



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE

Volume 5, Issue 4
April 2006

Official Newsletter
www.lakesoneldridge.net

Great LOE St. Patrick's Day Party

The Beach Club was a sea of green Friday, March 17th. The St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour was a great success with about 75 to 80 people showing up for great appetizers, wine and beer. We weren't joking when we said, "Come meet some new friends and visit with some old friends". Three couples that recently moved to LOE within the last few months dropped by to meet their neighbors.

A big thanks you to our hostesses Georgia Shotwell, Kay Horsch and host, Steve Hardcastle as they did a great job. A special thank you to David & Sandy Whaley for their generous donation of the beer. Thank you too to Kathy Streeter, Cecilia Freeman and Georgia Shotwell for their Clubhouse decorating skills. Steve Hardcastle you can go ahead and quit your day job, as you were a fantastic bartender! A really special thanks to Virginia and Robert Knox for staying late and helping the host and hostesses clean up. Many thanks to the generous folks that tipped the "Kitty".

If you have not attended one of these parties, please drop by for refreshments and visit with your neighbors, we think you will enjoy yourself.

There will be no Happy Hour during the month of April as many people will be busy with the Easter holidays. There will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th. The Easter Egg Hunt flyers will be delivered very shortly. Always check your newsletter carefully as we have some neat social events planned for the future. Our next party will be a Luau Potluck Dinner in the month of May so start looking for your grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts. Look for the details in the next newsletter.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt for the young children of Lakes on Eldridge will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2006 in front of the Beach Club. The hunt begins at 10:00 a.m. sharp. Light refreshments are served after the hunt. For more information or if you can help with the hunt, please call Elizabeth Tobin at 832-467-1369.

Easter Eggstravaganza Windwood Presbyterian Church

April 15, 2006

10am-12pm

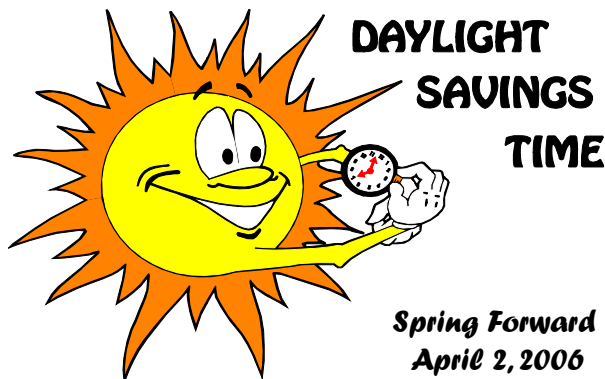
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Lakes on Eldridge

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Cy-Fair Fire Department - (emergency)	281-466-6161
(non-emergency)	281-550-6663
Poison Control	1-800-764-7661
Texas DPS	713-681-1761
Waste Management.....	713-695-4055
(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)	
Aqua 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
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Houston Chronicle	713-220-7211
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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:

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Lindsay Buchanan.....	Secretary
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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

Swans Can Be Dangerous

This time of the year, Mother Nature provides our LOE swans with some common sense. It is mating, nesting, and egg-laying season and they feel the need to protect their territory against predators including humans, dogs, and waterfowl. Most of the swans in our neighborhood are not old enough to mate but some will go through the motions of even building a nest. Two pairs of the swans are old enough to produce young (cygnets) and these two pair are normally



gentle and can be hand fed while posing no threat. However, one of our cobs (males) has become aggressive and territorial in trying to protect his pen (female) and nest. This is usually temporary until mating season is over. If you

are walking past a lake and a swan swims to your side and follows you, BEWARE! If you see a swan with his neck back and feathers up such as the one in the picture, please stay away, do not attempt to feed him, and walk on the other side of the street as he is in his ATTACK position. Please warn your nannies and sitters not to stroll babies around the swans. We must try to remember that the swans are merely protecting their territory and readying the area for their young. We need to be as cautious of them as they are of us. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Lakes on Eldridge

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, & 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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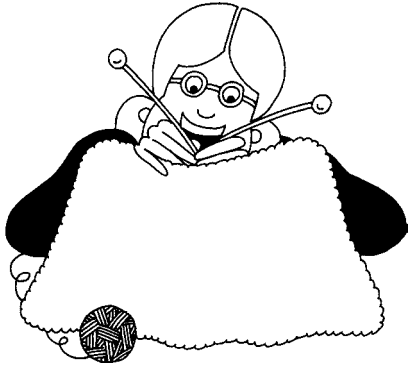
LOE Stitch & Chat

Needlework of all kinds is one of the latest new things to do. If you would like to learn to knit, crochet, quilt, and counted cross-stitch, or other, some of our members would be glad to help you get started.

