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The Beacon

News For The Residents at Lakes of Fairhaven

NORTH/WEST HOUSTON MOCHA MOMS PROMOTE READING AMONGST AFRICAN-AMERICAN KIDS

Submitted by Kurchelle Piccolo, Cypress Mill Resident

On September 18, 2010, the North/West Houston Chapter of Mocha Moms will launch a literacy program, Boys Booked on Barbershops (B-BOB)/ Girls Booked on Beauty-Shops (G-BOB) at "Sassy but Classy" Salon.

B-BOB/G-BOB is a program designed to promote literacy and the importance of reading to young, African-American children. The chapter will set up and stock a reading nook at Sassy's with age-appropriate books for children to read during their regular visits to the barbershop. These naturally-occurring encounters create a great opportunity for children to read and learn while making use of their wait time. The nook will feature books by and about African-Americans, with an emphasis on topics that interest the shop's clientele.

The program aligns with the Mocha Moms' national community service initiative, "Closing the Gap on Minority Prosperity, Health and Achievement." The North/West Houston chapter has collected over 55 donated books for the event and Scholastic, which has teamed with Mocha Moms on a national level, will provide additional books. The Mocha Moms will also be on hand to discuss ways parents can support the development of reading and other literacy skills at home.

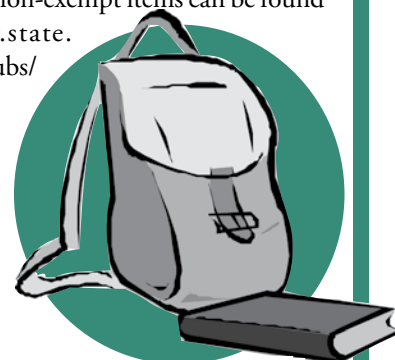
Hesma Stephens, President of the North/West Houston Chapter commented, "Painful reports have shown that despite some parent's level of education, African-American children have fewer resources available than other non-ethnic families. We are reinforcing our commitment to community by providing reading resources in social settings for boys and girls in an attempt to close the literacy gap".

The Mocha Moms anticipate over 30 families will attend the program's launch at Sassy's. The chapter plans to set up reading nooks at nine more locations at local barber and beauty-shops before year's end. Sassy's is located at South Barker Cypress Rd. (FM 1464) and Westheimer. The program will start at 11:00 a.m.

TEXAS ANNUAL TAX HOLIDAY AUGUST 20, 21 & 22

Texas shoppers get a break from state and local taxes on August 20, 21 and 22-the state's annual tax holiday. Lay-away plans can be used again this year at some stores to take advantage of the sales tax holiday.

The law exempts most clothing and footwear priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. Backpacks under \$100 and used by elementary and secondary students are also exempt. A backpack is a pack with straps one wears on the back. The exemption during the sales tax holiday includes backpacks with wheels, provided they can also be worn on the back like a traditional backpack, and messenger bags. The exemption does not include items that are reasonably defined as luggage, briefcases, athletic/duffle/gym bags, computer bags, purses or framed backpacks. Ten or fewer backpacks can be purchased tax-free at one time without providing an exemption certificate to the seller. A detailed list of exempt and non-exempt items can be found at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx98.



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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Bus Buddies Volunteer Program In Cypress-fairbanks Schools

WHAT IS BUS BUDDIES?

Bus Buddies is a partnership between the Cy-Fair community and Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District to provide assistance to elementary students to help them in getting off the bus at the correct location. The program requires one "Bus Buddy" per elementary bus the first three days of school. The approximate time commitment is from 2:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. on August 23, August 24 and August 25. Duties include assisting the bus driver with getting the children off the bus at their correct stops.

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

- (1) Attend one of the training sessions, if not previously trained.
- (2) Arrive and sign in at your assigned school where campus staff will assist you.
- (3) Enjoy helping the kids and driver!

Training Sessions will be held at The Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress Rd., Cypress, TX. on Monday, Aug.16 (9:30 – 10:30 a.m.), Tuesday, Aug.17 (7:30 – 8:30 a.m.) and Wednesday, Aug.18 (6:30 – 7:30 p.m.).

The Partners in Education (PIE) department is looking for Bus Buddy support similar to the 2009-10 school year when approximately 400 volunteers in the Cy-Fair community rode buses to assist the nearly 9000 riders and their drivers.

Interested volunteers can RSVP and register for a training session by visiting <http://www.cfisd.net> and selecting Bus Buddies. For additional information about the program, please contact the CFISD Partners in Education Department at 281-894-3949.

