



# LAKES

## ON ELDRIDGE

Volume 6, Issue 4  
April 2007

Official Newsletter  
[www.lakesoneldridge.net](http://www.lakesoneldridge.net)

### BOARD NOTES: *February 2007*

The Board of Directors of Lakes on Eldridge Community Association met on Tuesday, February 27, 2007. The following is a summary of what was discussed.

The Association had cash balances of \$342,429 in the Operating Fund and \$129,718 in the Replacement Fund. For the month ended January 31, 2007 the Association had Total Income of \$112,068, Total Expenses of \$87,334 and an Operating Surplus in the amount of \$24,734. The Surplus was \$45,480 greater than budget due primarily to the quarterly reimbursement invoiced to MUD 341. The financial statements were accepted.

At the request of the Board, a resident, Ms. Liz Vanderhider presented suggested furnishings and improvements for the Beach Club with associated prices. The Board is in the process of studying this proposal and budgeting of these items.

Mr. Lee Mueller reported that he attended the MUD 341 meeting on February 12, 2007 where the MUD Board discussed without decision the detention pond maintenance agreement and back slope drainage repairs. The MUD Board declined an offer from the City of Houston for reduced water rates in exchange for a substantial prepayment, kept the same discounts for the disabled and those over 65, and completed an agreement for electricity service at \$.0866/kwh.

On a motion duly made the Board agreed to purchase flood insurance in the amount of \$1,428 as proposed by the Association's insurance agent. The managing agent was to instruct the insurance agent to place the coverage.

The Landscape Committee reported that they met with Landscape Images regarding methods to deter drivers from rutting the turf at the Tanner exits and was to report following receipt of cost estimates.

The managing agent reported that he had communicated with Waste Management regarding a swan that had been run over by a recycling truck. Waste Management had been sent the statement of an eyewitness, a copy of the newsletter article and given a rough estimate of the financial value of the swan. A response from Waste Management was expected shortly. The Board agreed with a proposal from the managing agent that a separate line item be added to the budget for swan expenses. They also agreed that any money received from Waste Management should be credited to the Swan fund.

The Board executed the mosquito spraying agreement with Cypress Creek Pest Control to commence the week of April 1, 2007 and ending October 30, 2007, as previously approved by the Board at its January meeting.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Tanner Road Gates Upgrade

When the Tanner Gates drive systems were worked on a couple of years ago, the external remote control antennae were disconnected by the company doing the work and the systems have been operating with only internal antennae since. This seriously affected the range of the remote clickers. After much research by the Access Committee, another company was located recently that was willing to re-install external antennae on both these gates. This work has now been completed so residents should notice a significant improvement in the range of their clickers. If you do not see this improvement, please check the condition of the battery in your clicker. If that does not help, please contact AMI to obtain a replacement clicker.

***Don't want to wait  
for the mail?  
View the current  
issue of the  
Lakes on Eldridge  
Community Newsletter  
on the 1st day of  
each month at  
[www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)***

# Lakes on Eldridge

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

Bronson Clay .....	President
Deborah Dunaway .....	Vice President
Lindsay Buchanan.....	Secretary
Cory Hammond.....	Treasurer

**Visit the Association Website:**  
**[www.lakesoneldridge.net](http://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.

### Board Notes- (Continued from Cover page)

The managing agent reported that there were 170 active service requests that were being pursued.

The Board discussed a possible solution for the foot showers by replacing them with a wall mounted shower fixture. Prior to doing anything, however, the managing agent was asked to inquire of the pool lifeguard contractor whether there were any health code requirements that had to be met or observed in the installation.

The managing agent confirmed that a quote had been requested from LIOT to sod each end of the beach adjacent to the steps to the pool, in an effort to reduce the amount of sand being carried into the pool.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors was scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Beach Club.

