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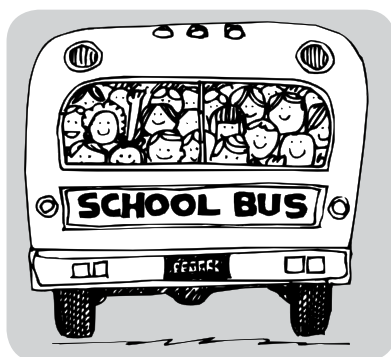
Volume 8, Issue 9

September 2009

It's Not Too Late to Get Organized for the New School Year

Submitted by Kelly Butcher

School has just begun and you probably feel like you are drowning in the sea of papers, activities, and homework. As a professional organizer, I work with a lot of busy families who need help setting up routines for handling the abundance of paper from school, the mail, and for getting homework done. I hope to offer a few suggestions about routines to set-up and implement to help you have smooth sailing through this school year.



SOME GENERAL SYSTEMS TO HAVE IN PLACE INCLUDE:

- Calendar
- Incoming papers
- Homework

A large wall calendar with room enough to write each family member's activities is a must. Display the calendar in a location easily accessed by all family members. If you track your calendar electronically, have a centrally located computer with easy access for all family members. Assign a color to each family member and color-code activities.

Papers consisting of incoming mail, school papers, both school work and items that require a response, and activity-related items (schedules, release forms, etc) are always an issue. Set up an action file system for handling

the incoming paperwork such as a desktop hanging file organizer with files for each child or school. Teach your children to get into the habit of putting important papers or papers requiring a signature in a folder marked with "Mom" or "Dad". After you have signed the paper, either place the paper in a folder to return to school or have your child put directly into their backpack. Also set up an archival system for the treasured school work that you want to save.

Fitting homework into our busy schedules is often difficult. Designate an area for your children to complete their work. For younger students, the kitchen table is probably where most of the homework is completed, so make sure all of the necessary supplies are available, so there is no excuse not to get started.

(Continued on Page 6)



Monday

LABOR DAY

September 7th



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and much more!!

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Texas DPS..... 713-681-1761
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Houston Chronicle 713-220-7211
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Price Range	Under 400K	400K to 600K	600K Plus
Number of Sales	17	10	1
Avg. List Price	\$363,829	\$486,190	\$1,085,000
Avg. Adj. Sales Price	\$353,957	\$472,080	\$975,000
Avg. Sq. Footage	3,275	3,973	5,242
Avg. Price per Sq.Ft.	\$108.08	\$118.82	\$186.00
Days on Market	41	41	42
SP/LP Ratio	98%	97%	90%

All information based on HAR/MLS data 1/01/2009 to 6/30/2009 utilizing average adjusted sales figures

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A Sensible Plan for College Funding

Submitted by Rich Keith

Previously we discussed that how you fund college expenses is divided naturally between using your money, and by using other peoples' money. This sounds simple but each scenario requires understanding of the long-term impacts. The first thing your financial coach should be asking you is about your strategy for funding. Are you willing to fund 2 years? 4 years? Graduate school too? Community college, public university or private?

In President Lincoln's time, the typical family chose only one promising male child to attend college. While these men often became very successful (witness William Henry Seward, Lincoln's Secretary of State), their other children were left out of the equation. Today's children are much luckier. Even so, ask the hard questions starting at or before your oldest child's 15th birthday. While they may tell you that attending a community college will deprive them of the college experience, consider what that college experience will cost in real dollars. And, getting into college as a junior is sometimes less competitive than entering as a freshman. Better yet, some community colleges have written agreements with universities on which classes are transferrable.

Importantly, parents need to figure out their college budget ahead of time and then discuss it with their child before he or she applies. In this way, colleges with the net cost above the predetermined budget can come off the list. The funding budget is made of a combination of moneys coming from your pre-tax accounts, regular (taxable) savings, and retirement accounts, to name a few. Several savings plans are available and many are tax-advantaged. Your financial professional and tax pro can help you here.

There are advantages and disadvantages to using your own money for college expenses. A detailed plan will reveal the opportunity cost of funding everything yourself. That's one reason why people turn to loans. Remember the power of using the IRS "tax scholarships" to help you maximize every dollar saved. Any time you can reduce your tax it's the same as a scholarship or grant. And the benefits to you increase as your tax bracket increases. Importantly, all educational tax strategies must be reviewed with your tax advisor in order to coordinate the interrelationship between tax, other financial aid and your family's overall financial plan for the future. Next month: more on tax scholarships.



