



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE

Volume 6, Issue 12
December 2007

Official Newsletter
www.lakesoneldridge.net

NEW LOE CAR STICKERS

The Board has voted to change the colors of the Lakes on Eldridge Car Decal Stickers annually starting January 2008. In the future each year, at the time a resident pays their annual assessment, a new LOE decal sticker will be sent out for each resident's car. Each sticker will be numbered to correspond with a specific individual resident's automobile, which will be on file with AMI. A Sticker/Car registration form will accompany the assessment billing this year.

MUD 341 Proposes a Tax Increase

MUD 341 will be holding a public hearing at its December 3 meeting to vote on a one-cent increase in the tax rate payable by all LOE residents. Public notice of this meeting will be published in the Cy-Fair section of the Houston Chronicle on November 22. While this increase seems small, homeowners may wish to consider the overall impact that it will have since it will be charged on the new values that have been assessed on our properties.

The Texas Water Act does make provision for a Rollback Election:

"If taxes on the average residence homestead increase by more than eight percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the rollback tax rate under Section 49.236(d), Water Code."

LOE residents are the only qualified voters in the MUD 341 district so the decision is in our own hands.

NEW GATE REMOTES AVAILABLE

New remotes for the community gates are now available for purchase. The price per remote is \$40.00. The new remotes are much smaller and on a key chain. Thus far it appears that the new remotes are working well. If you have been having problems with your old remote and know that it isn't just the batteries, you may want to make the change! Please call AMI at 713-932-1122 for a new remote.



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**

Lakes on Eldridge

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AMI.....	713-932-1122
Gate Attendant	713-937-8825
Waterfowl, Betty Burkett.....	713-302-9929
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

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.

Waterfowl Cruelty

On October 31st about 4 pm a group of young boys were seen harassing and throwing rocks at the cygnets on the lake at the corner of Lake Center Run and Lakeshore Ridge near the entrance to Crescent Cove.

Parents, please talk with your children about cruelty to animals. These beautiful birds are like house pets to so many of our residents. They were brought here to add beauty to our neighborhood and we are all responsible for their well-being. It is cruel to scare these gentle young birds.

Mistreating or injuring waterfowl is a FELONY according to the Texas Wildlife Department. A felony stays on one's police record for a long time and can certainly close many doors to a foolish young person's future.

Should any resident see mistreatment of the waterfowl, call the police first, and then call AMI at 713-932-1122 or Betty Burkett, LOE Waterfowl Coordinator at 713-302-9929.

PLEASE LET US KNOW!

If you know of a LOE resident who has had any outstanding awards, milestones or accomplishments, please contact Deborah Dunaway at 713-983-9651 or dsd1951@mac.com so they may be recognized in the newsletter.

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Lakes on Eldridge



You Can Help With Our Traffic Violations

If you see someone running a stop sign or speeding in Lakes on Eldridge, please write down the date, time, make, model, color and license number of the vehicle and report all of this information to AMI at 713-932-1122. These people will be contacted about the incident.

If you see commercial vehicles such as landscaping companies or delivery trucks tailgating through one of the Tanner Road gates, please write down the company name, date, time and license number and report all of this information to AMI at 713-932-1122. These companies will be contacted about the incident.

MORE GATE VANDALISM!

On Saturday, October 6th the Pecan gates were not working because THEY WERE DISABLED BY BEING DUCT-TAPED TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL LAYERS OF DUCT TAPE AT THE POINT WHERE THEY MEET. The motors on both the entrance side and on the exit side were hot to the touch and had tripped off on thermal overload. Someone had deliberately vandalized the gates with the intent to destroy or disable the gates. The duct tape was cut and removed and the gates were operational in a few hours, after the motors had cooled.

We are lucky that the motors were not damaged more severely. The cost of vandalism is shared by all of our residents. If anyone has any knowledge about who might have done this or saw anyone or anything suspicious, please contact AMI at 713-932-1122.

