rides, a silent auction, free musical entertainment, raffles and the best barbequed brisket, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages in town to make for a great way to spend your day.

Messiah Lutheran Church is a grace place, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Messiah is located at 11522 Telge Road, ½ mile north of Highway 290. Regular worship times are 6 PM on Saturday evenings (a casual service of song and sacrament), and traditional worship at 8 and 10:30 AM on Sundays. The Education Hour is 9:15-10:15 AM on Sundays. For more information, 281-890-3013 or <u>www.messiahlc.org</u>. All people are welcome at Messiah.







Do you like to knit, crochet, embroidery, crewel, counted cross stitch or perhaps you prefer tatting, quilting or needle point? Maybe hooking rugs is your thing? If you enjoy any type of stitching / sewing (or just need to do some hemming or alterations) and would like to join a like-minded group who meet to sew, share ideas and socialize, then come along to our "LOE Merry Stitchers". We meet every Thursday from 9:30am-12:00pm at the clubhouse.

It isn't about what kind of stitching you like to do. It's about getting together and sharing the passion for sewing and this opportunity is open to anyone who wants to make friends with others and join in the fun of saying "I made it myself!"

So, if you are interested in joining this group, please call Catherine Spelling at (713) 896-1652 or 713-628-7083 or email CTSpelling@aol.com or just join us at our next meeting.

Our next meeting dates are October 6, 13, 20, 27.

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Join us for an evening of Art. The Ladies Philoptochos Society of St.Basil the Great Greek Orthodox Church is hosting an Art Auction on Saturday, October 15, 2005. There will be approximately 200 original pieces of art on display beginning at 7pm. A small cover charge of \$7 (\$5 if pre-registered) will enable you to enjoy light refreshments as you view the art and join the auction beginning at 8pm.



Art Auction St Basil Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos Society Charitable Organization When: October 15th at 7pm Where: St Basil's 1100 Eldridge (1/2 mile South of I-10) Light refreshments will be served

The art collection includes original oils, watercolors, silk-screens, etchings, pen & ink drawings, paper sculpture, lithographs and mixed media. All the works are beautifully framed and matted. Many of the following artists will be represented at this auction: Agam, Behrens,



Boulanger, Buckels, Chagall, Dali, Delacroix, Erte, Lautrec, McKnight, Miro, Neiman, Picasso, Raad, Rockwell, Wooster Scott and Vasarely - to name a few. The quality of framed art allows even the beginner to acquire reasonably priced items to enjoy for many years.

The Art Auction is the major fundraiser for the St. Basil Philoptochos this year. The Philoptochos is a charitable organization supporting many worthwhile causes including medical research, Children's Medical Fund, scholarships, and help to the needy. A complete list of the charities is available on request.

For information, or to pre-register, please call Helen at 713-468-6531.

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"Real" facts about our neighborhoods:

In the last 12 months prior to August 12, 2005 the percentage of listed homes that sold on the first attempt:

Lakes on Eldridge: 59% Lakes on Eldridge North: 66% Twin Lakes: 44%



Danielle Gebara

Cell: 832-788-6002 Off: 281-664-8300 Fax: 832-243-9937 8399 FM 1960 West Ste. 310 Houston, TX 77070 dgebara@houston.rr.com



Hamric: Legislature will solve school funding crisis

HOUSTON (Sept. 5, 2005) – The current stalemate over public school funding in the Texas Legislature reminds State Rep. Peggy Hamric (R-Houston) of her first session in Austin.

Hamric, who was the guest speaker at the September meeting of the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce, recalled that in 1991 the Legislature was embroiled in a legal battle over education funding. Eventually, the so-called "Robin Hood" funding plan was adopted and approved by the state's Supreme Court.

"The courts said 'Robin Hood' is constitutional now, but if the time comes when the majority of districts have to tax at \$1.50 maximum rate, it may become unconstitutional because it could be construed as a statewide property tax," she said. "The local school districts would no longer have any discretion in setting the tax rate."

Fourteen years later, most districts are taxing at the maximum rate, and another crisis looms, Hamric said. She is hopeful the Texas Supreme Court will rule on Robin Hood again by October. That decision will shape the eventual new education funding bill, Hamric said.

Hamric added that coming up with a plan that is fair to all will be very difficult. She added that businesses that now enjoy tax loopholes will naturally fight to retain those loopholes. "We need a new education funding bill with the lowest rate, the broadest tax base and fewest loopholes," Hamric said. "It has been worked out before, and it will be again. This isn't much different than what has historically happened before."