Business Classifieds

THERE IS CASH IN YOUR CLOSETS! Upscale family consignment event in NW Houston community this FALL! Let us help you stretch your budget! Consign, Shop, Volunteer! Come join the FUN! Great resource for MOMS-TO-BE!! <http://nwhouston.rhealana.com> or tammy@rhealana.com

Business Classifieds are \$45.00. Please contact Peel, Inc. Sales at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com

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Lakes on Eldridge North

THEFTS AND VEHICLE BREAK-INS

Lakes on Eldridge is a safe and pleasant place to live, but a theft was recently reported. Here are important suggestions to prevent this from happening to you:

1. Park your cars in the garage and keep the door closed. A car parked on the curb attracts thieves.
2. If you can provide exterior lighting to your home, do so. Thieves work in shadows, so the fewer the shadows, the less safe haven they have in which to work.
3. Never leave any valuables in your car. Remove all of them.
4. ALWAYS lock your car.
5. If you see or hear anything suspicious, call the police first and then the gate attendant.



It's Not Too Late to Get Organized - (Continued from Cover Page)

I recommend using lidded plastic shoe-box size containers to hold markers, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, etc. Label the containers for ease in cleaning up. For older students who may complete their homework at a desk in their bedroom, ensure they have the necessary supplies available as well. A well-lit, clutter-free area away from distractions will help them stay focused on their work.

Establish a set time for homework to be completed. It may not be the same time every afternoon or evening based on after school activities. Look at the week ahead on Sunday evening and map out with your child the time they should complete their homework for each day based on that day's activities and mark it on the calendar. Most importantly, help your child get into the habit of packing their backpack before they go to bed. That way during the morning rush, important papers and items needed for school will not be forgotten at home.

Remember that developing new habits requires consistency and time. Begin setting up and implementing new systems as soon as possible and this school year will be off to a great start!



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Kirk Elementary News

Announces First Back to School Activity Dates

September 11 - Ice Cream Social for Kirk families from 7-8 pm in the cafeteria.

September 18 - Fall Fundraiser Kick-Off (brochures will come home with students)

September 28 - Curriculum Night/Open House 5:30 to 7:30 pm (opportunity for parents to review areas of study for the coming school year and learn how they can support their student)

Kirk Elementary Earns 'Recognized' status for 2009 and CFISD: Largest 'Recognized' School District For Second Straight Year

Our neighborhood school, Kirk Elementary earned the "Recognized" status for 2009 and Cypress-Fairbanks ISD earned "Recognized" status for the second consecutive school year according to the Texas Education Agency's annual accountability ratings.

A small percentage of Texas public school districts achieve "Exemplary" or "Recognized" status each year—the highest two performance brackets measured by the TEA. CFISD was a "Recognized" district for six consecutive years from 1999 to 2004, again in 2008 and currently in 2009.

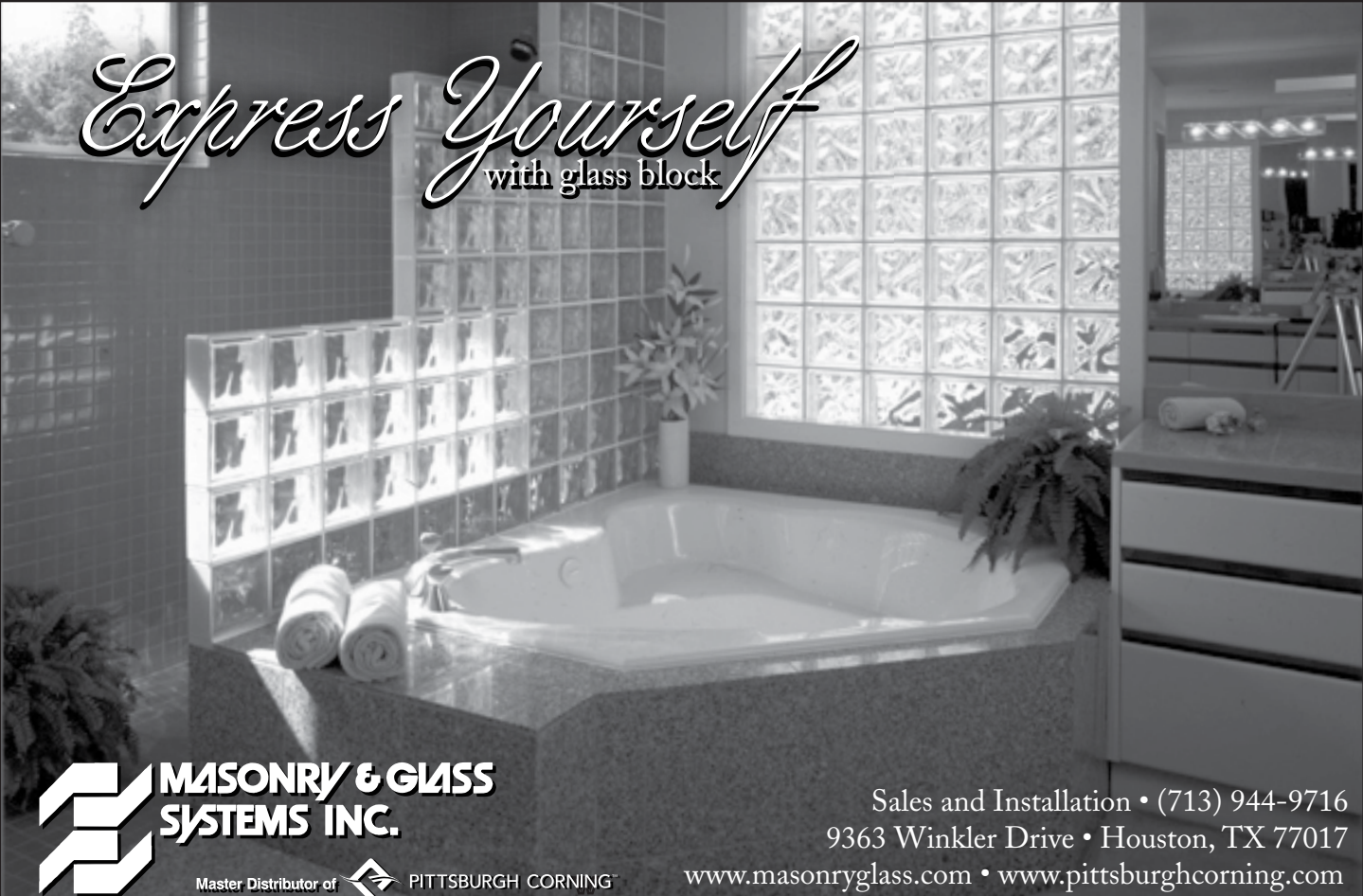
"This 'Recognized' rating is the result of our students' and staff's commitment to continue to achieve academically," said David Anthony, superintendent of schools. "A joint effort among students, teachers, staff and parents to build on the