Please feel free to join us on any Thursday at the "Beach" Clubhouse from 10:00am until noon.

For ore information, contact Catherine Spellings at ctspellings@aol.com or 713-896-1652 or 713-628-7083.

PS. We are currently making "healing shawls" for cancer patients who are undergoing treatments at area hospitals.



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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.

Tennis Anyone?

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

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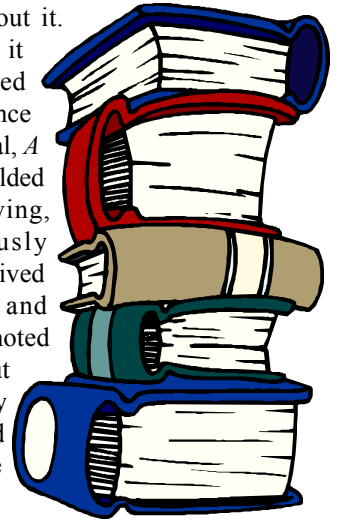
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LOE Book Club

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, cfritztx@houston.rr.com for additional information.

April 27th – **A Million Little Pieces** by James Frey. Oprah has talked about it. You've heard about it. Now, read it and form your own opinions. Filled with graphic scenes of epic substance abuse and the torments of withdrawal, *A Million Little Pieces* was widely heralded upon its publication as a harrowing, self-lacerating, and courageously confessional autobiography. It received many admiring critical reviews and carried cover endorsements from noted literati. Subsequent revelations about discrepancies between the story and the author's real life touched off a national debate about the line between fact and fiction.



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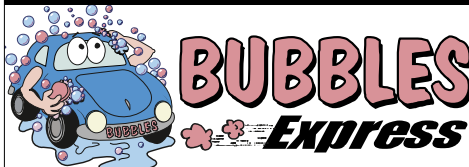
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R	T	Y	N	K	L	N	L	K	C	Y	E	A	G	L
I	I	U	S	A	N	U	C	O	G	Q	T	H	E	I
L	B	A	D	E	L	U	T	B	C	N	S	T	R	E
Y	B	V	T	S	D	S	U	K	O	Q	A	P	M	S
S	A	A	E	Y	N	N	I	T	S	L	E	B	A	H
E	R	D	B	R	N	A	T	R	O	S	H	U	N	T
Y	R	A	N	Y	O	O	E	C	E	C	X	F	Y	E
D	B	G	S	U	C	K	O	B	Q	T	I	B	R	G
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S	C	T	S	X	N	S	I	C	C	J	L	K	E	S
W	E	D	A	R	A	P	I	S	K	M	P	E	K	C
P	T	V	N	K	G	N	I	R	P	S	E	A	J	J

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- Baby Chicks
- Baby Ducks
- Basket
- Bonnet
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No Silver Bullet to Solve Traffic Congestion, Texas A&M Researcher Says

HOUSTON (March 6, 2006) – If you had 3.7 billion hours to spend, how would you spend it?

If you're like most Americans, one way you help spend the time is by sitting in freeway traffic jams. According to Dr. David Schrank of the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), traffic delays totaled 3.7 billion hours in 2003.

Schrank was in Houston on March 2 to present an overview of TTI's 2005 Annual Urban Mobility Report to members of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee. The report is a nationally known study of mobility and traffic congestion on freeways in 85 U.S. cities. The study measured trends from 1982 through 2003, the most recent year for which data is available.

Congestion on freeways is getting worse and is costing Americans \$63 billion a year, he said. Among the problems are traffic jams, unreliable travel times, long waits at traffic signals, navigating through construction zones, accidents and relatively few viable travel options other than driving on the freeway.

"The problem is getting worse," Schrank said. "The number of urban areas with more than 20 hours of delay per peak traveler has grown from five in 1982 to 51 in 2003."