CY-FAIR STORM 8U SOFTBALL TEAM

Is Holding their 1st Annual Golf Tournament at Longwood Golf Club on October 1st.

We are looking for players as well as sponsors. For more information, please contact: cfstorm2002@yahoo.com.



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The MOMS Club® of Cypress / NW-Fairfield Moms Offering Moms Support

Welcomes all Stay-At-Home Moms in Fairfield and Lakes of Fairhaven

MOMS Club® is an international organization with a neighborhood feel! We are teachers, business women, counselors, chefs, CPA's and artists who have put those careers on hold and have made the choice to stay home with our kids.

MOMS Club® is a place to find friendship, support, playmates and sisterhood!


ALL events include our children and we believe there is something for every mom out there! Are you looking for park days, coffee breaks, lunch outings, (free) babysitting co-op, craft projects, time to sit and chat, cooking club, book club or someone to share dinner with when your husband is traveling or working late? We even find the time to meet once a month for a mom's night out for a great time to unwind. Or are you

interested in helping within the community with service projects? We have that! (And a whole lot more!)

Now that we are in the final month of summer vacation and children will be returning to school, it is a great time to make friends for our little ones who will still be at home with us. Our members are a wonderful resource for extracurricular activities and back to school advice. Come join other moms and kids in many great outdoor and indoor activities. Are you new to the area or a new mom and need a friend or support; we are here for you. Don't let yourself feel isolated being a stay at home mom. You can attend two events before joining. Our membership fee is only \$20 a year. The MOMS Club is a great opportunity for you and your kids to

make new friends in our area. Come visit our next all-member meeting and see for yourself! There is a lot of fun and support just waiting for you! Our next meeting is Tuesday, August 10th at 10AM at Fairfield Baptist Church room 208 located at 27240 Highway 290 in the front of Fairfield. We often have a guest speaker at our meetings discussing topics like finance, health, organization and other popular topics. As always, children welcomed!


For more information please contact Kathy Benevento, Membership VP at 832-220-6138, kathy.benevento@yahoo.com or Lisa Rhody, President at 281-746-7607, trvlinsider@yahoo.com.



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Aggie Moms Gather for the New School Year *Tuesday, August 10, 2010*

Come join all the Aggie Moms in the Northwest Harris County area for a fun filled night at our "Howdy Party"! The August meeting includes an interactive evening in which you learn more about life at Aggieland, how we support our Aggie students, and also meet lots of great Aggie Moms. A wonderful group of former yell leaders will be there to help us learn more about the Aggie traditions and whoop it up!

The NW Harris County Aggie Moms supports our Aggie students through scholarships and donations to campus organizations that enrich the Texas A&M experience. We also support each other through shared experiences with our students at Texas A&M University and develop wonderful friendships.

The August meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10th at 7 pm at the Houston Distributing Company conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall at the corner of 7100 High Life Drive and Cutten Road. Please check our website at www.nwhcaggiemoms.org for more information or contact Vickie Hamley at 713-466-4494. We look forward to meeting all our Aggie Moms!

Fall Aggie Mom's Meeting *Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

All Aggie Moms, new, current, and former, are invited to attend our September meeting for the Northwest Harris County Aggie Moms Club. Our organization is designed to support our Aggie students through scholarships and donations to the many campus organizations. Aggie Moms support each other by sharing the joys and trials of parenting Aggie students through this important time in their lives.

You won't want to miss our first fall meeting with speaker, Jacob Robinson, the current Texas A&M University student body president. He is currently getting a degree in Public Relations and plans to graduate in 2011. His goal as president is to elevate the Aggie experience and preserve the traditions that define what it means to be an Aggie.

Please come and join us for refreshments and learn more about what Aggie students will experience at Texas A&M University. The meeting will be held at 7 pm at the Houston Distributing Company conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall at the corner of 7100 High Life Drive and Cutten Road.

Check our our website at www.nwhcaggiemoms.org for important upcoming events or contact Vickie Hamley at 713-466-4494 for more information. Gig'Em Aggies!

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Business Networking International of Northwest Area Hosts First Annual Business Strategies Expo

Professionals throughout the community are invited to attend.

THE LOCAL CHAPTERS OF BNI, Business Networking International invites business professionals within the community to attend its "Business Strategies Expo" for innovative networking opportunities on September 9, 2010 at Northwest Forest Conference Center, from 10am -2pm. A light lunch will be available.

Based on the concept of "Givers Gain," or, by giving business to others, you will get business in return, the purpose of this dedicated event is to allow many individuals from diverse businesses to meet and exchange information as well as be able to introduce themselves and their businesses to first time attendees.