previous years' success produced unprecedented results from the elementary level through high school."

Campus performance has risen steadily throughout the last three years of TEA accountability ratings. This year, 63 out of 74 campuses (85 percent) were declared "Recognized" or "Exemplary;" in 2008, 49 out of 70 (70 percent) schools attained this status; and in 2007, 36 out of 67 (54 percent) received the two highest ratings.


The most notable increase came at CFISD's high school level, where 9 of 10 campuses (90 percent) were "Recognized," compared to 2 of 8 (25 percent) "Recognized" in 2008.

Visit the TEA website at www.tea.state.tx.us for a detailed listing of scores by campus.



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Girl Scout Troops Now Forming!

Did you know that.....

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- 68% of Congress women were Girl Scouts
- 64% of women listed in Who's Who of American Women report that they are Girl Scout alum

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The new CAR Society is proudly sponsored by the Robert Rankin Chapter, NSSAR and the Organizing Cypress, Texas Chapter, NSDAR.

For more information, please visit www.nscar.org or contact Melinda Sims, Organizing Senior Society President, at 281-856-2536 or email -- melinda@mazzaroth.net.

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Once the email alert goes out to the specific neighborhood, many, many neighbors are now aware. If they happen to forward the email to their friends who have not signed up, it could mean hundreds of your neighbors are already alerted and are keeping their eyes open for your lost pet.

Cypress Lost Pet Alert.com is on-call 7 days a week from sun up to sun down and is FREE. We are glad to work with any informal email chains. The whole idea is to find lost pets quick for the good neighbors in Fairfield and surrounding areas.

Regards,

RB Cox

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Fall Into Fitness 5k/1k fun run

Please join The Branch School's Parents Association for our first annual Fall Into Fitness fun run/walk Sunday November 15, 2009 from 7am-9am at Bear Creek Park. There will be a stroller/kid 1k walk as well as a 5k walk/run for adults and older children. Help us raise money for education while having fun and promoting the benefits of exercise. All participants registered by November 1st will receive a t-shirt and goodie bag! Come join in on the food and fun, and bring the family! To register or get more information check out our link at www.thebranchschool.org or email pa@thebranchschool.org.