She also praised the Chamber and the Cy-Fair business community for partnering with Cy-Fair Independent School District.

"The business community works very closely with school districts, and certainly in the Cy-Fair area," Hamric said.

Shifting gears, Hamric spoke briefly about Harris County's disaster preparation plans, a topic that has come to the forefront in the wake of hurricane Katrina.

"Thank goodness that Harris County and our officials had been planning for just this kind of thing for a number of years," she said. "Our evacuation plans are tied in with Homeland Security. I have worked with the Greater Houston Partnership on transportation issues, and I know these evacuation plans have been on the top burner."

Hamric said that highlights of the 2005 Legislative session included:

• The approval of more Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services caseworkers. "There's not a day that goes by that we don't read a tragic story about a child or a senior citizen that has

(Continued on page 13)



Lakes on Eldridge

Hamric - (Continued from page 12)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency lists these organizations for those seeking to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina

Donate cash

been abused," she said. "A lot of it occurs because we didn't have the number of workers we needed to follow up on those cases."

• A pay raise for state employees. "It's crucial to have good people employed in state government," Hamric said. "Because of them not getting paid enough, we were losing some state employees to industry and even to city and county governments."

• Revamping of the state's workers' compensation program. According to Hamric, employers, employees, doctors and insurance companies were fed up with the system. While the state led the nation in workers' compensation claims, Texas had the lowest percentage of workers returning to the job.

The eventual legislative outcome was the abolition of the existing workers' compensation agency. It was moved into the Texas Insurance Agency and set up along the lines of a managed health care system.

The Governmental Affairs Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Chamber office, 11050 FM 1960 West, Suite 100. All interested members of the public are invited to attend. For more information about the Chamber, call 281-955-1100 or visit cyfairchamber.com.

Donate cash	
American Red Cross	(800) HELP NOW (435-7669)
	(800) 257-7575 Spanish
Operation Blessing	(800) 436-6348
America's Second Harvest	(800) 344-8070
To donate cash or volunteer:	
Adventist Community Services	(800) 381-7171
Catholic Charities, USA	(703) 549-1390
Christian Disaster Response	(941) 956-5183
	or (941) 551-9554
Christian Reformed World Relief	(800) 848-5818
Church World Service	(800) 297-1516
Convoy of Hope	(417) 823-8998
Lutheran Disaster Response	(800) 638-3522
Mennonite Disaster Service	(717) 859-2210
Nazarene Disaster Response	(888) 256-5886
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	(800) 872-3283
Salvation Army	(800) SAL-ARMY (725-2769)
Southern Baptist Convention	800) 462-8657, ext. 6133
United Methodist Committee	(800) 554-8583



Texas Events -October

1—HOUSTON: Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure Includes a competitive 5-K run, non-competitive 5-K run, 5-K walk, Kids K/Family Walk and more. Downtown. 713/867-3233 Gulf Coast

6-8—HOUSTON: Festival Chicano Miller Outdoor Theatre, Hermann Park. 713/284-8350 **Gulf Coast**

6-9—HOUSTON: Greek Festival Enjoy authentic Greek food, wine, dancing and artifacts. Grounds of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. www.greekfestival.org 713/526-5377 **Gulf Coast**

8-9—HOUSTON: 21st Annual Wings Over Houston Airshow Includes the Canadian Forces Snowbirds Jet Demonstration Team, F-19F Super Hornet, AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter, A-10 Thunderbolt II, World War II air power re-enactment of "Tora! Tora!" and static displays. Gates open at 8 a.m. Ellington Field. www.wingsoverhouston. com 713/266-4492 **Gulf Coast**

8-9—HOUSTON: 27th Houston Festa Italiana Features live entertainment, children's area, bocce ball, grape stomp, pasta-eating contest, Italian car show, Italian heritage area and delicious homemade food. Houston Farm and Ranch Club. www.houstonitalianfestival.com 713/524-4222 Gulf Coast

8-9—HOUSTON: Bayou City Art Festival This annual juried fine art event boasts 300 acclaimed artists from throughout Texas and the world. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In front of Houston's City Hall, around Hermann Square and Sam Houston Park downtown. www. bayoucityartfestival.com 713/521-0133 **Gulf Coast**

9—HOUSTON: Fifth Annual Art Car Show See more than 40 vehicles of all sorts painted, pasted and carved into artistic masterpieces on wheels. Begins at 10 a.m. Traders Village. www.tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500 **Gulf Coast**

14—HOUSTON: Dia de la Hispanidad Festival Miller Outdoor Theatre, Hermann Park. 713/284-8350 Gulf Coast