## 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 to [dsd1951@mac.com](mailto:dsd1951@mac.com). This information should include your name. All information should be received **no later than the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month** and is subject to editorial approval as well as space limitations.*

## Celebrating 30 Years of Excellence

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**Friday, April 27th, 7:00 P.M. at The Branch School**

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Topic: "Helping Your Child Achieve the Best Educational Start in Life"

**RSVP by April 24th 713.465.0288 Adults only please**

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# Mother's Day PLANT & GIFT SALE

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**Where:** Heritage Texas Properties  
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**When:** Friday • May 11th • 10-5pm  
and  
Saturday • May 12th • 10-5pm

All proceeds will go to Brookwood, a non-profit community in Brookshire, Texas whose principal residents are functionally disabled adults. All crafts and plants featured for sale are products of Brookwood and are grown or handcrafted on campus by the residents.



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# Lakes on Eldridge

## LOE Swim Team 2007 Calendar

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 25Mar, Sun – Registration Returning Swimmers (LOE Clubhouse)        | 5May, Sat – Meet and Greet Party (at Deanda and Todd Thoman house)      |
| 28Mar, Wed- Registration New and Returning Swimmers (LOE Clubhouse) | 6May, Sun- RAIN DATE – AWAY Time Trials at Concord Bridge               |
| 1Apr, Sun – Registration New and Returning Swimmers (LOE Clubhouse) | 18May, 25May, 1Jun, 8Jun, 14Jun (Thursday) – Friday Night Pizza Parties |
| 16 Apr – One Week Swimmer Tune Up Clinic (Fee per Swimmer)          | 19 May, Sat – AWAY Prestonwood  |
| Clinic Schedule To Be Determined                                    | 26 May, Sat – HOME Fairfield  |
| 22Apr, Sun – Parents Meeting 6:30pm                                 | 28 May, Mon – Memorial Day – No Practice                                |
| 23 Apr, Mon – First Day of Practice                                 | 2 Jun, Sat – AWAY Lakewood  |
| Practice Schedule To Be Determined                                  | 9 Jun, Sat – AWAY Champions   |
| 30 Apr – Team Picture Day and Special Practice                      | 16 Jun, Sat – HOME Ravenaux   |
| 5May, Sat – AWAY Time Trials at Concord Bridge                      | 24 Jun, Sat – DIVISIONALS - Location To Be Determined                   |
|   | 25 Jun, Mon – Team Banquet – Location To Be Determined                  |
|   | 31 Jun/ 1 Jul, Sat/Sun – INVATIONALS (Ponderosa, Red/White/Blue)        |

## RECENT VANDALISM

Flowers were recently ripped out of some of the LOE flowerbeds and thrown at a homeowner's door. Those responsible were identified and summoned to appear before a special meeting of the Board. As requested by the Board, the parties involved agreed to apologize to the homeowners, pay for the damage, and perform community service. Two of the individuals did not take action to make amends within an amount of time considered reasonable by the Board. The Board voted to proceed with pressing charges if action was not forthcoming. The homeowners reported that they received the apologies shortly thereafter. Your Board takes all forms of vandalism very seriously and will, at its discretion, pursue legal action against anyone responsible for committing such acts. Please help your community by remaining alert and immediately reporting any suspicious activity or observed vandalism to AMI.

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# It's that time of year again!!

## Here are some Tips for Maintaining the Systems in your Home:

- \* Change heating/cooling system filters in May and November
- \* Drain the water heater annually
- \* Change the batteries in smoke detectors in April and October
- \* Clean the lint trap in the clothes dryer after every use
- \* Purchase an insulated blanket for the water heater
- \* Run dishwasher and other non-critical appliances during the evening hours
- \* Clean around burner elements on cooktop after spills
- \* Press the reset button located at bottom of garbage disposal to restart if it is clear of obstruction
- \* Make sure the oven clock timer is set to manual position when oven will not turn on

**NOW, READY TO LIST YOUR HOME? Call Kay!**

## KAY HORSCH

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# Lakes on Eldridge

## Welcome To Our Newest Neighbors!

We have a number of new residents who have moved into Lakes on Eldridge in the last month. If you have not already, please welcome our newest neighbors – go over and knock on their door to say “Hi”, or extend your hand when you see them outside. Everyone likes to feel welcome.