The person who vandalized the Ginger Ponds gate is still out there – that damage cost LOE over \$5,000 (over \$7 per resident). If you know anything that might help identify this person, please contact AMI. You may share in the \$1,000 reward!

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Minutes From the October Board Meeting

The Board of Directors of Lakes on Eldridge Community Association met on Tuesday, October 23, 2007. The following is a summary of what was discussed.

HOMEOWNER/GUEST FORUM

Lee Mueller reported on the MUD 341 meeting he attended on October 8, 2007. He reported that:

- There was extensive discussion regarding an increase in the tax rate to cover required changes, but there was no decision as final information on current valuations was still required for the analysis.
- MUD 341 reviewed its investment policy and decided to make no changes this year.
- Work to correct back slope drainage in Lakes on Eldridge had not yet begun and the MUD engineer was threatening to obtain a new contractor if work did not commence soon.
- Recent discussion at the County level of requiring communities with private streets to manage their storm water runoff was not felt to have any adverse impact for Lakes on Eldridge.
- The MUD board was considering closing certain industrial tax exemptions as a further method of increasing revenue.

Financial Statements: The Board reviewed the financial statements for the period ending September 30, 2007. The Association had cash balances of \$270,984 in the Operating Fund and \$119,434 in the Replacement Fund. Operating income for the nine months ending September 30, 2007 was 698,240, Operating Expenses were \$653,638 and the Surplus was \$44,602. The Association was operating \$48,252 ahead of budget for the period. The Board asked the managing agent to carefully review Replacement Fund expenditures for 2007 to determine whether the expenditures shown were really in the Replacement Fund category.

Collections: The managing agent reported that one delinquent account had been collected during September 2007 but that one of the most problematic delinquent owners had made a significant payment against his account in October. The Board reviewed current delinquent accounts and the legal status report from the community's legal counsel. The Board signed two authorizations to file suit and instructed the managing agent to aggressively work with legal counsel toward collection of amounts owed.

Tax Exemption: The managing agent reported that it had emailed an assignment form to a contractor for signature. The signed form was to be returned on October 24, 2007. A power of attorney form that was also needed had been sent to the LOE Board President for his signature.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Architectural Control: The managing agent reported on behalf of the Committee that it had been a quiet month. Chairman Jamie Powers had reported via the managing agent that, due to business pressures, he desired to step down as Chairman but wished to remain part of the Committee. Cory Hammond volunteered for the position and was duly appointed Chairman by the Board.

Landscape: The Account Manager that has been handling our property has left Landscape Images without prior notification. There was a meeting with the Operation's Manager and Property Superintendent to discuss the declining level of service and expectations for the future. The Operations Manager for LIOT will be handling our property from here on out.

Among the top priorities discussed at the Operations Meeting held the previous week were irrigation practices. A follow-up meeting was scheduled specifically to discuss irrigation. The Operation's Manager, Property Superintendent, and irrigator are meeting with Gulf Coast Pumps to discuss in detail optimal irrigation for landscape maintenance and optimal pump function.

In preparation for rye seed distribution and seasonal color, a complete irrigation audit is currently under way.

- Rye seed is scheduled to go down at the end of October.
- Seasonal color change is scheduled for the first week of November, weather permitting.

Social/Events: A Social Committee Meeting is scheduled for February 2nd to discuss 2008 events.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

2008 Budget: The Board reviewed the draft 2008 budget and on a motion duly made approved the budget including an annual assessment in the amount of \$1,090.00 per lot.

Water Fountain: The Board approved replacement of the pool area water fountain in the amount of \$965.00.

(Continued on page 7)



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Lakes on Eldridge

Minutes- (Continued from page 6)

Card Access: The Board reviewed a contractor's quotation to install card access systems for the pool, Beach Club and tennis courts in the amount of \$14,397.00. The managing agent was to obtain additional information on a lock for the back door to the Beach Club, a battery backup system and whether the Beach Club entry could be timed for access by a specific card.

