



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE

Volume 7, Issue 7
July 2008

Official Newsletter
www.lakesoneldridge.net



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT TEXAS 2008

**RE: National Night Out 2008
America's Night Out Against Crime
October 7, 2008**

The Texas "25th Annual National Night Out" (NNO), a unique crime prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2008. This is the 24th year Harris County residents have participated in the National Night Out. Sheriff Tommy Thomas along with all community leaders and the entire Harris County Sheriff's Office invite all communities to be a part of this event.

For the first time in history, we are testing the October date in the State of Texas (only) instead of the August date. If the test is successful, next year communities nationwide will have their choice of one of the two dates. Last year 35.4 million people participated in the NNO activities.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT is designed to (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for all anticrime programs; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police – community relations; (4) Send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are fighting back.

(Continued on page 2)

Social Committee Notes

The Social Committee Brown Bag Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 4th at noon in the Beach Club. The following are short notes:

1. Discussed Quiz Night and finalized details for the event on June 7.
2. Made arrangements for the evening meeting of the social committee on July 2. Meeting will start at 6:30 with happy hour. Red and white wine will be served. Several people will bring some snacks. If attendance is good and the meeting productive we will consider holding an evening meeting once a quarter.
3. The Beach Club reservation dates for all the currently planned community events were confirmed with AMI.
4. July 4th parade. Melissa Hunzeker presented ideas for prizes and will be responsible for purchasing small gifts like medals or flags for each child. Elizabeth Tobin will choose 3 prizes for contest winners. We discussed giving each child a number for their back so they can be identified more easily by the judges. Volunteers are still needed to man the grill, direct traffic, and judge.
5. Melissa Hunzeker confirmed Oktoberfest for October 17th. She will get more details on the cheese tasting that can be paired. Guests will buy glasses for \$2 and Saint Arnold will provide the beer and some information on what we are tasting.
6. National Night Out in Texas is set for October 7th - The board wants to recognize volunteers in the community on this night. Deborah Dunaway will work on getting the Fire Truck as well as the Sheriff's department to come to the Beach Club. The date has been confirmed as October 7th. Volunteers in each village will be encouraging their neighbors to attend. One suggestion is that a volunteer in each village get their residents together to create a village phone book/list to distribute after National Night Out.

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
Carlton Thorpe	Secretary
Cory Hammond.....	Treasurer
Clive Gardner.....	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
<http://www.fly2houston.com/ReportAircraftNoise>
- Air Traffic Approach Number: 281 230-8441
- FAA Hotline: 1-800-255-1111

For Information Only.

National Night Out- (Continued from Cover page)

NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhoods fighting for a safer nation.

In the past, each of the 15 LOE villages have held their own individual NNO events but this year the LOE Social Committee will be hosting one NNO event celebrated by the entire Lakes on Eldridge subdivision at the clubhouse. Shortly, many of our residents will be contacted to volunteer in various capacities for this event. Please find time to volunteer for this fun and greatly rewarding event. If you would like to help, please contact Deborah Dunaway at dsd1951@mac.com or 713-983-9651. Please see next month's newsletter for more details.

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Lakes on Eldridge Community
Newsletter on the 1st day
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Empire Cafe

1732 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX

Flying Saucer Draught Emporium

705 Main St, Houston, TX

Paciugo Italian Gelato & Caffè

5172-A Buffalo Speedway, Houston, TX

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Lakes on Eldridge

NOTES FROM THE MAY BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors of Lakes on Eldridge Community Association met on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. The following is a summary of what was discussed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Statements: The Board reviewed the financial statements for the month ended April 30, 2008. The Association had cash balances of \$464,035 in the Operating Fund and \$377,614 in the Replacement Fund. Operating income for the four months ended April 30, 2008 was \$349,426, Operating Expenses were \$461,874 and the Deficit was \$112,449. The Operating Deficit was the result of the \$80,000 contribution to Reserves plus the transfer of all sales tax refunds to the Reserves.

Collections: The Board reviewed current delinquent accounts and the legal status report from the community's legal counsel and instructed the managing agent accordingly. The managing agent reported that demand notices were sent in April and that still unpaid accounts were being referred to the attorney for legal action. \$16,132 of delinquent accounts was collected during April 2008.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Architectural Control: It was reported that the ACC was reviewing a request for an exterior staircase and that there was further consideration of issuing new guidelines related to installation of solar panels and the use of "greenscaping."

The managing agent issued these letters in April:

- Approval of a new front door
- Approval of a wrought iron fence on a waterfront lot
- Denial of a basketball goal. The proposed location was within a drainage easement. Structures cannot be located within a drainage easement.
- Denial of a retractable awning.
- Denial of an exterior staircase for a two story garage. The owner has since submitted a revised plan that is currently under review. A final decision is pending receipt of additional information from the owner.

Access Control: It was reported that meetings were held with ISSC personnel concerning unauthorized access, late at night, by cars entering through the exit gate at the main Eldridge entrance. Since

the automatic exit gate here is now working again, ISSC is asking if we could have the manual gate at this location closed from midnight to 5:00 am to enhance security.

A report was received that the Cy-Fair volunteer fire department has noted that trees overgrowing the street have reached a point that access by fire equipment could be hampered. Apparently they are only referring to the main entranceway on Lakes on Eldridge Drive.