- Lake Shore Estates welcomes Jong & Sund Choe.
- Crescent Banks welcomes the family of Li Fen Huang and William & Linda McCasland.
- Crescent Cove welcomes the family of Thu Anh Nguyen.

## VEHICLE DECALS

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 an 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.

## 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.com](http://www.lakesoneldridge.com). 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.

## 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

## HELP KEEP OUR LIGHTS ON

ALL residents of LOE pay a maintenance fee, a large part of which is spent on electricity to light our streets. The fee is billed to us whether a streetlight is working or not. If you see a streetlight(s) burned out, please help us by getting an address, or intersection and the number on the pole. You should fill out the form available at [www.centerpointenergy.com/outage](http://www.centerpointenergy.com/outage).

You can call this information into CenterPoint at 713-207-2222, but the electronic form is much faster as you won't be put on "hold". You can also report dim lights, leaning poles, etc. on the form as well.

Please also copy the email to the AMI office at [ami@amitx.com](mailto:ami@amitx.com) so they can keep a list of the lights reported.

Thanks for your help!!!

## WE WANT YOU!

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 and register as a member and list your interests to volunteer and we will contact you.

## 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 or yourself for the Yard of the Month please contact the Yard of the Month coordinator: Deborah Dunaway, 713-983-9651 or [dsd1951@mac.com](mailto:dsd1951@mac.com). First yard will be selected second week in May.

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# Lakes on Eldridge

## Personal Safety courses at the LOE Clubhouse

We attended the RAD courses a few months ago and found them very informative and practical. Three 11 graders / LOE residents have decided to co-organise these courses for themselves and LOE residents starting with radKIDS in April 2007, RAD for women/teen girls in May and August 2007 and RAD for teen boys/men in June 2007. Here is a summary of information provided by Sergeant Baylor and Sandra Baylor.

RAD, "Resisting Aggression Defensively" for kids and "Rape Aggression Defence" for adults are programs for kids and adults regardless of age, fitness level or any physical restriction. It is taught by nationally certified instructors Sergeant Jim and Sandra Baylor and represent law enforcement, women's assistance centres and college and universities throughout the United States and Canada. Men/Teenage boys (13 yrs onwards) are taught separately from Women/Teenage girls (12 yrs onwards) to ensure that each group fulfil their very different requirements for personal safety.

The RAD for Men and RAD for women programs provide teenagers, women and men with the physical skills, knowledge and the chance to make decisions on whether to resist or even consider compliance if confronted with any type of violent behaviour. The courses consist of

- Theories of Risk Avoidance, Risk Recognition, Risk Awareness, and Risk Reduction to help attendees stay safe in their every day

environments.

- Basic self defence techniques and strategies to avoid abduction or aggression
- A series of interactive simulations for participants to apply newly learnt skills.

"r.a.d.KIDS the national leader in children's safety is taught by certified r.a.d.KIDS instructors, Jim and Sandra Baylor. It is endorsed by The Elizabeth Smart, Polly Klaas, and Jessica Lundsford Foundations, and is the premier safety education program amongst young people. The Girl Scouts of America have created a merit badge for Brownies completing this training."

"The r.a.d.KIDS training allows children and parents to utilize knowledge, skills, and self esteem to protect them from harm." Boys and girls from ages 5 to 12 years learn all aspects of child safety awareness and parents are encouraged to stay with their children during the course.

r.a.d.KIDS Curriculum topics include:

- Home, School, Gun, Vehicle, and Bicycle Safety
- Bullying and Out and About Safety
- Realistic Defence Against Abduction
- Good-Bad-Uncomfortable Touch and more.
- Stranger Tricks (including Physical Defence against Abduction)

*(Continued on page 9)*

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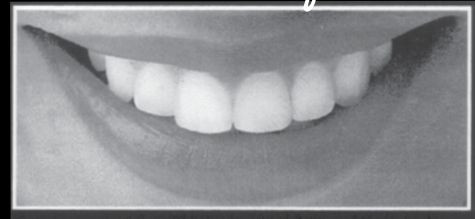
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# Lakes on Eldridge

## Personal Safety- (Continued from page 8)

- Self-realization of personal power
- 75,000 children have been trained in the radKIDS personal Safety education program.
- 23 children threatened with abduction used their skills and returned safely to their families.
- Hundreds of children spoke up and received the help they needed to stop the abuse.