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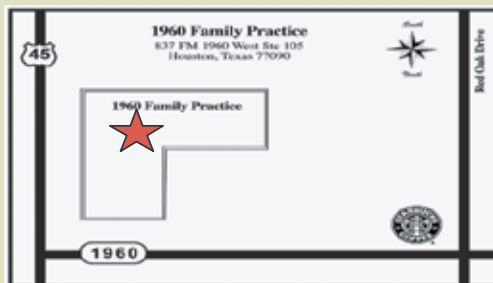
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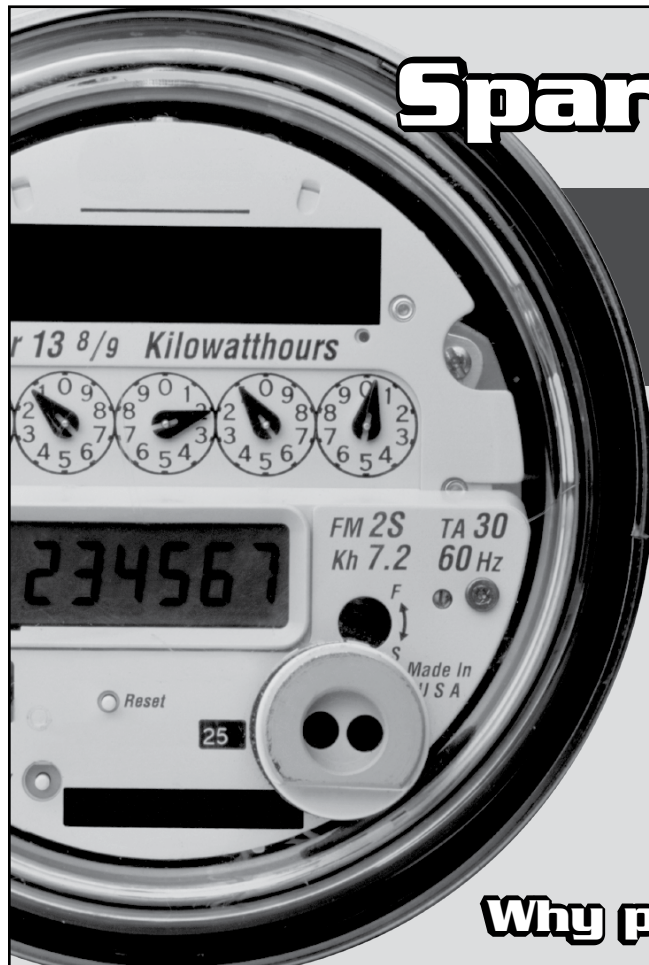
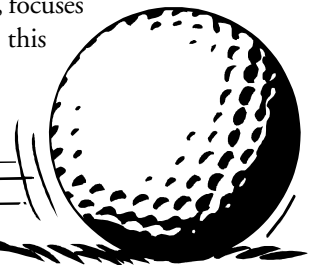
Women and men who bring their own team of players or singles who will be pared with other singles who want to play needed to participate in the Florida Scramble Golf Tournament. The date of this annual Kiwanis golf tournament is Thursday, October 22 with a 1:00 pm shotgun start. Registration begins at 11:30 am at Cypress Lakes Golf Course, "Home of the best greens in southeast Texas," followed by a putting contest at 12:00 pm. Contributions of \$100 per player or \$150 hole sponsor are welcome. All profits from the tournament will be used to sponsor youth in our community through service projects such as Key Clubs, boy and girl scout troops, scholarships, HOBY, etc. For further information, call Steve Caton at 713-985-3440 or see the entry form in this paper.

The Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club meets three times a month at the Hearthstone Country Club in Hearthstone from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. for lunch, and programs including guest speakers on subjects of concern to the community and individuals. We invite you to a complimentary lunch, fellowship with our members, an informative program, and an opportunity to learn more about our organization.

Reservations are not required. The Club will meet on September 1, 15, and 22. Notice that there is no meeting on the second Tuesday because of the Labor Day holiday.

Membership in Kiwanis is open to persons of good character who adhere to the standards of good conduct in their community and believe in and subscribe to the objects of Kiwanis International. If you would like to know more about Kiwanis and the service programs it promotes, call John Carroll at 281-463-0373; George Crowl at 832-467-1998; or Robert Presnell at 281-304-7127.

CHILDREN: PRIORITY ONE is the motto of Kiwanis Clubs worldwide. The Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club, an affiliate of the International Kiwanis organization, focuses its services, programs and activities on this theme.



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Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____