Parks & Pool: It was reported that LOE Swim Team is off and running. With all the people using the pool we are having a lot of issues with cleanliness of the pool, bathrooms and the general area. The major issue is sand in the pool. This sand is being carried into the pool mainly from the sand pit in front of the pool. Without a good shower area, the kids are rinsing off in the pool and creating a cleaning headache. Within days the pool is dirty and we receive complaints from the LOEST Board and residents alike. It is being proposed that the beach area be eliminated and sodded over.

The second problem area is the bathrooms. Again there is lots of sand in the showers from kids using the indoor showers to clean off. Second is the inconsistency of keeping toilet paper in the holders and the bad smell. GHPM will need to make more frequent visits until the life guards are at the pool for the summer season. The managing agent was instructed to look into a few repair items.

Lastly, we need to make sure the trash is taken out on a regular basis due to the added pressure of having all the kids at swim practice.

Landscape: It was reported that recently completed work included planting in 4 locations along Tanner Road to enhance the look of the rock boulders. The seasonal flower change was installed. Additional ant treatments have also been completed. We have also changed the sprinkler settings to minimize watering on weekends when it affects resident outdoor activities.

Analysis of the irrigation system is in progress by a volunteer resident. He has determined that several of the controllers have additional zones available permitting us to split out individual planting areas from grass. He is currently getting us more cost information and then we can determine which areas we would like to prioritize. Also another resident volunteer has suggested a number of perennials to replace the annuals we currently use. These suggestions

(Continued on page 6)

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Notes from May Board Meeting- (Continued from page 4)

have been given to LIOT for comments and pricing. The goal will be to change to perennials at the next scheduled color change.

Lakes & Wildlife: It was reported that we have new residents in LOE. A group of Monk Parakeets has been seen frequenting resident's feeders. Also, Dominic and Randy have 4 new cygnets. Our lake levels have been low so Betty Burkett and company have been watching them to make sure they can get in and out of the water at the ramps and not get caught in the waterfalls. Everything is reported as healthy.

Social/Events: It was reported that the Social Committee Brown Bag Meeting was held on May 7 at noon in the Beach Club. Lots of exciting upcoming events were discussed.

The annual 4th of July family celebration is expected to be better than ever but we need volunteers! We are advertising for volunteers in the newsletter. Lots of goodies and prizes will be awarded for parade participants. LOE Swim Team and Greater Houston Pool are sponsoring this event.

National Nite Out is coming October 7. This will be a community wide event.

Oktoberfest is set for October 17th and Saint Arnold Brewery will be providing beer to sample.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Action Items: The Board reviewed the list of action items and instructed the managing agent accordingly.

Deed Restrictions: The Board reviewed the deed restrictions at May 20, 2008 and instructed the managing agent accordingly. The managing agent reported that over 400 items had been resolved since the April 1 Board Meeting.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

It was reported that two LOE residents have been elected to the board of directors of MUD 341, that the conversion to surface water was well underway and that they would be attending a national convention of water boards on July 17 – 19, 2008.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors was scheduled to be held at 6:30 p.m. on June 17, 2008.

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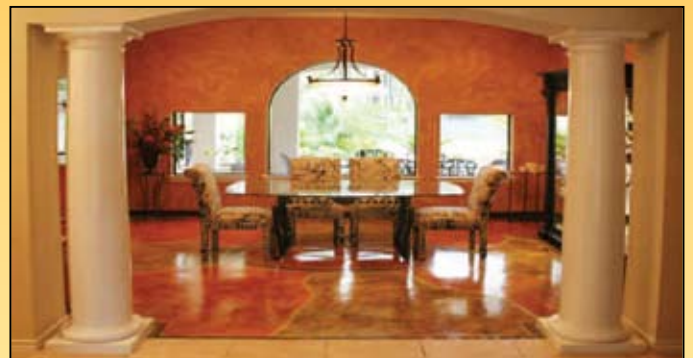
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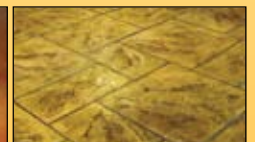
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Photos around Lakes on Eldridge

Welcome To Our Newest Neighbors!

We have 6 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.

Bristol Waters welcomes
**William Morris and the families of Chih-Cheng Chen &
Karen Chen and Barry & Kimberly Treas.**

Eagle Bend welcomes
Tammy Leese, Christian Bastanzo & Maria Sembianti.

Lake Shore Estates welcomes
Loic Vivier & Kaisa Kause.



A driver traveling east on Tanner Rd. lost control of his car and destroyed the two flowerbeds at our Ginger Ponds entrance. One boulder was split into at least 3 pieces and the other one was drug at least 50 yards down the road..

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LOE BOOK CLUB

Book club usually meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Join us for a little wine or coffee, some snacks, and stimulating discussion. 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.

June 30 – The Appeal by John Grisham. We all wanted to read Grisham's latest, so why not make it a Book Club selection? In a crowded courtroom in Mississippi, a jury returns a shocking verdict against a chemical company accused of dumping toxic waste into a small town's water supply, causing the worst "cancer cluster" in history. The company appeals to the Mississippi Supreme Court, whose nine justices will one day either approve the verdict or reverse it.

Who are the nine? How will they vote? Can one be replaced before the case is ultimately decided? The Appeal is a powerful, timely, and shocking story of political and legal intrigue, a story that will leave listeners unable to think about our electoral process or judicial system in quite the same way ever again.

July 28 – The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri. In The Namesake, Lahiri enriches the themes that made her first literary collection an international bestseller: the immigrant experience, the clash of cultures, the conflicts of assimilation, and, most poignantly, the tangled ties between generations. Here again Lahiri displays her deft touch for the perfect detail -- the fleeting moment, the turn of phrase -- that opens whole worlds of emotion. The Namesake takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans.