The RAD for men/women is a 15 hour class and the radKIDS is 10 hours class with a training fee of only \$25.00 for the entire course for each attendee. This is the only time you will pay a fee for a RAD course. As a "RADGRAD", you will receive a lifetime return policy to practice.

If you have questions about the program, call Jim or Sandra at (713) 408-9960 or (713) 348-6210.

## 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.

## PERSONAL SAFETY COURSES

WHEN: RADKIDS (5 to 12 years)  
Apr 20 (5:30-8:30pm)  
Apr 21(5-8pm); Apr 22, 2007(2-6pm)

Teen Girls/Ladies  
May 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th 2007, (6- 9:30pm)

Teen Girls/Ladies  
August 9, 10(5:30-9pm),  
August 11(5-8pm), August 12(2-6pm)

Teen Boys/Men  
June 11th to June 14th, 2007 (3 - 6:30pm)

WHERE: Lakes on Eldridge Clubhouse

INSTRUCTORS: Sergeant Jim Baylor and Sandra Baylor

Contact: tutis2007@sbcglobal.net or  
call 713-849-3423 for registration forms + details

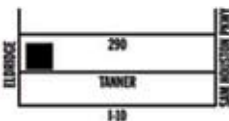
Note: Some of the classes are almost full

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# Lakes on Eldridge



## Helping You Get Started

Residents of Lakes on Eldridge that would be interested in learning to knit, crochet, do needlepoint or embroidery, please join us on any Thursday at the Beach Clubhouse from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. We will be happy to help you get started.

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

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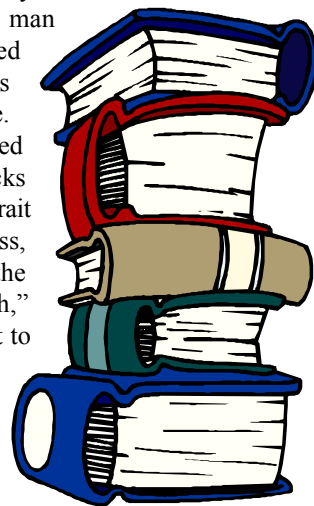
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## LOE BOOK CLUB

Book club has meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. 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, [cfritztz@houston.rr.com](mailto:cfritztz@houston.rr.com) for additional information.

April 23 – A Wedding in December, by Anita Shreve. Seven former high school friends reunite for a wedding in the Berkshires, 26 years after their graduation. This Big Chill-like gathering stirs old passions and feuds, some of which have been festering since the death of a charismatic schoolmate at a high school party. As usual, Shreve puts her characters through the emotional wringer before she sets them out to dry. Wedding in December is one of her most effective and moving works.

May 21 (note: 1 week earlier because of Memorial Day) – Widow of the South by Robert Hicks. In 1894 Carrie McGavock is an old woman who has only her former slave to keep her company...and the almost 1,500 soldiers buried in her backyard. Years before, rather than let someone plow over the field where these young men had been buried, Carrie dug them up and reburied them in her own personal cemetery. Now, as she walks the rows of the dead, an old soldier appears. It is the man she met on the day of the battle that changed everything. The man who came to her house as a wounded soldier and left with her heart. He asks if the cemetery has room for one more. In an extraordinary debut novel, based on a remarkable true story, Robert Hicks draws an unforgettable, panoramic portrait of a woman who, through love and loss, found a cause. Known throughout the country as "the Widow of the South," Carrie McGavock gave her heart first to a stranger, then to a tract of hallowed ground-and became a symbol of a nation's soul.