Foot Showers: Quotes to replace and raise the foot showers at the staircases from the beach were not adequate and the managing agent was to arrange to meet the contractor at the pool to confirm what was needed.

Deed Restrictions: The Board reviewed the deed restrictions as of October 23, 2007. There were 112 open items being pursued. The managing agent reported that it had sent letters to two owners who had not yet complied with replacing non approved play structure tarps.

Because the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors was so close to Thanksgiving, the Board was to check their individual calendars to see whether it could meet on November 27, the Tuesday following Thanksgiving.

Clubhouse Rental Fee Increase

The LOE Board has voted to increase the rental fee for the Beach Club to \$100.00 effective January 1, 2008. This fee increase will help offset the cost of maintenance, utilities and the wear and tear on our new furniture by those that use the clubhouse. The refundable deposit of \$500.00 will remain unchanged. Lakes on Eldridge will honor the current fee for those who have already reserved and paid for rental of the Beach Club for events in 2008.

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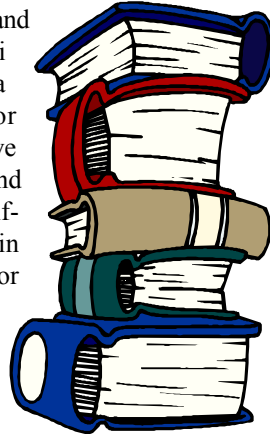
LOE BOOK CLUB

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, cfritztx@comcast.net for additional information.

We will be taking the month of December off, due to the holidays and everyone's busy schedule. Consider joining us in January (the 28th), when we will be reading *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. We enjoyed *The Kite Runner* so much, that we wanted to read Hosseini's next novel.

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought

jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them-in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul-they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.



Personal Classifieds

LOEN resident needs part time nanny/ mother's helper for children (3 & 8). Eight-year old has high-functioning autism. Must speak English, enjoy kids, be 18 years or older, non-smoker, have social security card, transportation. E-mail : tas_@hotmail.com or call (713) 856-9968.

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. 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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Lakes on Eldridge

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The Social Committee is in dire need of volunteers, particularly for children's events. We only have 2 members that have children and one is a teen. The future for children's events is looking pretty dim without some Mothers volunteering to help.

Please take 1 hour out of your time to help us with a few social activities. We try to have a few family, children and adult only events every year.

If you would like to be on the Social Committee, please attend our meeting on Saturday, February 2, 10 a.m. at the clubhouse.

If you cannot make it and would like to be included on our notes/minutes, please contact Deborah at dsd1951@mac.com or 713-983-9651.

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. 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.

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Welcome To Our Newest Neighbors!

We have 2 new families who have moved into Lakes on Eldridge in the last month. If you have not already, please welcomed 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 **Kevin & Kathy Coffey**.

Eagle's Cove welcomes
Mr. Fergus Wai Lok and Mrs. Binh Fong.

CHILD ID KITS

Steve Hardcastle of RE/MAX Westside (a LOE Crescent Cove resident) has purchased Child ID kits for DNA, fingerprints, etc. He is offering them to all LOE residents with children. Just send your requests to stevehardcastle@earthlink.net, and the kits will be mailed to you at no charge.

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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. Some of our members don't even sew, they just drop by for coffee and to chat. Please come join us.

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

PLEASE SCOOP YOUR DOG'S POOP!

There are a few dog owners in our neighborhood that do not pick up after their dogs. PLEASE!! We have a beautiful community and it is such a shame to walk in the park and be confronted with some inconsiderate neighbor's dog's mess much less step in it. Everyone has an extra plastic bag in their home; just grab one before you leave the house for your walk. PLEASE SCOOP YOUR DOG'S POOP!



You're Invited!!!

*Cypress Christian School invites you to...
Winter and Spring Community Events!*

You are invited to some very fun community events sponsored by Cypress Christian School. We hope you will join us as we continue to celebrate our 30th Anniversary of "fusing faith and learning!"

