



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE

Volume 5, Issue 12
December 2006

Official Newsletter
www.lakesoneldridge.net

2006 Annual Meeting Summary

What you missed if you didn't attend.

The Lakes on Eldridge Annual Meeting of Homeowners was held Wednesday, November 8th at Kirk elementary. It was a good meeting. Attendance was the highest since before 2000.

Nikki Favero, Board President, reported that 2006 has been a busy and productive year. One of the biggest successes in terms of positive and long-term financial impact for the community has been achieving Tax-Exempt status for Lakes On Eldridge. Ms Favero reported that there had been many accomplishments during 2006 including: commissioning the community's first professional reserve study; replacement of the 550 Gallon Per Minute water well which supplies water for our various lakes and irrigation on the property; several major pump repairs or replacements, and a 90% reduction in costs associated with vandalism. The new Tax-Exempt status will generate savings for the community, which will help offset increased funding of the reserves to prepare for future major expenditures.

Ms. Favero reported that as a key principle, the Board focused on optimizing costs before increasing homeowner's dues. For example, this year, a new contract was negotiated with StarTex Energy at a savings of nearly 35% per kilowatt-hour. Since 2003 the relative changes in homeowner's dues have always been below the national inflation rate despite several cost increases that the Association had to absorb due to increased energy prices in the last few years. As recommended by the Reserve Study performed this year, the 2007 assessment was increased by 1.59% to provide for increased funding of the Reserve Replacement Fund.

The Treasurer's Report indicated that the community was in good financial standing, however, delinquencies had increased slightly since 2005. The Association is actively pursuing collection of those funds by means of a collection agency or litigation.

Two new Board Members were elected as Nikki Favero and Bob Adams' terms were expiring. Cory Hammond and Jerry Davis were elected to three-year terms. Cory currently serves on the Architectural Control Committee and Jerry Davis works with Bob Adams on the Gate & Crime Awareness Committee. The Board extends its thanks to Nikki and Bob for their leadership and service to Lakes on Eldridge. Nikki remains active as chair of the Landscape Committee as does Bob who chairs the Gate & Crime Awareness Committee.

Loss of a Cygnet

We lost a cygnet the morning of November 8th. He was located with his clutch mate on the small lake close to the entrance. He was found dead in the middle of the street at about 9:00 a.m. It just seems impossible a driver could have missed seeing him. This leaves a lone female.

The tragedy of the cygnet's death by automobile should cause all of us to ask how could this happen? If the driver was speeding, or careless, it could just as easily have been a child or an adult person.

Please, please everyone drive more safely. Please obey the 25-mile per hour speed limit and stop at all stop signs. Please report reckless drivers to AMI and/or the Sheriff's Dept. If you witness a commercial vehicle driving recklessly on our streets, please call AMI with the license number, date and time of day. A few rogue drivers can make LOE a dangerous place for our waterfowl...and our people.



**View the Lakes on Eldridge
Community Newsletter
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Lakes on Eldridge

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AMI.....	713-932-1122
Gate Attendant	713-937-8825
Sheriff - (non-emergency).....	713-221-6000
Cy-Fair Fire Department - (emergency)	281-466-6161
(non-emergency)	281-550-6663
Poison Control	1-800-764-7661
Texas DPS.....	713-681-1761
Waste Management.....	713-695-4055
(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)	
Aqua Source.....	713-983-3602
(Service or emergencies 24hrs).....	713-983-3604
Harris County Tax Office.....	713-224-1919
Reliant Energy.....	713-207-7777
(give pole # of street which is out)	
Entex (gas)	713-659-2111
Time Warner Cable	713-462-9000
Houston Chronicle	713-220-7211
Metro Transit Info	713-635-4000
Kirk Elementary.....	713-849-8250
Truitt Middle School.....	281-856-1100
Cy-Falls High School.....	281-856-1000
Cy-Ridge High School.....	281-807-8000
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Peel, Inc.....	advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

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
Deborah Dunaway	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

For Information Only.

SUGGESTION BOX

Have you ever wanted to make a suggestion to the LOE Board of Directors but don't know how to go about it? Well, they have now made it very easy and convenient for you. The Board has placed a SUGGESTION BOX in the Member Section of the LOE website, www.lakesoneldridge.net. Please type in any suggestions for the Board to review and discuss. This Suggestion Box goes directly to the Board members and after such discussion; one of the members will be in contact with you. Please note that you may be called upon to be a part of the solution to the suggestion you make.