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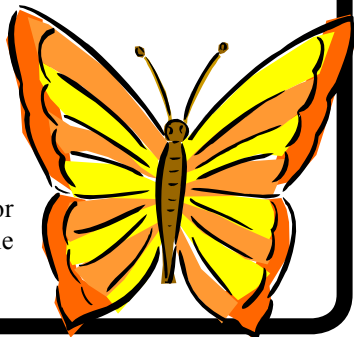
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# Lakes on Eldridge

## BUTTERFLY FAMILY FESTIVAL

Messiah Lutheran Church is hosting a Butterfly Family Festival on Sunday, April 22, 12-3 PM. The event will include a barbecue lunch, a silent auction, a raffle, and games and activities for all ages. The days' events will benefit Chrysalis, A Grace Place for Children, featuring Christian preschool, after school, and summer camp programs. Bring the whole family to see the butterfly release, eat some great food, and have some fun! 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 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 [www.messiahlc.org](http://www.messiahlc.org). All people are welcome at Messiah.



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## MotherWise Group Begins New Bible Study

The Lakes on Eldridge MotherWise group recently began its spring study program of Karol Ladd's best-selling book entitled "The Power of a Positive Mom". MotherWise is a non-denominational bible study group and all are welcome and invited to attend the meetings.

The MotherWise group meets every other Monday in neighborhood homes from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The meetings begin with prayer and the presentation of the study segment, followed by small group prayer time, and concludes with the discussion of a mothering skill topic. The meetings also include social time and light refreshments. Children are welcome at the meetings. The MotherWise meetings are a great way to meet other mothers, support each other in prayer, and gain some spiritual enrichment.

The MotherWise group will hold its meetings this spring on the following dates: March 5th, March 19th, April 2nd, April 16th, April 30th, May 7th, and May 21st.

The leaders of the MotherWise group are Kathy Prusak (713-937-7707) and Elizabeth Tobin (832-467-1369). Please feel free to contact us for further information about MotherWise. We encourage you to attend a meeting and check us out!

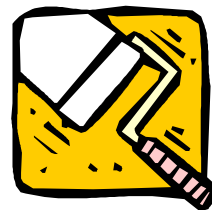
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## Cypress Christian School Spring Events

Spring is in the air and energy abounds at Cypress Christian School. We invite you to join us as we celebrate "the arts" and "the students"! All events are free!

### Middle School Musical – "Anchors Away"

This upbeat musical, based on the adventures of Noah and the Ark, will rock your boat! Please join us for one or more of the performances scheduled on April 19, 20 and 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Drama Room of the school.

### Fine Arts Festival

From drama to music to art, this evening will fill the cultural void in your life as students showcase their talents for all in attendance. This event will be held in the multi-use facility of CCS on Friday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m.

### Prospective Student Visitor Day

Wednesday, April 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Students considering CCS in the fall may attend school all or part of the day. Call the Admissions Office at 281-469-7745 for more information.

### Kindergarten Graduation

Kindergarten parents will cheer as their student graduates to first grade. We encourage parents of future kindergartners to join us on Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. for a glimpse of the future! The ceremony will be held in the multi-use facility on campus.

### High School Graduation

It will be celebration time as CCS seniors finally cross the stage! The ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 27 at 2:30 p.m. at Cypress Bible Church and will be one of the most meaningful events of the year.

Cypress Christian School is located at 11123 Cypress N. Houston Rd. near Jones Road. For more information on these events, visit the school web site at [www.CypressChristian.org](http://www.CypressChristian.org) or call 281-469-8829.

## Kindergarten Pre-Registration & Parent Information Night for 2007-2008

If you have a child who qualifies for Kindergarten for the 2007-2008 school year, pre-registration will be held on April 11th, at Kirk Elementary. The district allotted time for registration will be from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Tours will not be available during registration, but can be scheduled by appointment. Please plan on spending one and one-half hours to complete the registration process.

We will also host a parent information night on Tuesday, April 10th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. If you have never had a child in Kindergarten, this evening will be an opportunity to find out about schedules, curriculum, transportation, cafeteria, and to ask any other questions you have. The evening is designed for parents, rather than children. There will be an open house before school starts in August in which students will be able to meet their teachers and see their classrooms.

If you know someone in your neighborhood that might not know about registration and parent night, please share this information with him or her. We would love to have lots of new Kirk Tiger parents attend!