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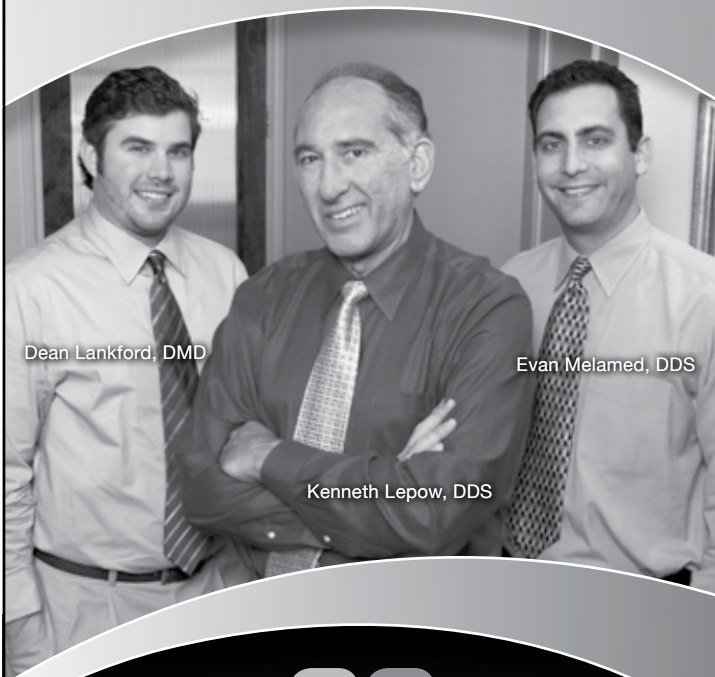
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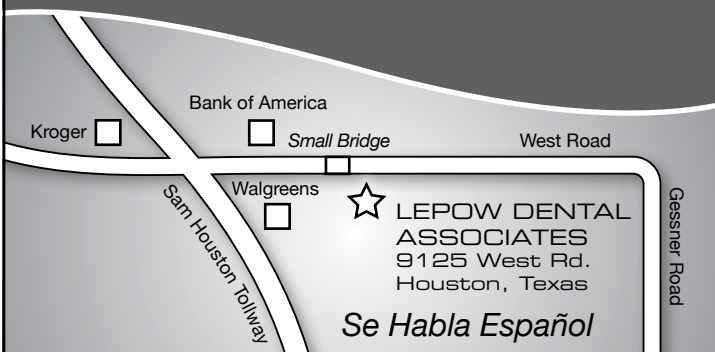
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Texas Events - September

- 1-13—HOUSTON:** Challenge VII: dysFUNCTIONal & Unknitting: Challenging Textile Traditions Houston Center for Contemporary Craft presents two exhibitions that challenge the traditional uses of wood, textiles and other materials. www.crafthouston.org 713/529-4848
- 1-27—HOUSTON:** Cildo Meireles Brazilian artist is best known for visceral, room-size installations. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. www.mfah.org 713/639-7300
- 1-Oct. 8—NASSAU BAY:** Flotsam & Jetsam Artists respond to Hurricane Ike in this open juried show. The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake. www.taaccl.org 281/335-7777
- 1-Oct. 24—ORANGE:** Pistols: Dazzling Firearms Fifty exceptional American firearms illustrate how art, historical events and popular culture have influenced the design and symbolism of decorative weaponry. Stark Museum of Art. 409/886-ARTS
- 1-Oct. 25—PORT ARTHUR:** Rauschenberg Tribute Exhibition The competition is open to artists who are 18 years or older and whose work is inspired by and/or reflective of Robert Rauschenberg. Museum of the . www.museumofthegulfcoast.org 409/982-7000
- 1-Nov. 10—CORPUS CHRISTI:** Erick Schaudies: A Retrospective This is an exhibition of works of art by the K Space Art Studios' co-founder, who passed away in May 2008. K Space Contemporary, 415 Starr St. www.kspacecontemporary.org 361/887-6834
- 8-20—HOUSTON:** Grease Theatre Under the Stars. Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. www.tuts.com 713/558-TUTS or 888/558-3882
- 10-20—HOUSTON:** Manon Modern classic, charts the romantic adventures of an irresistibly beautiful femme fatale and her one true love. Houston Ballet. Wortham Theater Center. www.houstonballet.org 713/523-6300
- 11—HOUSTON:** Bats on the Bayou Guided tour is guaranteed to be mesmerizing and informative. Meet at Allen's Landing. www.buffalobayou.org 713/752-0314 ext. 4
- 12—HOUSTON:** Museum District Day 2009 Features exhibitions, activities, demonstrations and performances. 4200 Montrose Blvd. www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org 713/790-1020
- 13—BAYTOWN:** Children's Festival at Yepez Vineyard Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Yepez Vineyard. www.yepezvineyard.com 281/573-4139 or 281/804-3401
- 13—HOUSTON:** Third Annual Fiestas Patrias This event features live cultural music, dancing, food and more. Traders Village. www.tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500
- 18—GALVESTON:** Smokey Robinson Features Robinson's timeless renditions of his hits. Begins at 8 p.m. The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894
- 18—VICTORIA:** Victoria Country Opry Begins at 7 p.m. Jaycee Hall. 361/552-9347
- 18-Jan. 3—CORPUS CHRISTI:** Menudo: Chicano Art from the Cheech Marin Collection Art Museum of South Texas. www.ArtMuseumOfSouthTexas.org 361/825-3500
- 18-Jan. 3—CORPUS CHRISTI:** Texas Modern: The Rediscovery of Early Texas Abstraction (1935-1965) Exhibition surveys three critical decades of abstract art. Art Museum of South Texas. www.ArtMuseumOfSouthTexas.org 361/825-3500
- 19—CORPUS CHRISTI:** Anyone Can Be a Birder! Learn how to enter the world of birding and to improve beginning skills. South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center. www.stxbot.org 361/852-2100
- 19—HOUSTON:** Birding Walk & Talk Begins at 8:30 a.m. Sheldon Lake State Park. 281/456-2800
- 19—LEAGUE CITY:** Bluegrass Show Features bluegrass from the local and national scene. Begins at 6:30 p.m. Johnny Arolfo Civic Center. www.bayareabluegrass.org
- 19—PORT NECHES:** Trade Day on the Avenue Shop antiques, collectables, vintage and shabby chic decor. Port Neches Avenue. 409/722-4023
- 19—PORT O'CONNOR:** Centennial Celebration Includes food, entertainment, games, historical presentations and more. Port O'Connor Community Center, Hwy. 185. 361/983-2658
- 19-20—HOUSTON:** Catfish Festival Enjoy hot and spicy catfish and music. Traders Village. www.tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500
- 19-20—ORANGE:** National Speed Boat Races Includes three classes, food, fun and amusements. City Boat Ramp, Simmons Drive. www.orangetexas.org 409/883-1011
- 20—HOUSTON:** First Houston Doll Club 33rd Doll Show & Sale Includes dolls and doll-related items from antiques to modern. Marriott Hotel Hobby Airport. E-mail: carolyndol@aol.com 409/945-2796