MAINTENANCE FEES

2007 Maintenance Fees are due January 1, 2007! Watch your mail for your statement. Your assessment funds the operation of the community such as landscaping, pool maintenance and repairs, insurance and reserving for the future major repairs or replacements. For more information contact AMI or mail your payments with your property address to:

AMI

9575 Katy Freeway, Suite 130

Houston, Texas 77024-1453

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Lakes on Eldridge

Kid's Halloween Happening



This year the Social Committee's Kids Halloween Party was held at the Beach Club. The haunting ran from 5:30 till 7:30 PM and was very well attended by lots of spooky residents in their Trick or Treat costumes. There was a large assortment of fun activities for everyone plus candy and pixie sticks for prizes, cookies, juice and water for all of the Trick or Treaters. The party was totally organized by volunteers from our subdivision. We would like to recognize and thank the hard work done by all the volunteers. The booths and their organizers were:

- Bean Bag Toss – Girl Scout Troup 12512
- Candy in the Hay Stack – Girl Scout Troup 12512
- Craft Table for making Felt Pumpkin Bags - Girl Scout Troup 12512
- Obstacle Course with Ghost Run, Spider Web, and Spooky Hoop - Girl Scout Troup 12512
- Cake Walk - by Dr. Mary Geda

• Spooky Story Tent – Michelle Perez

A BIG thank you to Georgia Shotwell for helping with the setup, teardown, and clean up afterwards. Also, thank you to Georgia Shotwell and the LOE Social Committee for providing the great decorations we used outside and inside the Beach Club. Also a BIG thank you to Mary Geda for organizing and supplying the cakes/prizes for the cake walk. Troop 12512 was represented by Rosa Clay, Jody Onofrey, and Janet Meza – Leaders, Jacky Clay (Pirate), MeMoe Onofrey (Witch), Sophie Onofrey (M&M Candy), and Melissa Meza (Army Girl). Troop 12512 is working on completing the Girl Scout Bronze Award and the service hours served for the party are an important step in completing this award. The scouts did a tremendous amount of work to prepare and operate their four booths plus set up of the tent for the spooky stories.



A BIG THANK YOU to
Girl Scout Troup 12512 leaders
Jacky Clay (Pirate), MeMoe Onofrey (Witch),
Sophie Onofrey (M&M Candy),
and Melissa Meza (Army Girl)

View photos in full color at
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your family
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LOE 1st Annual Halloween Party

The LOE 1st Annual Halloween Party was a success with around 50-60 residents attending and most in costume. The clubhouse was dressed spookily to welcome residents, complete with Halloween music and fog. The food was a huge success with most being devoured before the night was through. There was a wide range of costumes to be seen, and it was difficult to pick the winners of the costume categories.

The prizewinners of the 5 categories are:

- Most Original: Carrie and Dave Stallwitz of Auburn Shores who were E-mail and an Attachment
- Most Scary: Celeste and Dan Fritz of Auburn Shores who were Sand People
- Most Funny: Ken Gibbs of Bay Meadows who was a Clown
- Best Couple: Rosa and Bronson Clay of Bay Meadows who were Greek God Ares & Goddess Athena.
- Best Overall: Ely and Mahmod Helalian of Eagle Bend and Leyla Khodadoost of Pelican Point who were a Sultan and his Harem

If you see one of your neighbors that won, congratulate them! A special mention goes out to everyone that came; you all did awesome jobs on your costumes. Special Thanks to Georgia Shotwell for donating her awesome decorations and helping set up, Deborah Dunaway and Cecilia Freeman for their help with setting up and Mary Geda for donating wine.



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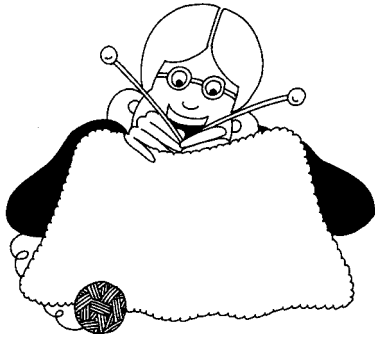


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Stitch & Chat



Stitch & Chat meets at the clubhouse every Thursday morning at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for coffee, needlework & comradeship. Please feel free to join us on Thursdays. For more information contact Catherine Spellings at 713-896-1652 (home) or 713-628-7083 (cell) or CTSpellings@aol.com or Tina Wang at (713)-574-1654 or Yangingwang20022003@yahoo.com

REMINDER About Multi-Colored Awnings and Covers

As reported in July 2005, only earth-tone colors are allowed for awnings or other fabric outdoor covers (i.e.; tan, brown or green). The coverings that we are speaking of are at the top of the play-structures and visible to the community. All rainbow or multi-colored awnings or other fabric outdoor covers must be changed to earth-tone colors by the end of 2006. If you have a multi-colored awning or cover, please plan to change it to earth tone by that time.

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LOE QUESTIONNAIRE

For those residents who did not attend the Annual Meeting of Homeowners, the following is a Questionnaire that was presented to the attendees. If you would like to voice your opinion on these matters, please mail this completed Questionnaire to AMI, 9575 Katy Frwy. #130, Houston, TX. 77024-1453 or visit www.LakesonEldridge.net.