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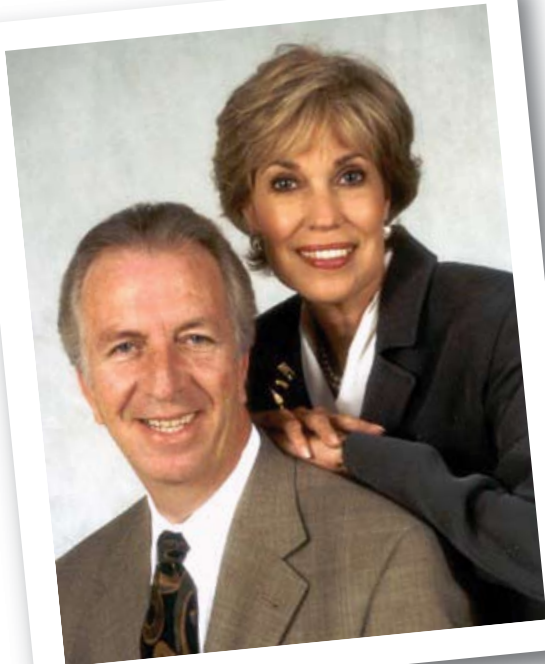
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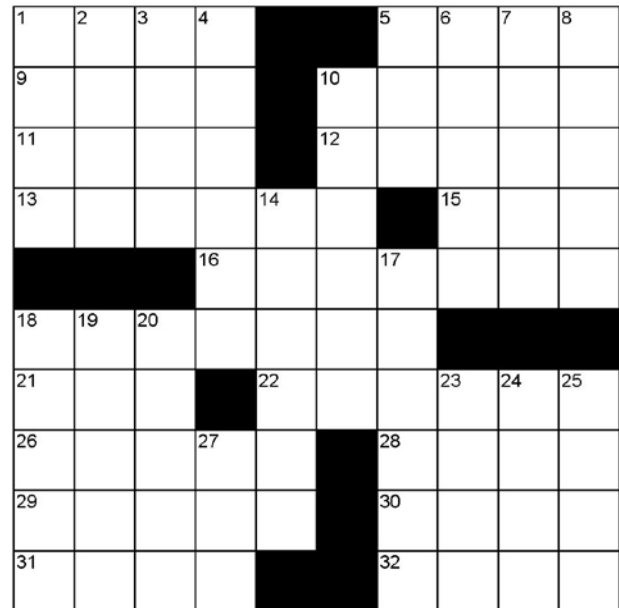
## Teenage Jobseekers

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 Deborah Dunaway, [dsd1951@mac.com](mailto:dsd1951@mac.com). All information must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

1. American Civil Liberties Union (abbr.)
5. Wary
9. Set down
10. Chili con \_\_
11. Middle East dweller
12. Piano-like instrument
13. Scattered
15. Creative work
16. Spanish soap opera
18. Uncharged nucleon
21. Possessive pronoun
22. Public building
26. Defend
28. Recess
29. Inch forward
30. Plateau
31. Shallow area
32. Fresh

### DOWN

1. Alack's partner
2. Oxcart
3. Cheater
4. Straight
5. Automobile
6. Wild sheep
7. Tree knot
8. Gossiper
10. Escort
14. Earths
17. Make camp
18. African nation
19. Musical composition
20. Use
23. Fencing sword
24. Soviet Union
25. Hamburger, for example
27. Ump

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## Did You Know? Fun Facts!



*All bodies of water are subject to the tide-producing forces of the sun and moon, but only when oceans and continents meet are the tides great enough to be noticed.*

## Cy-Fair ISD Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS)

### VIPS Get Pinned

*Sherrie Webb - Publicity*

Volunteers in Cy-Fair ISD got "Pinned" at the most recent General Board meeting. Each year, the VIPS Executive Board designs a pin based on the theme for that year. The theme for the 2006-2007 school year is "Volunteers - Building for the Future". This theme was based on part on the growth and construction of new schools in our district.