(Continued on Page 18)



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Texas Events - (Continued from Page 16)

24-26—HOUSTON: Weaving & Beyond: Contemporary Handweavers of Houston 25th Annual Sale Includes handwoven, hand-spun, hand-dyed and hand-felted linens, garments, accessories, tapestries, rugs, baskets and more. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft. www.crafthouston.org 713/529-4848

24-Oct. 4—HOUSTON: Without Boundaries Houston Ballet's fall repertory program. Wortham Theater Center. www.houstonballet.org 713/523-6300

24-Jan. 3—HOUSTON: Joaquin Torres-Garcia: Wood Constructions The Menil Collection. www.menil.org 713/525-9400

25-27—HOUSTON: Der Rosenkavalier — Film & Music After seeing Wiene's film Der Rosenkavalier, Strauss adapted his opera score for it. Houston Symphony. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. www.houstonsymphony.org

25-27—HOUSTON: 2009 Film & Video Festival Includes screenings of independent films, awards dinner, meet and greet, national and local television celebrities, and more. www.gulfcoastfilmfest.com 281/333-5804

25-27—HOUSTON: Italian Style Expo Includes food and wine tastings, luxury automobiles, runway shows, tourism seminars, replica Italian street market, language classes, musical concerts and

more. George R. Brown Convention Center. www.italianexpo.us 713/853-8089

26—HOUSTON: Seventh Annual Gospel Music Jubilee Features more than 15 performers from Southeast Texas. Traders Village. www.tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500

27—HOUSTON: Ninth Annual Volks in the Village Volkswagen Show Features show cars, vintage junkers, swap meet and vendors with VW memorabilia. Traders Village. www.nhvwclub.org 281/890-5500

29-Oct. 11—HOUSTON: Meet Me in St. Louis Theatre Under the Stars. Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. www.tuts.com 713/558-TUTS or 888/558-3882

30-Oct. 4—WINNIE: Texas Rice Festival Celebrates the rice harvest with family entertainment and down-home country flair. www.texasricefestival.org 409/296-4404

Texas Events has been published with the permission of the Texas Department of Transportation. All events are taken in part from the Texas Events Calendar. All dates for events were correct at the time of publication and are subject to change.

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Lakes on Eldridge North Market Report

	ACTIVE*	PENDING*	SOLD Last 6 Months*
# of Listings	17	5	51
Price Range:	339,999 795,000	345,000 635,000	273,000 975,000
Average Price	\$528,122	\$462,980	\$433,287
Avg price / sq.ft.	\$119.89	\$125.71	\$117.68
Avg DOM	105	100	51
Low Price / sq.ft.			\$80.50
High Price / sq.ft.			\$187.62



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Healthier Homes

Improve Neighborhood Air Quality ... Fragrance Free Dryer Exhaust

By: Charlie & Michelle Bubnis

Have you ever been walking in the neighborhood enjoying the fresh air and then suddenly you are hit by the sweet fragrant smell of a heated artificial, petrochemical based scent from someone's clothes dryer exhaust? Often times a headache will occur, similar to people's reaction to perfumes worn in the office or at church. This is a normal protective reaction by the body as these fragrances are harmful neurotoxins and should be avoided whenever possible. National surveys found that at least 10% of the population reacts adversely to laundry products vented to the outdoors. Young children are particularly affected by fragranced chemicals because their body's detoxification mechanism is not fully developed.