15—HOUSTON: All-British Motor Vehicle Expo

www.houstonmgcarclub.org 281/346-2417 Gulf Coast

15—HOUSTON: Ninth Annual Museum District Day Fifteen museums participate. www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org 713/529-9802 **Gulf Coast**

22-23—HOUSTON: Asian-American Festival Enjoy Asian music,

dancing and demonstrations of other Asian arts. Includes cultural exhibits and children's activities. Miller Outdoor Theatre, Hermann Park. 713/861-8270 or 713/284-8350 **Gulf Coast**

22, 25, 28, 30—HOUSTON: Fall Repertory: Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* Houston Grand Opera. Wortham Theater Center. 713/228-6737 or 800/626-7372 Gulf Coast

27-30—HOUSTON: International Quilt Festival More than 900 quilts, original cloth dolls, warable and related textile arts are displayed. Includes expert demonstrations and mini-classes. George R. Brown Convention Center. www.quilts.com 713/781-6864 **Gulf Coast**

28-Jan. 22—HOUSTON: *Robert Gober: The Meat Wagon* The Menil Collection. www.menil.org 713/525-9400 Gulf Coast

29—HOUSTON: Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* Houston Grand Opera. Wortham Theater Center. 713/228-6737 or 800/626-7372 Gulf Coast

29-30—HOUSTON: MECA Day of the Dead Festival Includes traditional celebrations and arts & crafts. www.meca-houston.org 713/802-9370 **Gulf Coast**

30—HOUSTON: Seventh Annual Halloween Boo Bash for Kidz Presents continuous live musical entertainment and activities from 1 to 4 p.m. Trick-or-treating is from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Traders Village, 7979 N. Eldridge Road. www.tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500 Gulf

Texas Events has been published with the permission of the Texas Department of Transportation. All events are taken in part from the Texas Events Calendar. All dates for events were correct at the time of publication and are subject to change.

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Precinct 4 official presents overview of capital improvement projects

HOUSTON (Sept. 5, 2005) – Harris County Precinct 4 can see having a zero balance in its capital improvement project fund as a good thing, because it would mean more road and bridge projects are under construction and the need for more funding would be more evident.

Pamela Rocchi, the precinct's capital improvement project coordinator, said that following the \$535 million bond referendum in 2001, Precinct 4 identified 43 capital improvement projects that will cost an estimated \$223 million to design and build. Since then 25 of those projects have been initiated at a cost of \$132 million.

Rocchi, who was the guest speaker at the September meeting of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee, said a healthy account balance due to road and bridge projects that are in design but have not started construction may be one reason why commissioners earlier this summer declined to vote in favor of a new bond referendum.

"We need to construct these projects so that we show a zero balance," she said, adding that Precinct 4 engineers have identified more than \$700 million in new projects that are needed.

Rocchi presented an overview of projects that are in design or in progress. She noted that 45 to 48 percent of road miles in Harris County are located within Precinct 4, which stretches east to Huffman, west to Tomball, north to the Montgomery County line and south to Interstate 10.

There are currently 47 projects in design at a total cost of \$191 million. Many of those projects involve widening of roads from two lanes to four lanes with a boulevard, and replacement of asphalt with concrete. Kuykendahl, Ella, Gosling, Fallbrook, Hollister, T.C. Jester, Jones and Will Clayton Parkway are among the roads being improved.

Some projects could be delayed because utility companies, which often have to relocate transmission lines, may be needed to help restore services to New Orleans and other areas that were devastated by hurricane Katrina.

"We don't know the impact Katrina will have on the utility companies in Harris County," Rocchi said. "We don't know how that will affect our construction schedule. Even utility companies don't understand the impact at this time."

Committee Chair Bill Rowden announced the schedule of programs for the remainder of 2005. They include:

- A presentation by Pate Engineers on improvements to Jones Road (Thursday, Oct. 6).
- An update on widening plans for U.S. 290, presented by Roger Gonzalez of the Texas Department of Transportation (Thursday, Nov. 3).

• A joint meeting with the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee that will include a presentation on Bush Intercontinental Airport improvements, including the opening of two new eastwest runways (Thursday, Dec. 1).

The Cy-Fair Chamber's Transportation Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 11050 FM 1960 West, Suite 100. All interested members of the public are invited. Call 281-955-1100 or visit cyfairchamber.com for more information about the Chamber.

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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, <u>mperez51@houston.rr.com</u>. *All information must be received by the 10th of the month*.

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