In Houston, major freeway construction in the 1980s and 1990s has resulted in a slower growth of congestion than that of several other major metropolitan areas in Texas, he said.

Traffic congestion is a fact of life that won't go away as long as

Americans commute to and from work between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Schrank said. But he added that reducing congestion to a manageable level is possible.

"If we can have our system be reliable, we would be happy with that," he said. "Reliability is the buzzword. We are not necessarily willing to live with the congestion that is out there now."

But there's no silver bullet for solving the problem.

"We can't build our way out of it," Schrank said. "We have only been able to build 40 to 42 percent of the road capacity we need to solve the problem. Carpooling and public transportation are also not the entire solution, but they are part of the solution."

HOV lanes have been an effective method of helping to ease the traffic burden, he said.

"HOV lanes carry a lot of people and do what they need to do," Schrank said. "Houston is a prime example of how they can work."

The Chamber has long been an advocate for a variety of mobility solutions and has been instrumental in such projects as the underpass on FM 1960 at Texas 249. Currently, the Chamber, through its 290 Passenger Rail Coalition, is leading an effort to bring commuter rail to the 290 corridor – a project that Schrank praised as being a proactive effort that could become part of the overall solution to reduce congestion on U.S. 290.

One traffic management tool that has been proven effective in studies

(Continued on Page 13)





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Silver Bullet- (Continued from page 12)

but is only lightly used in Houston is metered freeway entrance, he noted.

The solution is everything – multi-modal and managing everything very aggressively,” Schrank said. “We can’t stop the growth of congestion, but we can improve reliability and provide more options.”

The entire mobility report is available online at mobility.tamu.edu.

The Transportation Committee of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber 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 to attend. Call 281-955-1100 for more information or visit cyfairchamber.com.

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

Article Submissions

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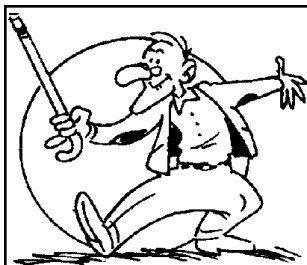
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Lakes on Eldridge



*About 56,000 Americans are over
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Teenage Jobseekers

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

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direct: 832.368.8111



Lakes on Eldridge

Talk With Your Kids!

Everyone knows that there are bad people in the world and some may even come into Lakes on Eldridge once in a while. The LOE Board of Directors and the Crime Awareness Committee wants to encourage all residents to keep on the alert for people who may come into our community for no good purpose. If you see any suspicious persons or activity, call the Sheriff's Department and/or AMI (our management company).

About a week ago, a nine-year old boy reported that a man driving a dark SUV stopped and tried to get the boy to get into his vehicle. The boy refused and ran away. Unfortunately, the boy did not get a good description of the vehicle or its license number. The incident was not reported for several days after the occurrence.

Obviously, the quicker the information is transmitted to the Sheriff's Department or to AMI, the quicker can be the response. Talk with your children and tell them never to approach strangers and to report any attempt that they may make to entice them into their vehicles. Tell them to try to get as much detailed information about the person(s) as possible and to tell their parents right away.

We want Lakes on Eldridge to remain a safe and secure place to live and play. It's too bad that we have to remain always vigilant.

Homeowners' Response to Board Ideas

At the LOE Annual Homeowners Meeting in November, the Board President presented a list of "ideas" that had been voiced by various members of the community during the year and asked for comments from the homeowners present. These ideas and the response are shown below:

Ideas	Response of homeowners present
Elimination of gate attendant shift between 1 am and 5 am.	Strongly rejected
Closing Tanner Road entry gates between 1 am and 5 am	2 to 1 in favor
Converting volleyball court to a basketball court	2 to 1 against
Adding a fitness facility	Enough interest to justify further study
Providing a curbside recycling program within LOE	3 to 1 in favor
Continuation of drying of the lakes	7 to 1 in support of discontinuing

The Board welcomes this input and will use it in its decisions about these subjects.