August 25 – The Diplomat's Wife by Pam Jenoff. Love was not a luxury Marta Nedermann could afford during the war. But with the Nazis defeated, her life takes a surprising turn when she meets Paul, a handsome American soldier. Their whirlwind romance is cut short when his troop is deployed, but promises of marriage and a rendezvous in London bolster Marta's spirits. Then, tragically, a plane crash claims Paul's life, and Marta is left alone to discover—to her delight and dismay—that she is pregnant. Now, two years later, Marta has picked up the pieces and moved on. She has started over in London with her husband, a British diplomat, with whom she shares a companionable, if passionless, marriage. Simon asks her no questions, and Marta is happy to keep close her memories of Paul and let her deeds of the past remain unspoken. But Marta's new life is anything but simple. A new war has been brought home to her doorstep: Communist loyalists have infiltrated British intelligence, and the one person who holds the key to exposing the leak is connected to Marta's past. There is a traitor amongst them who needs to prevent Marta's involvement, and no one—not her former friends or current lover—can be trusted.



Personal Classifieds

SMALL APPLIANCES FOR SALE – NEVER USED: KitchenAid 5-speed hand mixer, \$35. Carb-Tracker Nutrition Scale, \$40. Back-To-Basics Smoothie Elite smoothie, shake, & frozen drink maker, \$35. Email msdolphin@sbcglobal.net or call 832-221-0115.

FOR SALE: Tube TVs w/ remote: Sony 32", \$250 & Magnavox 25", \$120. Nintendo 64 game system w/ 2 controllers, steering wheel/driving pedals, & 12 game cartridges, \$125. Emerson VCR w/ remote, \$40. Call James 832-467-9891.

PIANO TEACHER NEEDED: Adult piano beginner is searching for a piano teacher in Lakes on Eldridge (or within a 5-10 minute drive) for evening/weekend lessons. If you are a teacher or if you know of one, please contact Fatima at 713-937-3753 or email fatimzz@yahoo.com.

STRING PLAYERS NEEDED: LOE resident, who plays violin and viola, is looking for other string players to play quartet music, on a recreational level. Email: echavlik@earthlink.net or call Ellen at (281)741-1781.

STOLEN BIKE: Boys 20" Trek Jet bike 2007 model. Yellow with black & red accents. Serial #SMTU177P0563E. Last know whereabouts - Bristol Bank Court. If found or seen, please contact 832-243-9841

FOR SALE: Two Pottery Barn Bean Loungers \$75 each, Boys Sz 2 1/2 Black Reidell Ice Skates Worn 2x-\$50 & Hunter Douglas Duette Shades in Sand/Linen Color Perfect Condition-Fits "33 x 57" windows. \$80 each. Contact Laurie, 713-849-9950 home, 281-799-9949 cell

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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.

Lakes on Eldridge

Stitch & Chat

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

Autism Support Group: Next meeting July 24th at the LOEN Clubhouse

The Autism Support Group meets the 4th Thursday of odd months. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, July 24th at 7:00 PM at the Lakes on Eldridge North Clubhouse.

If you have a child with autism in your life, we hope you'll join us at our next meeting on July 24th. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet parents of children on the autism spectrum, become informed, and share resources. The topic of our next meeting will be announced via e-mail. Sorry, we cannot provide childcare at this time.

To be put on our e-mail list or for more information, e-mail Kathleen at 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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Yard of the Month at Lakes on Eldridge

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.

Correction: One photograph of the winners of May Yard of the Month was mistakenly captioned as 12718 Melvern. The home pictured and the actual winner was 12707 Wilbury Park. Sorry for the mistake.

Congratulations to the winners of June Yard of the Month!



5607 Peninsula Park



12418 Lakeshore Ridge



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Lakes on Eldridge

Students at Cypress Christian School Serving our Soldiers

*"Want to send your support to a soldier in harm's way,
but have no idea of what to send, who to send it to, or how to send it?"*



In the fall of the 2007-2008 school year, Mrs. Carolyn Morgan, fifth grade teacher at Cypress Christian School, asked this same question when planning a class

service project. Mrs. Morgan desired for her class to communicate with a soldier and bless him/her in whatever way possible. She logged on to AnySoldier.com to find volunteer soldier "contacts" on the "Where to Send" page. All the soldiers on this web site are military men and women stationed in areas that are in harm's way. She searched through the names and selected Major Christopher Lindner (shown at left).

Mrs. Morgan sent a few packages of goodies and supplies along with letters from her students to the address for Major Lindner. Upon receiving the packages, Major Lindner thanked Mrs. Morgan and her students via email and handwritten thank you cards. Mrs. Morgan began regularly corresponding with Major Lindner to determine his specific needs and requests. CCS students and parents jumped at the opportunity to continue blessing their "special" soldier. The back of Mrs. Morgan's classroom was piled with donations which filled nineteen boxes – all to be shipped to Iraq. Donations included study materials, snack items, toiletries, white socks

(which soldiers go through quickly), cards, letters and more. Major Lindner received so much that he was able to share the gifts with "his" soldiers serving alongside him in Iraq. He was even able to use some of the items in the Christmas stockings for his troops.

The fifth graders made it a priority to not only bless their special soldier with material items but to bless him through prayer. Major Lindner emailed specific prayer requests for his situation, his troops and his family back home in Colorado. In response to notes and cards sent by the students, Major Lindner wrote Mrs. Morgan saying, "I'm in awe of the love and grace that your children obviously have for God's people. They are truly an inspiration to me, that's for sure." (Shown at right are some of the fifth graders who were involved in this service project. On the last day of school they posed for a picture while holding photos, cards and letters from Major Lindner.)