The Board would like to know your level of interest in several proposed projects for Lakes on Eldridge.

1. Are you interested in an electronic message board (approximately \$6,000) somewhere near the front entrance that would announce community news such as social events, meetings, etc.? YES _____ NO _____
2. Are you interested in the Ginger Ponds gate being moved back further into the subdivision to allow more cars in line for ingress and egress? (Approximately \$30,000) YES _____ NO _____
3. Are you interested in a lighted American flag and flagpole located on the center island inside the main gate? (Approximately \$6,000 plus regular maintenance) YES _____ NO _____
4. Are you interested in trashcans being placed near bench areas around the lakes (Approximately \$1,500)? YES _____ NO _____
5. Are you interested in a bulletin board at the clubhouse for residents posting community needs such as lost & found items or for sale items? YES _____ NO _____
6. Are you interested in curbside recycling at your driveway? (Cost to each resident \$4.15 per month) YES _____ NO _____
7. Are you interested in updating our LOE website to be more interactive and user friendly? YES _____ NO _____
8. Do you have any projects for our community you would like to suggest to the Board and see materialize at LOE?

Name: _____

Address: _____

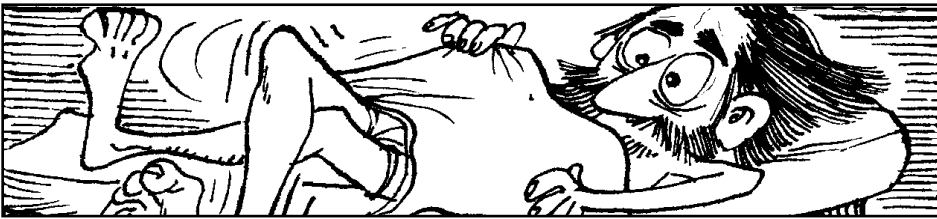
LOE QUESTIONNAIRE TALLY

Question	Yes	%	No	%	Maybe	No Response	Totals
1. Message Board	7	14%	42	82%	1	1	51
2. Move Gate	6	12%	43	84%		2	51
3. Flag	15	29%	33	65%		3	51
4. Trash Cans	30	59%	19	37%		2	51
5. Bulletin Board	30	59%	18	35%		3	51
6. Recycling	29	57%	22	43%			51
7. Website	28	55%	15	29%		8	51

PLEASE NOTE

Landscapers and housekeepers should not have a remote to the community. Their names should be on file with the gate attendants and they should enter via the front entrance gate only. Please help control the access to our community by following these rules.

Did You Know?



Many people believe the more you sleep before midnight, the better looking you'll be. In ancient times, people believed it unlucky to set the left foot on the ground first on getting out of bed.

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, 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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What's Happening This Month?

Come join us on Sunday mornings for our holiday teaching series – The Gifts of Christmas. Each week we will look at a different gift that is offered as a result of the birth of Christ. Our children will be learning all about the birth of Jesus throughout the month of December, as well.

Celebrate Christmas Eve with us as we will have a candlelight worship experience with Christmas songs, reflections on the birth of Christ, and receive the Lord's Supper. This one-hour service will start at 6 pm.

Who is invited?

Imperfect people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures are welcome to attend.

When are our Gatherings?

We meet on Sunday mornings. The morning service begins at 10:30 am. Children's programs are provided for those 6 months – 5th grade.

Mid-week small groups are another opportunity to join us. We study the bible together, pray for each other, and do life together. Email or call for more info.

Teenagers can join us on Sunday nights at 6 pm for The Gathering.

What is our Location?

We are located on Cypress North Houston between Huffmeister and Telge. 12022 Knigge Cemetery Road Cypress, TX 77433

What is our contact information?

Visit our web page at www.TrinityVineyard.cc. Our phone # is 281-897-8463. Our email is info@TrinityVineyard.cc

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Health Briefs

Baylor College of Medicine

Kids Look To Parents For Healthy, Active Holiday Season

The holiday season brings pumpkin pie and lots of turkey, but it should also include a healthy lesson for children, say nutritionists at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Trying to create a new set of rules for holiday eating makes it hard to eat healthy, especially with the traditional once-a-year type of food that everyone enjoys.

"Help children create a healthy plate by mentally dividing the plate in half, one side for fruits and vegetables and the other side for protein and starchy foods," says Roberta Anding, instructor of pediatrics at BCM and a dietician at Texas Children's Hospital. "Hopefully, this is an everyday activity and as such sets the stage for the holidays."

Parents can also help by increasing the family's activity level. Engage children in holiday preparation by collecting pine cones for center pieces or playing a game of touch football rather than only watching it on TV.

Kids learn by example, which means parents should take an active role in their child's daily nutrition and not just during the holiday season, says Anding.