The economy is such where members of the northwest BNI chapters really wanted a light hearted, yet impactful way to tap

into our resources to share referrals and opportunities within the community at large. Houston Executive Director, Kathy Mathy says, "We are excited to share the many benefits of BNI membership through such a unique venue. Our group expects this inaugural expo to draw a sizeable crowd of professionals, members and potential members to future meetings, workshops on networking, tradeshow and other events."

The event will also feature many local businesses, door prizes and other giveaways. The prime sponsor for this expo, is Home Comfort Solutions.

The West Houston chapters began in 1993 and includes than 850 members. They are part of BNI worldwide, which boasts 60,000+ members.

For more information contact
Darlene Hajduk
713-939-9730
dhajduk@prolinesupply.cc

ABOUT BNI

Founded in 1985, BNI meetings are held weekly with a mission to help members increase their business through a structured, positive, and professional "word-of-mouth" program that enables them to develop long-term, meaningful relationships with quality business professionals. In total, BNI has generated over \$2.6 billion dollars (U.S.) worth of business for its members! BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter.

Electricity is **ON SALE** at StarTex Power!



Alan "Petrodamus" Lammey, host of 'Energy Week', can be heard every Sunday on 1070 KNTH in Houston.

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LONE STAR COLLEGE *CyFair "Perspective"*

PRIDE AND PASSION: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN BASEBALL EXPERIENCE ENDS AUG. 27 - How much do you know about the impact African-American baseball players made on America's favorite pastime? Find out at the Pride and Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience, a new traveling exhibition on display through Aug. 27 at Lone Star College-CyFair. One of the August library events is a Players Day at the Exhibition with a meet and greet format set Aug. 10. For a full schedule of activities and information, go to LoneStar.edu/library/prideandpassion or call 281.290.5276.

COURSES FOR AGES 50 AND BETTER AVAILABLE - The Academy for Lifelong Learning (A.L.L.) at Lone Star College-CyFair offers adults, 50 years and older, leisure classes, lectures and informal activities. A.L.L. class fall registration will be held 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 28 in the Conference Center. The fall session will include a diverse set of classes in areas such as gardening, travel, history, health care, photography, woodwork, art and many others. A.L.L. has an annual membership fee of \$20 (September 2010-August 2011), which entitles members to student discounts, and the use of the college's fitness center. Join A.L.L. for a great experience with like-minded people for whom learning has never gone out of style. For information, call the Continuing Education office at 281.290.3460 or go to LoneStar.edu/cyfair-all.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR FALL - Fall registration continues at Lone Star College-CyFair and Lone Star College-Fairbanks Center. Workforce certificates, 2-year degrees and more are available. Choose day, evening, weekend or online classes. Weekday classes start Aug. 30. Weekend classes start Sept. 10-12. Call 281.290.3200 or 832.782.5000 for information; go online to LoneStar.edu; or visit one of our conveniently located campuses at 9191 Barker Cypress or 14955 Northwest Freeway.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATIONS AND FREE PREMIERE DAY - Take a tour, learn about campus programs, meet with an advisor, choose a schedule and register for summer and fall classes. Free sessions continue through August for new, transfer and non-traditional students as well as family orientations. Space is limited so pre-register online LoneStar.edu/cyfair-orientation. Call 281.290.3430 or e-mail cfoutreach@lonestar.edu. The Student Activities Department will host a free Premiere Day Aug. 27 for new students with an overview of campus resources and services, "campus secrets", motivational keynote, prizes and more. RSVP to cfcstudentactivities@lonestar.edu by Aug. 18. Call 281.290.3270 for information.

L.I.F.E. LESSONS IN AUGUST - The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library (Room 131.) Programs in August include "Cypress Once Had a Rodeo and a Hot Artesian Well!" Aug. 4; "If it Ain't Got That Swing" Aug. 11; "Touring Taste of Dance Salad Festival" Aug. 18 and "An Unexamined Life" Aug. 25. Call the library at 281.290.3214 for L.I.F.E. program information or go online to LoneStar.edu/library.

LSC-CYFAIR OPENS NEW VIDEO PRODUCTION CLASSES! Professor David Potts is teaching three new courses for those interested in video production. Learn to direct your own multi-camera video program in our four camera, fully-equipped television studio in RTVB 1325 TV Studio Production; use computers with the latest software to edit your digital videos in the introductory course ARTV 1351 Digital Video; and create your own independent video from start to finish using professional video equipment in IMED 1391 ST: Media Design.