Some may call this a coincidence but Mrs. Morgan gives all the credit to God for directing her to this godly man who needed encouragement while serving his country in a foreign land. Major Lindner said in an email to Mrs. Morgan, "I don't know if I speak for everyone, but there are many types of people who provide immense value for our country and we are just a small piece. So many people

get overlooked regarding their contribution and value to our future. I do miss my family so much, but I know that God has a plan for me and I have to trust that He will take care of the things I cannot. It's tough wanting to be there for my children and wife to provide that something that only a father can provide. However, I've had to realize that God can do that even better than I." What an example of faith this godly man was to our students!

Special Surprise: When the students who participated in this service project return to school in the fall, they have a special surprise awaiting them. Major Lindner sent the classes an American flag which was accompanied by a Certificate of Appreciation which states that the flag was flown at the Camp Remembrance II Theatre Internment Facility, Baghdad, Iraq, on February 22, 2008 in honor of Cypress Christian School.

We "salute" the men and women serving in the military and say "thank you" for sacrificial service!

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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Want to know what is happening on the market around your home?

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Lakes on Eldridge

Kirk Mighty Tigers Raise Money for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Back in the spring, the Kirk Elementary School Student Council held a penny drive to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS), raising a total of \$3,237.82.

The penny drive ran from March 26-April 11, during which each Kirk teacher collected coins from his/her students. Student Council representatives collected money from each class twice a week.

Sarah Brown, Kirk third-grade teacher and student council liaison, sent out a PowerPoint update after each counting session. She said that students exceeded the school goal at each update.

"The best part was that the students seemed to genuinely understand the reason for the penny drive, that it was not

to win the prize at the end, but rather to help other kids who are in need of medical help," Brown said. "It is such a great feeling to know that our school is making a difference in the lives of others. It is what our Student Council is all about—making our classrooms, school and community a better place."

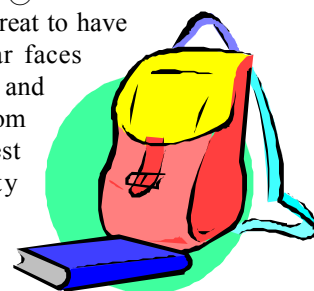
According to Brown, the top-raising classroom won a pasta party from Olive Garden, while the top-raising grade level earned a popcorn party from the PTO. The entire school was awarded a \$300 Wal-Mart gift card for its fund-raising efforts.

Once again, our Kirk Mighty Tigers roar!!

Calling all Kirk Kindergarten Fall 2008 Students

If you have a child entering Kinder this fall or know of someone who does, we will be hosting summer activities each month during the summer so these new students can get to know each other and play before that big first day of school. The first date is Saturday, June 28 at the LOEN kids pool at 10:00 am. Additional dates are July 19th and August 16th. Any questions or to be put on the email list, contact Linda Jordan at ljordan1219@comcast.net.

It will be great to have some familiar faces on the buses and in the classroom for our newest Kirk Mighty Tigers!



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Teenage Jobseekers

Not Available Online

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Kirk Elementary Wins Name That Book Contest!

Although summer is in full swing, back in May, a team of students from Kirk Elementary School won the Name That Book district contest held at the Berry Center.

In the 25-team district competition, Kirk accumulated the most points after seven rounds. The students faced a series of questions from Superintendent Dr. David Anthony that gave clues about different books, and were asked to "name that book."

The mission of the Name That Book Program is to foster life-long reading by all third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students. The students are provided with a list of books and are encouraged to read as many as possible, and the program culminates with a series of contests to celebrate the students' knowledge of the books.

Kirk's team was coached by media specialist Linda Reynolds. Fourth-grade team members were Pooja Agrawal, Timothy Angeles, Tiffany Pham Nguyen, Kevin Sheard, Michelle Truong, Jamie Won and Julianna White.



Kirk Elementary School students display their first-place trophy from the Name That Book contest while being congratulated by Superintendent Dr. David Anthony. The students, pictured from left to right, are Pooja Agrawal, Jamie Won, Tiffany Pham Nguyen, Kevin Sheard, Timothy Angeles, Julianna White and Michelle Truong.

We are so proud of our Kirk Mighty Tigers!!

Come See Kirk Elementary!

The staff at Kirk Elementary would like to extend an invitation to parents who are considering moving to the area, or who currently live in the area and have school age children, to come and see all that our school has to offer. We welcome your interest in Kirk and look forward to visiting with you. Please call 713-849-8250 to schedule your tour with one of our administrative team members.

Our Kirk Mighty Tigers are making their mark!

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**KEMAH BOARDWALK-4TH OF JULY FIREWORK SPECTACULAR
9:30PM**



Pet Corner

Summer Pet Health

By Jim Amyx, DVM

Pet owners are often surprised to learn common household plants are toxic to pets, with perhaps the Sago Palm being the most prevalent toxic plant in this area. Sago Palm trees contain a very potent toxin called Cycasin. The toxin, found in all parts of the plant, has its greatest concentration in the seeds and root balls of the Sago. A pet ingesting as few as 1 or 2 seeds can experience acute liver failure and death; therefore, please plant Sagos where your pets do not have access to them. If your pet does ingest any part of a Sago Palm, seek veterinary attention immediately.