Alzheimer's Patients Benefit From Simple Holiday Strategies

A few simple strategies can help draw isolated Alzheimer's patients back into holiday gatherings.

"Too much holiday noise and activity can confuse patients with Alzheimer's disease, causing them to withdraw from surrounding social activity," said Dr. Mary Kenan, assistant professor of neurology and a psychologist with the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "Disruption of routine for those with Alzheimer's can trigger behavioral symptoms, which makes caregiving more difficult."

To cut down on confusion, Kenan suggests asking family and friends to arrive at different times or visit in small groups.

"Patients with Alzheimer's disease can still enjoy the holidays," Kenan said. "Be sensitive to your loved one's strengths and limitations as well as to your own as a caregiver, and celebrate accordingly."

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 Deborah Dunaway, dsd1951@mac.com. All information must be received by the 10th of the month.

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Lakes on Eldridge

Empty Nest Chance To Chase Forgotten Dreams

Baylor College of Medicine

HOUSTON – Middle age woes are hard enough to deal with, but throw in empty nest syndrome and it is a recipe for potential depression.

Psychologists at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston say not to look at it as an ending, but as the beginning of a new stage in life with more time to travel, develop new hobbies, rediscover forgotten dreams and get to know your spouse all over again.

Empty nest syndrome can happen twice in an adult's life, once when the kids start kindergarten and again when they move out of the house. The more challenging of the two is when adolescents move out of the house to begin their adult lives.

"Parents have channeled all of their energy into their children for so long they may not know what to do with their time once they leave," says Dr. James Bray, associate professor of family and community medicine at BCM. "It is actually one of the high points when looking at the divorce rate scale. The numbers really tend to go up during middle age."

When people are unhappy in their marriage they usually have internal anxiety about something else, like not knowing what to do with the rest of their lives after the kids leave.

"It is natural to reevaluate your life every so often and even more natural during this stage in a parent's life," says Bray. "Don't just assume that if you leave your spouse you will make the unhappiness go away. Marriage takes time and energy, so make the effort to get reacquainted."

It is a good idea to talk with friends to reevaluate goals and take note of some lifelong dreams you haven't had time to accomplish, says Bray.

Now that the kids have moved out, there may be more time to take dance classes, travel, exercise or go back to college to retool skills.

Kids need to remember to stand up for themselves if parents become too needy or clingy. Setting a phone schedule can eliminate the out-of-control calling by some parents, while reassuring them can eliminate needless worry.

"Kids can also consult with counselors if they really have an issue with a clingy parent or one that is having a difficult time dealing with the separation," says Bray.

The empty nest transition usually lasts six months to a year, depending on how well parents can adjust to their newly found freedom.

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Decorated Holiday Cakes, and Homemade
Fudges

Holiday Sugar Plums That Dance On Your Taste Buds



These Holiday Sugar Plums are made with ruby-red Maraschino cherries.

(NAPSA)-The more the cherrier when it comes to holiday treats. And holiday sugar plums are no exception. These traditional treats are made with festive and fun Maraschino cherries.

Whether you are hosting a party or giving gifts to neighbors, these sugar plums are full of holiday cheer. And because they are so simple, the kids will have a ball helping you make them.

Holiday Sugar Plums

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- ½ cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla
- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup quick rolled oats (optional)
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ½ cup finely chopped pecans
- 48 Maraschino cherries
(about one 16-oz. jar)

Confectioners' sugar for finishing

Drain Maraschino cherries thoroughly on paper towels and set aside. Put butter and ½ cup confectioners' sugar in a large mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed three to four minutes, or until well mixed. Stir in vanilla. Add flour, oats and salt; mix well. Stir in pecans.

Shape about 2 teaspoons dough around each cherry. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet about one inch apart. Bake in a preheated 350°F. oven for 12 to 15 minutes, or until set but not brown. Role in confectioners' sugar while still warm. Cool.

For a fun presentation, use cherries with stems. Remove stems, bake as directed and then insert stems in cookies while they are still warm but after rolling in sugar. Makes 4 dozen.



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2		9	1			7		8
				5				
		6			5		1	7
						4		
					1			
	5	7		6	3		9	
3					8			
		2		7		1		

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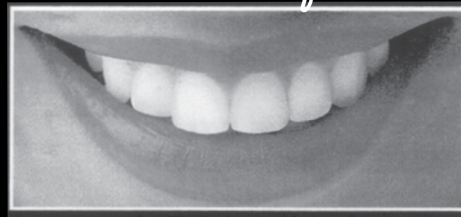
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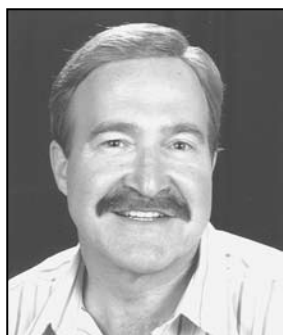
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