For information on these classes call 281.290.3292. Fall classes start Aug. 30 so register now at lonestar.edu/registration.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Casino Night**
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- **Christmas Wreaths**
>Aug. 30th – Oct 25th
- **Homecoming Mums**
>Sept. 23rd
- **Texan Football Concessions**
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- **Denim & Diamonds**
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- **Golf Tournament**
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Developing Healthy Eating Habits in Young Children

By Therese Thompson

Bread and Jam for Frances, written by Russell Hoban and illustrated by Lillian Hoban, is a story that resonates with parents who struggle with their children at mealtime. It's a tale about Francis, an adorable character who will only eat jam and bread. Out of desperation, Francis' mom decided to feed Frances only jam and bread at every meal. It doesn't take long for Francis to discover that mealtimes are much more delicious and interesting with various foods other than bread and jam.

As parents of a young child, mealtime can be frustrating and overwhelming – just as it was for Francis' mom. It may be tempting to add fruits and vegetables to the child's meal to trick them into eating healthier, but is not at all advisable. This behavior perpetuates a cycle of unhealthy control. When children are tricked, they can become distrustful of their parents by being deceived. As well, they won't have the opportunity to try and appreciate nutrition and enjoy healthful eating.

Fortunately, children can be taught to be healthy eaters. According to the American Dietetic Association, partnering with a child rather than critiquing will help them on the right track. By giving children choices and control over what they eat will empower them to make

better decisions. By involving children in the food selection and cooking process, they become excited and proud of what they've created.

Start early and teach by example. It's no secret that children learn by watching and copying what they see. Parents' food preferences and food-intake patterns are a big influence on what children eat. By setting an example of nutritious eating habits and providing children with repeated opportunities to sample new foods, at least some of them will be accepted.

Gardening is another way to encourage children to make good food choices. Not only is it rewarding for children and parents, it helps children make a connection with the earth. Peas, strawberries, tomatoes, zucchini and beans are simple to plant and grow, and are easy for children to harvest. These fruit and vegetable choices can also be eaten raw directly from the garden.

It's important to remember that nutrition is an essential building block for children. Healthy, active and well-nourished children are better prepared for school and are more motivated to learn. By having fun with food, children will have fun with it also.

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Girl Scouts are Recycling & Keeping Houston Beautiful!

What can you recycle?

Lots of things can be recycled. Paper, cans, plastics, and glass can all be recycled. These are just some of the things the City of Houston recycles:

- Newspapers and magazines.
- Aluminum and steel cans.
 - A soda pop can is made of aluminum.
 - A soup can is an example of a can made of steel.
 - Empty aerosol cans are ok, too, because they are made of steel.
- Plastic soft drink and detergent bottles labeled with a 1 or 2.
- Glass jars and bottles.

It's especially important to recycle paper. Cans, plastics and glasses are each less than 10% of household waste. We throw away four times that much paper. Remember to store your recyclables in the garage or in some other safe, dry area. Keep collecting them until it's recycling day at your house - when you set them out for curbside pickup or drop them off at a recycling center.

How do you prepare items for recycling?

Sort materials, rinse containers, and store in a safe, dry place. It's easy. With a little practice, it takes less than five minutes a day. Sort your materials and rinse any leftover contents from containers so your items won't begin to smell bad or attract ants and bees. Here is how the City of Houston wants you to sort materials and get them ready to recycle.

- Newspapers: place in paper bags, stack and store.
- Cans: empty, rinse and store.
- Plastic containers: empty, rinse, flatten and store.
- Glass containers: empty and rinse. Separate by color - clear, brown, and green. Store unbroken.
- Motor oil: drain and store in a sealed container.

How does Houston recycle?

The City collects all the recyclable materials we've talked about - and many more. The City of Houston offers several recycling opportunities which include:

- Curbside program
- Wood waste recycling
- Yard waste
- Neighborhood depositories
- Household hazardous waste
- Staffed recycling hotline
- Used oil
- Consumer drive-thru facility
- Christmas tree recycling
- Office paper recycling

The City of Houston has set up several programs to recycle many different types of materials. But it's people, not programs that make recycling work. We have to change the way we've been throwing things out for years. When we persuade everybody to recycle, and we all work together, recycling becomes more effective. It's up to each of us to make the effort.

So if you haven't been recycling, get started. And if you already recycle, keep saving things to reuse. Support anything that helps the environment and cuts down waste. Here is a case where everyday actions can have a direct and immediate impact on the world around us.

The answer to our garbage problem begins in our homes and at our curbside. Recycling starts with you. The City staffs a recycling hotline, call to find out what is recyclable, the proper way to dispose of trash, and where to take recyclables. The number is 713-837-0311.