Lilies are probably the second most prevalent plant toxicity in this area. Several types of Lilies are toxic, with the principal ones being Easter Lilies, Tiger Lilies, Stargazer Lilies, Peace Lilies and Day Lilies. Lilies are extremely toxic to cats. Generally, toxicosis occurs only in cats. All parts of the Lilly contain toxins that can cause acute renal failure.

As with Sago Palms, there is no specific antidote for the toxins, however expedient veterinary treatment and supportive care can improve your pet's prognosis for survival.

Other common toxic plants are Oleanders, Azaleas, Rhododendron, Laurel, Castor Beans, Foxgloves, Cyclamens, and Yews. Common houseplants that can be toxic as well. Go to the ASPCA poison control website (www.aspc.org) for additional information on toxic plants AND foods – grapes, raisins, onions, and chocolate are all toxic to your pet too!

I hope this "Summer Pet Health" series helps you and your pet enjoy the "Great Outdoors" this summer. Have a Great Summer!

Thunderstorms, Firecrackers, and Other Loud Sounds

Submitted by Luis Escobar, Dog Behavioral Therapist & Master Trainer

Does your dog jump at the clap of thunder? Does he bark at the bang of fireworks? Or is he calm with seemingly no reaction to the loud crashes?

Dogs have varying reactions to loud noises. Some may tear up the house, others may try to hide or run from the scary sounds, while others seem just fine.

If your dog appears fearful of clamoring sounds, check with your vet. Some dog's ears are so sensitive that the noisy clapping of thunder may actually hurt their ears. If a dog is somewhat deaf, these sounds may also cause adverse reactions. Your vet also can help if your pup needs a sedative to calm him during a noisy storm or explosive celebrations of the 4th of July. Also check with your vet about using Bach Rescue Remedy if a sedative is not appropriate.

Since you are not always home when storms hit, you will want to set up an area for your dog in which he feels safe. Crate training your dog offers him that safe haven. He should be able to access the designated refuge whenever you are not at home.

Some dogs react to an approaching storm long before it even reaches the area. It is as though that the dog is reacting to the sound of thunder from the distanced storm. The dog, however, is actually reacting to the presence of static electricity in the atmosphere (as happens with the drop of barometric pressure prior to a storm).

These dogs need to be grounded. An anti-static mat can be placed in or under the dog's kennel. The kennel should be situated in a way that the dog thinks it has entered the house. The kennel should be soundproofed with rubber-backed carpet with an extra piece of carpet across the opening to create a flap that closes after the dog enters.

If the kennel is a safe place, the dog should be allowed to come and go as it

wishes. Some dogs become so fearful that they may hurt themselves if the kennel is closed and they cannot escape. If the kennel is soundproofed, the bang of thunder and fireworks may be diminished and the dog may remain calm. If crating your dog is not a possibility or you do not have a crate, find a place where the sound is less intense. In a thunderstorm, the dog should be in a closed-in area that does not let in the flash of light.

The best solution, however, for dogs that are fearful of noises is desensitization. This is the process of helping your dog work through his fear of storms and other loud noises. It can be a slow process, and you must take time every day to work with your dog. Do not console your dog when he is fearful. Instead, distract him with something like play. He will be so busy playing that he may not even hear the thunder. You may also want to use a soundtrack of storm noises, firecrackers, car backfiring or other sharp sounds. Play the tape at a low level and simultaneously distract him by keeping him focused on play, on you or on another activity. Over time, increase the volume of the recording. Repeat this process until your dog has become accustomed to the noises.

Case Study: Rex, a Rottweiler, would begin acting anxious when a storm approached. The owner could not settle the dog, and he would hurt himself when the storm arrived. Rex would run through the house or the backyard crashing into things. One time he had escaped trying to run from the storm and was not found until after the weather calmed. The solution of using a crate with antic-static pads helped to calm Rex. The soundproofed crate diminished the sound of the thunder and the carpet prevented the flash of light inside. Rex is now calmer during a storm and much happier. The owner now has a calm dog and no longer needs to search for Rex after a storm.

Teen Drivers: Accidents Waiting For A Place to Happen?

Submitted by Victor Thompson

"Mom, where are the car keys?" Your teen can't wait to start driving. But I know how worried you must be about your child getting behind the wheel of a car. Although the number of auto-accident injuries and fatalities among drivers between ages 15 and 20 is falling, accidents are still the leading cause of death for that age group. The good news: You can take steps to help keep your young driver safer:

- Limit night driving. Most fatal accidents involving young drivers occur between 9 p.m. and midnight. Night driving requires more skill than driving in daylight, and young drivers may be more prone to distraction, carelessness or fatigue when driving after dark. Let your teen get plenty of daytime-driving experience before you allow nighttime driving.
- Restrict the number of passengers. Nearly two-thirds of teen passenger deaths occur when the driver is also a teen. Teen friends in the car may distract a novice driver. And sometimes peer passengers encourage recklessness in a normally safe young driver. Limit the number of passengers your teen may have in the car.
- Choose safer wheels. That flashy red sports car or cool SUV may be your teen's dream machine, but think "safety" when shopping for a vehicle, and look for one with protective features. For example, midsize cars typically withstand crashes better than small ones, and many newer models hold up better in crashes than older ones. Newer cars also offer improved safety features such as airbags and antilock brakes.

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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 lazy, 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!



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Lakes on Eldridge

Bottled Water vs. Tap

By Louise Bell

A few facts about each, then you decide.

Water that comes from your faucet costs about \$0.002 per gallon. Bottled water is about \$9.00 per gallon.