Lori L. Blackmon

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Lakes on Eldridge

Texas Events - April

1-2—HOUSTON: 11th Annual Bayou City Cajun Fest Live bands perform from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Features shrimp etouffee, red beans and rice, fried boudin balls, seafood gumbo, and spicy boiled crawfish. Traders Village. www.tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500

1-2—HOUSTON: H-E-B Children's Festival Offers a dazzling smorgasbord of exciting activities, including six entertainment stages, more than 350 games and 10 Family Adventure areas. Downtown Houston. www.houstonchildrensfestival.com 713/522-9723

1-2—HOUSTON: The Peking Acrobats This troupe of China's most gifted tumblers, jugglers, cyclists and gymnasts are complemented by live musicians playing traditional Chinese instruments. Jones Hall. www.spahouston.org 713/227-4SPA

5-23—HOUSTON: *The Dead Guy* A man is given \$1 million to spend in seven days — his last week on earth. The catch is everything is televised and viewers vote on how he dies. www.stagestheatre.com 713/527-0123

7—HOUSTON: Ballet Austin's Not Afraid of the Dark — The Show that Glows This performance takes a journey into a glow-in-the-dark world, where turning off the lights isn't scary. Begins at 7 p.m. Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. www.spahouston.org 713/227-4SPA

8—HOUSTON: Buglisi/Foreman Dance Begins at 8 p.m. Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. www.spahouston.org 713/227-4SPA

8—HOUSTON: Indochinese Tigers Birthday Party Tiger brothers Jamu and Pandu celebrate their sixth birthdays. Includes enrichment events and Tiger Talk keeper chats. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Houston Zoo. www.houstonzoo.org 713/533-6500

8-9—HOUSTON: Camera Show Marriott Hotel-Hobby Airport. 713/868-9606

8-9—HOUSTON: Japan Festival Includes a main stage, martial arts stage, Japanese food vendors, 50 exhibitors and kids games. Tour the gardens where a tea ceremony, bonsai demonstrations and displays, Ikebana flower arranging demonstrations, origami and more are held. Hermann Park — Japanese Gardens. E-mail: yoko@jashouston.org 713/963-0121

9—HOUSTON: Czech SpringFest 713/349-0500 or 866/293-2443

9—HOUSTON: Migration Celebration Includes conservation booths, craft areas, games and special "Keeper Chats" and docent presentation. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Houston Zoo. www.houstonzoo.org 713/533-6500

15, 18, 23, 25, 28, 30—HOUSTON: Bizet's *Carmen* Opera's most famous femme fatale returns. This is a co-production of Houston Grand Opera, Opera Pacific and Michigan Opera Theatre. Wortham Theater Center. 713/228-6737 or 800/626-7372

17-23—HOUSTON: Shell Houston Open Golf Tournament About 150 of the world's best golfers pursue the \$5 million-plus purse. Redstone Golf Club. www.shellhoustonopen.com 281/454-7000

21-22—HOUSTON: Waste Management Earth Day Festival Children can enjoy a variety of games and crafts from building environmentally friendly bird feeders to puzzling their way through the Migration Trail Maze. Learn how conservationists track migrating birds. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Houston Zoo. www.houstonzoo.org 713/533-6500

21-30—HOUSTON: WorldFest: Houston International Film Festival Brings a blend of feature films, shorts, screenplays, TV commercials, music videos and documentaries to viewers throughout the area. www.worldfest.org 713/965-9955

22-23—HOUSTON: BP MS 150 Bike Tour More than 12,000 cyclists participate. Two-day bike tour takes riders from Houston to Austin to raise funds to fight MS. www.nationalmssociety.org/txh/home 800/344-4867

22-23, 29-30—HOUSTON: Houston International Festival Spotlights Jamaica. Downtown is filled with ethnic food booths, arts & crafts, kiosks, exhibits and 1,800 various performers. Features music and dance groups from around the world. Downtown Houston, including City Hall, Tranquility Park, Bagby Street, Upper and Lower Sam Houston Park and Allen Parkway. www.ifest.org 713/654-8808

28—HOUSTON: BREAK! The Urban Funk Spectacular Show explores the past 30 years of hip-hop dancing. Begins at 7 p.m. Jones Hall. www.spahouston.org 713/227-4SPA

29—HOUSTON: Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea* (L'Incoronazione Di Poppea) Houston Grand Opera. Wortham Theater Center. 713/228-6737 or 800/626-7372

29-30—HOUSTON: 35th Annual Hal John & Judy Wimberly Memorial Chili Cook-Off Traders Village. E-mail: kdkone@aol.com • www.houstonpod.org 281/890-5500

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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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.

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