December

- Wed., December 6 from 6-9 p.m. - Shop at Barnes & Noble-Copperfield-portion of purchase benefits library
- Tues., December 11 at 7:00 p.m.: Elementary K-3 Christmas Concert on CCS Campus
- Thurs., December 13 at 7:00 p.m.: Elementary 4th-5th Christmas Concert on CCS Campus
- Friday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.: Chamber Choir Christmas Concert-location to be announced

January

- Sat., January 26 at 5:30 p.m.: Laughs galore at the Winter Banquet featuring local radio personality, Susan O'Donnell of KSBj radio station and Christian Comedian, David Ferrell to be held at the Downtown Aquarium. The event is free to guests. Limited seating - call for reservations.

February

- Thurs., February 7 at 6:00 p.m.: Kindergarten Round-Up for parents of future kindergartners
- Thurs., February 7 at 7:00 p.m.: Family Night for K-12 parents and students considering Christian education

March

- Thurs., March 6 from 9-11 a.m.: Open House
- Thurs., March 27 from 9-2 p.m.: Student Visitor Day

April

- Saturday, April 19 from 10-4 p.m. Community Carnival on CCS Campus



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"Amahl and the Night Visitors"

Messiah Lutheran Church is presenting a production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors" on Saturday, December 1 at 6 PM and Sunday, December 2 at 3 PM. Tickets are free, but are required to be certain there is adequate seating at both shows. Call the church office, 281-890-3013, to reserve tickets.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors" is an operetta about a young crippled boy and his widowed mother who are visited by the three kings on their way to find the newborn Christ child. A miraculous healing occurs, and the kings invite Amahl to accompany them on their journey so he can give his crutch to the Christ child. This made-for-television opera (under an hour in length) will delight all. Suggested audience is ages 8 and up. Free child care for younger children is available. Refreshments will be served after each performance.

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.

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The Truth About Steroids

Steroid abuse is still on the rise, and not just among professional athletes and bodybuilders.

Despite numerous educational efforts by health care officials, many amateur and high school athletes looking for that elusive competitive edge still believe they can get it from a syringe or a bottle of pills. What they don't realize is that steroids will give them a lot more than they bargained for.

Not worth the risk

Acne. Liver damage. Increased risk of heart disease. These are just a few of the side effects associated with anabolic steroid abuse. And there's more.

The side effects are severe. Men who use steroids also may develop gynecomastia (the development of breasts), priapism (painful prolonged erection) and edema from sodium and water retention. They also will be more prone to cardiovascular problems since steroids decrease high-density lipoprotein levels (HDL) or "good" cholesterol, and increase low-density lipoprotein levels (LDL) or "bad" cholesterol.

Coupled with hypertension and negative changes in myocardial tissue, steroids users are at an increased risk for heart attack as well.

Of additional concern are alterations in psyche and behavior (i.e., aggression, physical dependence) and decreased immune function. Changes in the reproductive system, such as a reduction in testicle size, sperm count and mobility, and a decrease in the levels of endogenous testosterone and other sex hormones are common.

Women at risk

Unlike men, whose side effects may be reversible once the abuse has stopped, women experience irreversible changes, such as a deepened voice, increased facial and body hair growth, enlarged clitoris and coarser skin. In addition, irregularities in, or cessation of menstrual cycle, increased libido, aggressiveness, acne and decreased immune function may occur.

Women are also prone to the cardiovascular risks and changes in psyche and behavior that men experience.



All risk, no glory

There is an even scarier risk of steroid abuse: death. Steroid users who share needles are putting themselves at risk for developing infections such as HIV, hepatitis or other viral diseases.

The terminal risks of steroid abuse are not fully known. Some published cases of tumors and other cancers related to steroid abuse have been reported. Even so, physicians and researchers do not know all the repercussions of steroid abuse on one's body and future health.