Cost is only one factor. Many people choose bottled water over what comes from the faucet because they say they like the convenience, taste, and purity. Actually, one quarter to 40% of bottled water is municipal tap water re-packaged, possibly with additional treatment. The FDA regulates bottled water; however, standards are weaker than EPA standards for tap water. For instance, E. coli is allowed in bottled water, but not in tap water. The EPA requires water testing 100+ times per month, FDA requires testing once a month. In addition, the 60-70% of bottled water that does not cross state lines is exempt from any FDA standards!

The nonprofit National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) tested samples of 103 brands of bottled water and found that a fourth were just tap water---sometimes further treated, sometimes not. The group stated that there was no reason to assume that bottled water was superior to tap water or had fewer microbial or chemical contaminants. The plastic bottle itself may leach phthalate (regulated by EPA) into the water, for which there is no bottled water standard.

As Americans, we are entitled to drink safe, clean water. If you are concerned about drinking tap water, perhaps a purification system will erase your fears. You can make sure that your water has additional treatment by reverse osmosis distillation, UV radiation or the use of absolute 1 micron filtration to eliminate smaller or resistant disease-causing organisms. Filter your own water and carry it in a stainless steel thermos.

Bottled water is sold in cheap, convenient PET (polyethylene terephthalate) containers, an easily recyclable form of plastic, but recycling rates for plastic bottles are less than 25%. Most head for a landfill! Plastic is light and floats and is blown about in the wind. All rivers lead to the sea; the Houston Ship Channel is a frightening

repository of plastic of all types, probably washed down storm drains. Each year, more than 4 billion pounds of plastic bottles end up in landfills or as litter in the U.S. Think about this: **THE TOTAL ENERGY NEEDED TO MAKE, TRANSPORT AND DISPOSE OF ONE BOTTLE OF WATER IS EQUIVALENT TO FILLING THE SAME BOTTLE ONE-QUARTER FULL OF OIL!**

Plastic has been around for about 50 years. It is made from oil; it takes 1.5 million barrels to manufacture a year's worth of those handy bottles. It can photo-degrade, meaning sunlight will cause it to become brittle and crumble, but it does not decompose. No microbes have yet evolved to eat it---break it down into its building blocks. It can break into smaller and smaller bits, but will remain a man-made polymer, and it can possibly hang around in the environment for 1000 years!

We have a steady, reliable, and cheap source of clean, freshwater for drinking, available at few other times in world history and few other places in the world. But many people are choosing to forsake ordinary tap water for the convenience and perceived benefits of bottled water, in favor of a product that is the same or lesser quality, higher price, uncertain safety, packaged to be discarded and not degrade for 1000 years. We are very wealthy, indeed, to be so heedless. The convenience and perceived benefits of bottled water seem dubious when we consider the added costs for transportation and packaging and, most important, the cost to the environment. What would a person who cares about the future of our environment drink? You decide.

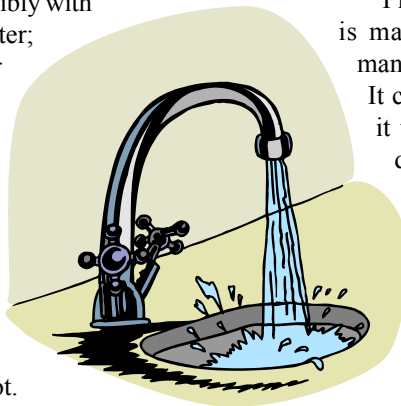
Sources:

FDA Consumer Magazine, July-August, 2002

FDA, Federal Register, 21, Part 165, 2005

EPA, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 2007

Think Outside the Bottle, Beverage Marketing Corp., Natural Resources Defense Council



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How To Travel Light and Be A "Happy Traveler"

Submitted by Marina Byrum

Your carry-on bag could be the solution to some of the summer travel season's likely woes — including checked baggage fees on American Airlines and possibly other carriers — but it also has the potential to cause headaches. You don't want to find a rumpled mess when you arrive at your destination or spend your vacation shivering or sweating because you weren't ready for the weather.

It is possible to pack fashionable clothes in an efficient way. Some tips from the pros:

CHOOSE A GOOD BAG

Some travel experts recommend a standard rectangular-shaped bag with wheels for business trips because clothes are less likely to become wrinkled. For recreational travel, however, soft-sided duffel bags are better.

One way to pack play clothes to fit into space more economically is to roll them and stuff them into a bag like cigarettes into a cigarette box. But if you're using the rectangular-shaped bag, it's good to use Zip-lock plastic baggies, which come in 1 and 2-Quart sizes, as well as 1 gallon and 2 gallon sizes. Simply lay your garment or garments inside the bag, then as you zip it shut, squeeze as much air as possible out of the bag. Voila! Your bag/garment is flat as a pancake and takes up practically no space. And best of all, clothes do not tend to wrinkle using this method - unless they are fabrics that are prone to wrinkle anyway.

It's a good idea to separate undergarments and socks into one zip-top plastic bag, tech gear such as cords and batteries into another, and toiletries all in yet another. (Any liquid needs to be stored in a see-through bag.)

Since you may be asked to open carry-on bags during a security check at the airport, things will go much more smoothly if items are organized. Otherwise, everything can spill out, which can be both inconvenient and embarrassing.

Carry-on bags tend to be treated more gently than checked bags so there is an opportunity to choose more of a fashion-

forward bag than basic black. Plus, using a bright colored bag, or one with graphic print, will make it easy to find your bag in the overcrowded overhead bins.