Some of the most common chemicals used in fragranced laundry products are benzyl acetate, camphor, ethyl acetate, limonene and pentane. Many of these substances are capable of causing cancer, birth defects, central nervous system disorders, allergic reactions and chemical sensitivities. Some are on the EPA's hazardous waste list. According to a joint study by NIOSH and the U.S. House Subcommittee on Business Opportunities, 778 of the chemicals used in the chemical fragrance industry cause acute toxicity.

So the next time you are considering picking up a box of fragranced laundry detergent or fragranced dryer sheets...think about the impact on the neighborhood air quality and the proliferation of second hand scents. Healthier options could be: Add baking soda to the rinse cycle, or add ½ cup vinegar to the wash cycle to soften fabrics and reduce static cling. Vinegar is a natural fabric softener.

Do the neighborhood a favor and make sure your dryer exhaust doesn't pollute the environment. Be kind to yourself and to your neighbors, use unscented laundry products.



(Continued on Page 21)



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FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DROWNING

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in children ages 1-4



DROWNING WILL AFFECT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW



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DROWNING CAN STILL OCCUR EVEN IF YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM

NO ONE is "drown proof" – no matter their level of swimming ability.

Falls, entrapments, and injuries lead to drowning regardless of swimming level.

A majority of people overestimate their own and their child's ability to swim, especially in a panic event.

DROWNING IS QUICK AND SILENT



Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as 4 minutes.



Most children are out of sight or missing for less than 5 minutes and usually in the presence of 1 or both parents.



Most children die who are submerged for as little as 6-10 minutes.

Children who drown do not **scream, splash, or struggle**. They silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.

Healthier Homes- (Continued from Page 20)

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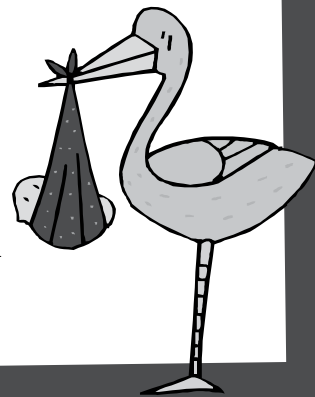
- <http://ehnca.org> – Fabric Softener = Health Risks from Dryer Exhaust and Treated Fabrics by Julia Kendall
- www.mcs-global.org – Could it be your Fabric Softener?
- www.physorg.com – Toxic Chemicals Found in Common Scented Laundry Products, Air Fresheners
- www.scorecard.org – enter your zip code and you can get information regarding air, water and chemical releases for your county