This earth saving message is brought to you by the City of Houston and Girl Scouts of San Jacinto. Visit www.houstonbeautiful.org to download a free Recycling Activity Book.



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Tips and Guidelines

How Should You Prepare For Power Outages?

- In the event of severe weather, such as a hurricane, power outages are likely to occur.
- For widespread power outages, CenterPoint Energy has a restoration process by priorities that will be followed in the event of a major storm.
- When a major storm is forecast, all customers should plan to be without power for an extended amount of time following landfall.
- If someone in your home depends on electricity for life-sustaining equipment, you need to make other arrangements. Evacuation would be a good option.
- Turn off your electricity at the circuit breaker if you evacuate and expect flood water to approach your home.
- Unplug sensitive electrical appliances, such as TV and computers.
- Maintain line clearance from trees and weak limbs.
- What should you do following a major storm or hurricane?
- Limit calls to CenterPoint Energy during the first few days to only true emergencies. CNP's technology indicates locations in the case of widespread power outages.
- The company's first priority in restoring service is to key facilities vital to safety,

health and welfare, such as hospitals, water treatment plants and public service facilities. Second priorities are the major lines and circuits that will restore power to the greatest number of customers in the shortest amount of time. Third priority, we repair transformers, which typically serve 10 customers and finally fourth priority, we repair individual electric service drops to homes.

- Restoration times can vary for severe weather event. Under CenterPoint Energy's restoration process, your neighbor's power may be restored before yours if there is a problem with your individual service drop.
- Stay away from low-hanging or downed power lines. Treat all downed power lines as if they are energized. Report low-hanging or downed power lines to (713) 207-2222.
- Avoid standing water – energized power lines could be submerged in the water.
- If you have evacuated and want to check your home for electric service, please do not call CenterPoint Energy in the first few days following the storm. Instead, we suggest: leave your answering machine activated and call your house to check if it picks up, call neighbors, monitor the news, and check website CenterPointEnergy.com for general outage information.

- Do not connect generators directly to wiring in a house or building without having a licensed electrician disconnect the wiring from CenterPoint Energy's service. It can create a safety hazard for CenterPoint Energy's lineman.
- Never run generators indoors or in a garage. Gasoline-powered generators can produce carbon monoxide, and the odorless fumes can be deadly.
- What should you do if your electrical outlets are covered with water or you have damage to weatherhead or other electrical facilities?
- Contact a licensed electrician before turning on the main circuit breaker.
- Check your weatherhead, which connects the overhead power line to your home or business. Any weatherhead problems will need to be repaired by your electrician prior to CNP restoring service. (Your electrician should obtain all permits required prior to you contacting CNP for a work order.)
- Any submerged appliances or equipment will need to dry for at least one week and be checked by a qualified repair person prior to being turned on.
- Once all repairs have been made to your electrical equipment, then contact your provider and they will issue a work order to CenterPoint Energy to begin work and restore your service.

HURRICANE	WIND SPEED	ESTIMATED OUTAGE
CATEGORY 1	Winds 74-95 mph	7 to 10 days
CATEGORY 2	Winds 96-110 mph	2 to 3 weeks
CATEGORY 3	Winds 111-130 mph	3 to 5 weeks
CATEGORY 4	Winds 131-155 mph	4 to 6 weeks
CATEGORY 5	Winds 156 mph and up	6 to 8 weeks

CenterPoint Energy Customer Service Contact:

Electric Service: 1 (800) 332-7143 or (713) 207-2222

Gas Service: 1 (800) 752-8036 or (713) 659-2111

CenterPointEnergy.com/stormcenter





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Machrowicz Team to work for you!!*

- Marketing on multiple websites for 24/7 exposure of your home
- Don & Jeanne Machrowicz have over 30 years of real estate experience
- Honored by the Houston Business Journal as one of the top 25 residential real estate teams in the city
- Flexible commission plans

Lakes of Fairhaven Year-to-Date Sales Report

	Sept '09	Oct '09	Nov '09	Dec '09	Jan '10	Feb '10	Mar '10	Apr '10	May '10	June '10
\$500,000 and above	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
\$451,000--\$499,999	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
\$351,000--\$450,000	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	2
\$276,000--\$350,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$231,000--\$275,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$201,000--\$230,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$200,000 and below	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	4	6
Highest \$/sq ft	\$125.92	-	-	\$108.95	\$76.81	-	\$93.78	-	\$97.68	\$111.26

This information is taken from the Houston Multiple Listing Service

**FOR OUTSTANDING AGENTS &
OUTSTANDING RESULTS....**

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*Thinking
about a career
in real estate?
Schedule a confidential
conversation with Jeanne
at 713.582.3131.*