Also, be mindful of your airline's size limit for carry-on bags. American's, for example, is 45 linear inches (height plus length plus width).

WHAT TO PACK

To minimize the number of garments you have to pack and unpack, choose a neutral color palette — maybe blue and tan, maybe black and white — and then stick with it for the trip. By limiting the number of colors and patterns, everything matches and there's no need for that extra sweater to go with the lime green skirt. To keep your wardrobe from being too boring, pack colorful scarves or cute belts, which take up very little room in a bag.

Jersey fabrics, as well as washable silks and athletic fabrics, usually pack flat and travel well, according to Susan Foster, author of a book entitled "Smart Packing" (See website at <http://www.smartpacking.com/>). She recently became sold on The Limited's new travel suit, made in a polyester-wool-and-Lycra blend, because it has a slimmer, more modern cut than most travel-specific clothes. Check Travel Smith and Magellan's for travel-friendly wardrobes also. (Both have online shopping sites available.)

The layered look is always works well, with enough T-shirts, camisoles or shells for each day, but only one sweater and light, water-resistant jacket to go on top.

Toiletries tend to take up a lot of room and liquid products are also subject to the 3-ounce security rule, so it might be a good time to move toward dry products, such as a stick deodorant and mineral cover-up makeup. It's also a good idea to pack shampoo with a built-in conditioner and moisturizer with SPF.

Some business travelers are forgoing the toiletry

hassle altogether, ordering travel-size products (see <http://www.minimus.biz>) to be waiting for them at their hotel.

WHAT TO LEAVE HOME

A different outfit for every day is the worst strategy because you might need different shoes, a different handbag and different accessories for each one.

Instead, switch out only the pieces that other people notice. Change the tops, scarves, etc., but who'll notice which black pants I'm wearing today?

Jeans might be the basis for many vacationers' wardrobes, but they really aren't practical, because they're too bulky, can't effectively be washed in the sink and take too long to dry.

Too many shoes are the downfall of many packers. Women shouldn't travel with more than three pairs, says Foster, and men, simply because their shoes have a larger profile in the suitcase, shouldn't have more than two.

For most trips, I try to get by with a comfortable pair of walking shoes and a pair of dressier shoes for dinner.

So why not become a "happy traveler", by cutting down on the bulk and weight of your luggage and making it your goal to cut back on baggage charges and hassles by being a smart packer?



Lakes on Eldridge



Meet Austin

DOB March 2001

Austin is a playful and loving boy who enjoys playing in the water. He also loves Sesame Street books and his favorite character is the Cookie Monster. Austin is diagnosed with Autism and is learning how to communicate through sign language. He is also working on potty training. Austin is in special education and in kindergarten. His teacher reports that she enjoys having him in her class and that he has made a lot of progress. Austin is legally free for adoption and would do well with parents who can make an unconditional commitment to him.

For more information please contact:

Vanessa Coppola, MSSW

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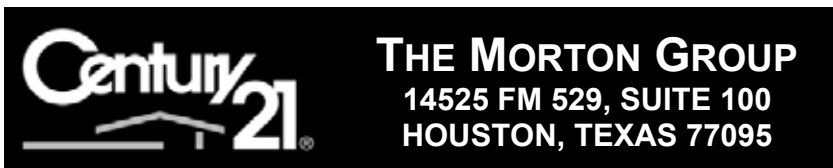
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Karl B.

"I am writing to thank you for all your help in successfully marketing & selling our US home as part of my transfer from Houston to Stavanger, Norway. Your professional, no-nonsense approach and sound pre-sale preparatory advice was much appreciated. Your knowledge and ability to navigate the intricate processes of international oil company sale procedures was also very helpful. Your experience and understanding of the north-west Houston market proved valuable in pitching our house appropriately."

SOLD

Ian W.