The pin is given to volunteers from their home schools as a token of appreciation for the time they have given in support of students and staff. Each year, volunteers wait in anticipation to see what the new pin will look like. Volunteers collect and wear their pins from each year with pride and fond memories of their involvement in the district and how they have shared their gifts of time in our schools.

If you would like to be a part of the Cy-Fair ISD volunteer program, please contact the Partners in Education office for more information at 281-894-3950.

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# Lakes on Eldridge

## Benefits of Mulch

*Submitted by Jerry Krabe*

Mulch is defined as a protective covering placed around plants. Mulching is one of the most important ways to maintain strong, vigorous plants in your landscape beds. The method of mulching is actually nature's idea. Nature produces large quantities of mulch every day with fallen leaves, twigs, needles, pieces of bark, fallen flower blossoms, fallen fruit and other organic material.

There are many benefits to using mulch when applied correctly. Below are just some of the benefits:

- Mulches help prevent loss of water from the soil by evaporation.
- Mulches reduce the growth of weeds- when the mulch material itself is weed-free and adequately applied to prevent weed germination or to smother existing weeds.
- Mulches keep the soil cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, thus maintaining a more even soil temperature. This reduces the amount of stress your plants will go through.
- Mulches prevent soil splashing, which not only stops erosion but keeps soil-borne diseases from splashing up onto the plants.
- Organic mulches can improve the soil structure. As the mulch decays, the material becomes topsoil. Decaying mulch also adds nutrients to the soil.
- Mulches prevent crusting of the soil surface, thus improving the absorption and movement of water into the soil.
- Mulches prevent the trunks of trees and shrubs from damage by lawn equipment.
- Mulches help prevent soil compaction.
- Mulches can add to the beauty of the landscape by providing a cover of uniform color and interesting texture to the surface.
- Mulched plants have more roots than plants that are not mulched, because mulched plants will produce additional roots in the mulch that surrounds them.

Mulches come in many different varieties. Organic mulches are those that used to be living material, such as bark, straw, leaves, grass clippings and ground up tree limbs. These organic mulches improve the soil by adding nutrients as they decompose. Popular varieties of the organic mulch include Cedar mulch, Pine mulch, and the ever popular Texas Native Hardwood. All of which are good choices when

selecting a mulch. These mulches are available for purchase by the bag or by the bulk.

### BAGGED MULCH

#### **3 cubic feet of bagged mulch will cover:**

- 36 square feet to a depth of 1 inch
- 18 square feet to a depth of 2 inches
- 9 square feet to a depth of 4 inches

### MULCH IN BULK FORM

#### **1 cubic yard will cover:**

- 162 square feet to a depth of 2 inches
- 9 square feet to a depth of 4 inches

Synthetic mulches are also available. You will likely find mulch in your local gardening store that is made from recycled rubber tires. These mulches typically will be in either cubed or shredded form. There are a few advantages of using these synthetic mulches. They are longer lasting since they do not decompose. There is typically a variety of color selections to choose from and they will not attract unwanted bugs or insects that may otherwise be attracted to some of the organic mulches. However, the disadvantages are many. Since the material (often rubber) is not pliable or very soft, the pieces do not lay together tightly. Therefore, it is difficult to prevent weeds from growing due to the infiltration of sun light and oxygen (two key components for weeds to grow). Moisture will also evaporate from the soil much faster then when using organic mulch. Rubber mulches are also flammable. If a cigarette is accidentally tossed into a bed of rubber mulch, it can catch fire, potentially catching your house on fire. Also, the dye that is used in the mulch can become toxic if used year after year. One should use caution when applying dyed, synthetic mulches.

Regardless of the type of mulch used, adding fresh mulch to your flower beds will help your plants thrive and will provide a fresh new look to your landscaping.

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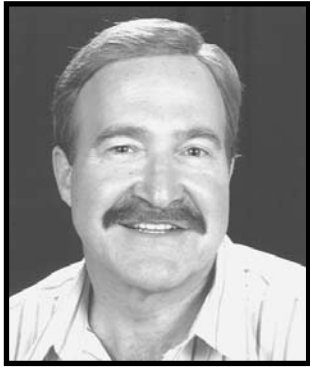
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