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

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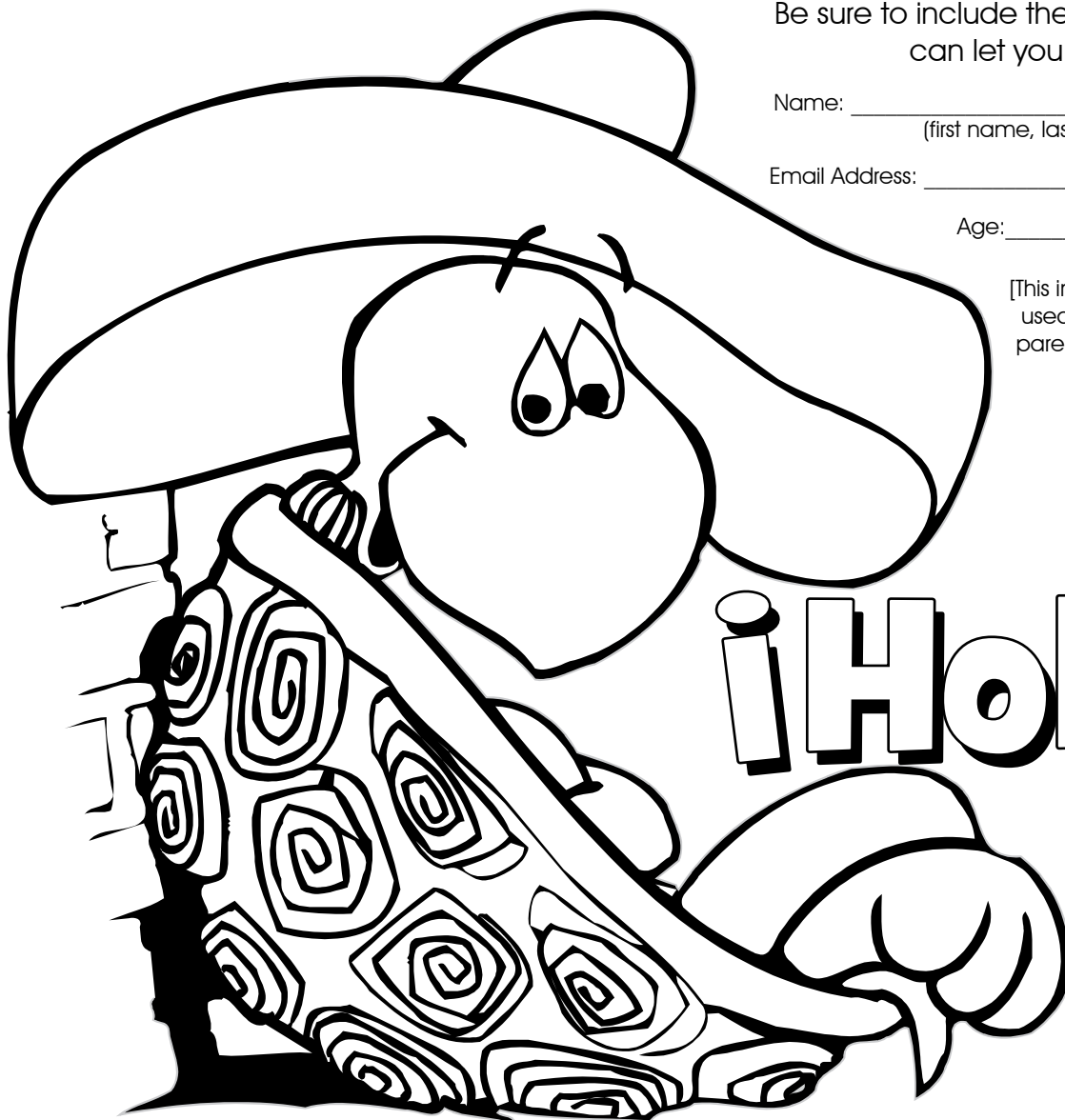
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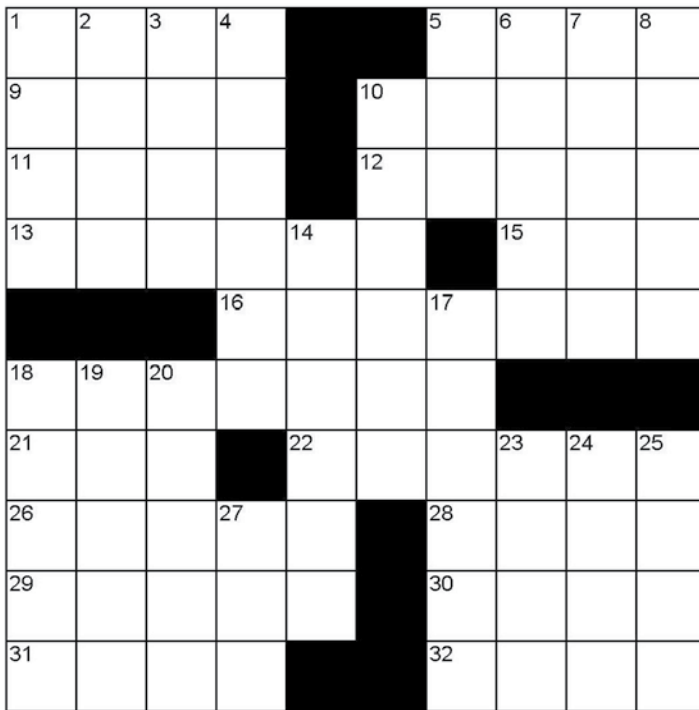
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Chunk
5. Tramp
9. Run
10. Confuse
11. Cain killed him
12. To that time
13. Fraud
15. Compass point
16. Taught
18. Hides
21. Brew
22. Large meals
26. Sheer, triangular scarf
28. Midwestern state
29. Electronic mail
30. First letter of the Arabic alphabet
31. September (abbr.)
32. Polish

DOWN

1. Attired
2. Earring need
3. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
4. Efface
5. Egg layer
6. Many times
7. Capital of Idaho
8. Eyed
10. Combustible material
14. Angry
17. Old Testament prophet
18. Fireproof storage areas
19. Climate
20. Summary
23. Fly alone
24. Matching
25. Secure
27. Whack

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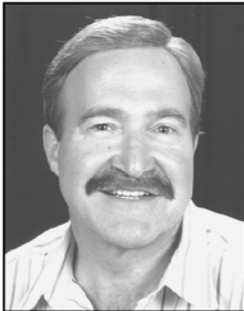
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