www.har.com/timziifle

E-mail: tcziifle@msn.com





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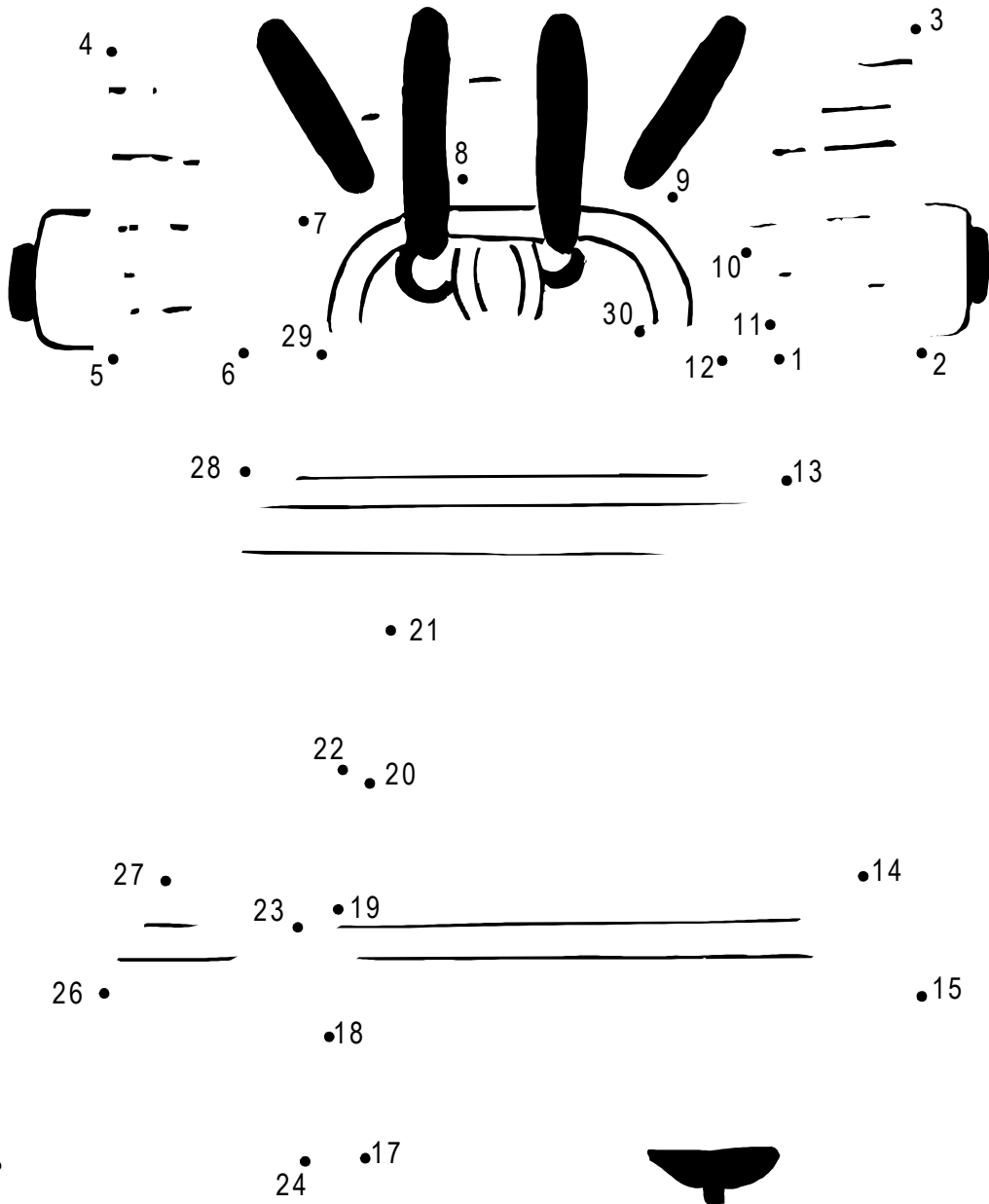


LOE

Kids Corner

Dot-To-Dot

Connect the dots to find the hidden image.



July Landscaping

Submitted by Ron Kerwin

July heat will take its toll on our lawns, and everything in our lawns if we fail to use water properly. Water less frequently and deeper with each application. Our lawns need one inch of water per week. Do not water so much per application that it runs off into the street curbs, but do water as much as possible per each application. Put any straight-sided container out in the lawn, water for a specific period of time, and then simply measure the amount of water you caught in the container for that period of time. You now can figure an easy formula for the goal of 1 inch per week. Your lawn turf roots will seek a deeper soil level if you water longer with each application. Deeper roots will be healthier and less drought susceptible.

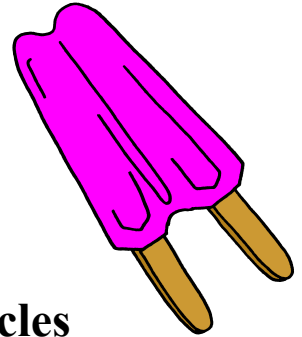
If your lawn turf is getting sparse under your trees, you might take at look at the following as a possible solution. Dead or damaged limbs in your trees are very visible right now. Remove them for a healthier and better looking tree. Raising the tree canopy will allow more sunlight to reach the lawn turf underneath. Raising the canopy means you simply remove the lower limbs from the tree trunk base upward to a point. This height varies with tree variety and it is basically up to your desires. After working on the canopy, you can work at thinning the tree. This involves removing the small diameter growths from each branch starting at the bottom limbs and working upward. Depending on the overall tree size you can remove these small growths out about 1/3 of the limb length from the main trunk. Removing all this will allow more light to get through to your soil. It also allows for an increase in air circulation through the tree, which is also a benefit to the tree. Another option would be to construct a bed and plant ground cover (Asian Jasmine or English Ivy) as examples of shade loving plants.

This is a good month to remove rose bush branches that are sickly or dead. A light pruning now will increase your fall flower production. Get a good thick layer of mulch down in all your beds to help your flowers and shrubs survive the heat we all know is coming. It is easy to figure your needs. Most mulch comes in 2 cubic foot bags. Take the length of your bed times it width, multiply by .17 (2 inch depth of mulch), or by .25 (3 inch depth of mulch), and divide by 2 cubic feet per bag. The result is how many bags you need to buy. Your shrubs bases take up some space so you can subtract one or two bags and still get by fine. Example- your bed is 5 feet by 25 feet. $5 \times 25 \times .17 / 2 = 10.6$ bags, buy 10 and you'll be just fine.



View the Kids' Club Contest Winners
online each month at
www.peelinc.com/kidsclub.php

Recipe FOR THE SUMMER



Popscicles

- 1 - 3 oz. package jello
- 1 package Kool-Aid
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups boiling water
- 2 cups cold water

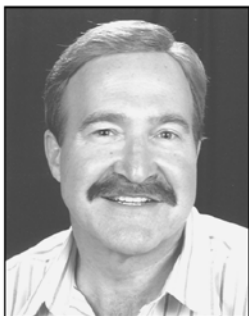
Dissolve jello, sugar and Kool-Aid in boiling water.
Add cold water. Pour into molds and freeze.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe
email it to articles@peelinc.com.*

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