Controlled research is unethical and only information from abusers is usable; yet this data may be inaccurate since most users are not forthcoming about the full extent of their steroid use.

Since the late 1980s, the federal government has begun to crack down on steroid use and distribution. Possession of steroids with intent to distribute without a valid prescription is a felony and subject to prosecution. Likewise, steroid use is a violation of the rules of virtually all sports leagues and councils as well as the traditional ethics of good sportsmanship.

No substitute for training

What most steroid users don't realize is that they are placing themselves at risk for something they could achieve on their own. Many experts agree that the effects of steroids on strength and muscle mass of beginning weight lifters or athletes are minimal when compared with the effects of an intensive weight-training or conditioning program.

The best way to improve performance and increase muscle mass is to follow a well-designed program that challenges both your body and your mind. No drug can do that for you.

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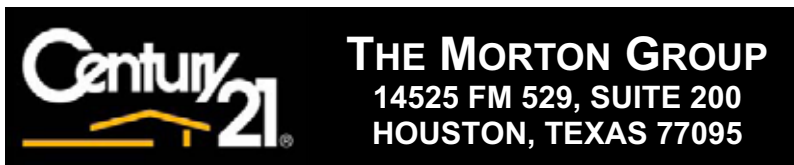
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Tips for Pet Owners

1. If your dog buries bones you give it, don't worry. Just keep on giving the bones and eventually they'll realize they are getting them regularly and don't need to put them aside for 'later'.
2. Don't walk pups until they are mature. The best exercise is play in the park or garden until they are old enough to be taken on serious walk
3. Treats - consider almonds, hazelnuts, dried apricots, bananas or pumpkin seeds? They don't mess up your coat pockets and are actually good for your dog.
4. How much do I feed my dog? Answer – if they are getting fat or thin, you need to change the quantity you feed, regardless of what it says on the packaging of the food. The ideal weight for your dog is so that the ribs can be felt, but not seen.
5. Cracking tartar off dog's teeth is easy with a strong thumb nail. Don't worry if there is a small amount of bleeding.
6. If your dog is scooting on their bum, it is not likely to be worms. The usual reason for this is full or even infected anal glands. Glands like these can also explain sudden bad breath.
7. If you find it hard to give your cat a pill, always use two people, get one to hold the cat's shoulders while you support the head from above. Tip the head back until they are looking at the ceiling. Hold pill in your thumb and forefinger. Open the mouth with middle or ring finger of the same hand then quickly push the pill, gently over the back of the tongue. The trick then is to keep the mouth closed until the cat licks its lips. You can stroke the throat. Cats cannot lick their lips until they've swallowed the pill.
8. For constipated cats or for cats prone to getting bugged up, add a small amount of stewed rhubarb to the food or stewed pumpkin or squash.
9. Cats can be very stubborn about what they will and will not eat. To change a cat from one feeding type food to another, be prepared to change things very gradually over a very long period – gradually.
10. Cats are very fussy about drinking. If your cat will not drink room temperature water from the tap, try pouring out a small amount of mineral water whenever you're in the kitchen. You can put the bowl in the fridge if your cat likes cold water. Some cats will only drink flowing water.
11. If your cat is licking hair away from the top of the tail or in a circle between its legs, first get them checked for fleas and infection. If there is no improvement, then consider a restriction diet, after talking to your vet. If you still have no improvement, it may be a stress problem where the cat is licking themselves for comfort.

(The contributing editor of this article will be glad to receive any of your "tips for pet owners" and publish them for our readers. Please send your "tips" to steve@leipsner.com.)





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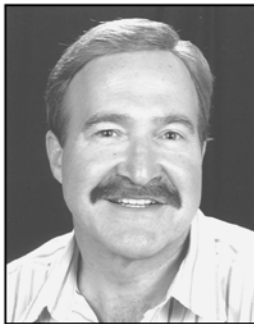
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