

Volume 10, Issue 1 January 2011 Official Newsletter www.lakesoneldridge.net

LOE Architectural Guidelines: Decks and Exterior Structures

This article is part of an occasional series that highlights key provisions of the Lakes on Eldridge Architectural Guidelines. The Guidelines were designed to provide an attractive, coordinated environment and ensure that improvements have quality materials and workmanship. The topic of this month's article is Decks and Exterior Structures, which are covered in Section 4.4 of the Guidelines.

Decks and other exterior structures, including gazebos, storage buildings, playhouses, playground sets, greenhouses, arbors, outdoor kitchens, etc. require approval by the Committee and may require screening from public view. These improvements must meet the following minimum requirements in order to be considered for approval:

- No ancillary structure will be approved for installation in a front or side yard.
- Under no circumstances may a structure exceed 12 feet in height, measured from the lowest surface elevation of the lot. Sheds and similar structures that are visible from common areas or other homes will be limited to 8 feet in height.
- Structures must be constructed of materials compatible in quality, style, and color to the main house. Alternative materials may be considered for sheds that are not visible from a common area or other homes.
- Structures must not encroach on easements or building setback lines.

The Architectural Guidelines are available for viewing and download on LOE's intranet site. Visit www.lakesoneldridge. net and click on the "Resident Login" link. If you have not created an account, you will need to do so to access the site. Once in the site, look for the navigation box labeled "Association" on the left hand side and click on "Design Guidelines".





Once again this Christmas season, our residents' lighting displays left our judges with some difficult decisions to make! Whether or not you were selected as a winner, know that your displays helped to make our community a festive and cheery home for the holidays and were appreciated by our residents.

As was done last year, a winner was selected for each neighborhood. This year, five overall winners were also selected, up from 3 overall winners last year. Overall winners were picked from among the neighborhood winners by Girl Scout Cadet Troop #20007 from the St. Michael Catholic School.

Congratulations to the following winners of the 2010 Christmas Lighting Contest!

(Continued on Page 2)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AMI						
Gate Attendant						
Waterfowl, Betty Burkett713-302-9929						
Sheriff - (non-emergency)713-221-6000						
Cy-Fair Fire Department - (emergency)281-466-6161						
(non-emergency)						
Poison Control1-800-764-7661						
Texas DPS713-681-1761						
Waste Management						
(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)						
SouthWest Water Company 713 405 1750						
Harris County Tax Office						
Reliant Energy 713-207-7777						
CenterPoint (gas)						
Center Point (street light)713-207-2222						
(give pole # of street which is out)						
Comcast						
Houston Chronicle713-220-7211						
Metro Transit Info713-635-4000						
Kirk Elementary 713-849-8250						
Truitt Middle School						
Cy-Falls High School						
Cy-Ridge High School						
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- Ask about our Shelter Adoption Package at no charge!
- Come by anytime for a tour and meet Dr. Malinowski!

Christmas Lighting Contest - (Continued from Cover Page)

OVERALL & NEIGHBORHOOD WINNERS

Bristol Banks - 5310 Bristol Banks Crescent Banks - 12911 Silent Shores Crescent Bay - 12508 Still Harbor Crescent Cove - 12922 Lake Center Run Indigo Falls - 12217 Summerland Ridge

NEIGHBORHOOD WINNERS

Auburn Shores - 12103 Millstream Bay Meadows - 5518 Chase Harbor Bristol Waters - 5110 Indian Shore Lane Crystal Falls - 12331 Lake Shore Ridge Eagle Bend - 12703 Turlock Court Eagle Cove - 12555 Cherry Bend Lane Eden Springs - 5603 Indigo Isle Lake Shore Estates - 5410 Morning Breeze Pebble Way - 12518 Whispering Sands Court Pelican Point - 5522 Lake Place Drive

Many thanks to Makenna Bright, Maria Del Firo, Emilia Fishburn, Gemma Valdes, Meghan Lokay, Karissa Kristan, and Sarah Boatwright of Girl Scout Troop Number 20007, and to the social committee, our judges, and last but not least to all of the residents who lighted their yards this season!

ible Stu

The Lakes on Eldridge Bible Study group will resume study on January 11, 2011 at the LOE Club House. The Book of James is the focus of our study this Winter/Spring session. This twelve week study from the NavPress[™] Life Change Series covers an Overview of the book, Facing Trials, Trial or Temptation?, Doing What You Hear, No Favorites, Genuine Faith, Controlling the Tongue, Wisdom, Whose Friend?, More on Pride, Patience and Prayer, and a final review.

James is believed to have been the brother of our Lord Jesus Christ. He understood and lived by the Jewish Law. He also understood that the meek would inherit the Kingdom of God, the persecuted are blessed, and true believers in Jesus Christ live the life that Jesus demonstrated. Fortunately for us, he recorded his faith in a letter to the twelve tribes of Israel so that they too would understand the path to the eternal kingdom.

Please join us for this important study at 9:15 AM for fellowship, and study from 9:30 to 10:30, then prayer and praises from 10:30 to 11:30.If you would like to pre-register, please email Stephanie at mrstjl10179@gmail.com. Study guides are available for \$10.00.

My TOP 10 new years Check List!

Clean out the old and de-clutter, it's a new year!!

Have your Air Conditioning and Heating System checked and cleaned: if replacement is needed, January/February is the best times to purchase.

Lighten and brighten your home: clean windows, replace burned-out bulbs, and replace dated light fixtures.

 Freshen the kitchen with new faucets and hardware, granite isn't always necessary.

Make your bathroom shine; clean and repair grout in showers and tubs, consider having old shower doors

☑ Nothing says freshness like new paint, and often it is the replaced. most cost effective way to give any room in your house

a face lift. For a bigger kitchen face lift look into refinishing your cabinetry or painting it. If it is time to update kitchen appliances, the most economical time of year is September/October.

Check and maintain your front door's appearance and working condition; if the finish is worn have it redone. Cleaning the doors will help the finish last longer.

Dever wash your patio, driveway, walkways and house. It will make everything look fresh.

Check potential water hazards by checking your sprinkler system, making sure the heads are not spraying windows Repair and replace calking around windows and joints as needed.

Enjoy your home to the max while you live there. When it's time to move, I can help with all your Real Estate needs!

Ann Pearson K



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BookClu

Book Club tries to cover a wide variety of topics so we each get out of our comfort zone and read something different. Each book is available through the Harris County Library. Consider joining us to discuss them! We meet on the 4th Monday of each month at a member's home. Call Celeste at 713-896-6942 for location or additional information. Also, if you have a book recommendation please drop her a note at celeste.fritz@gmail.com

RECENT AND UPCOMING BOOKS:

- January 24, 2011 American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House by Jon Meacham. Andrew Jackson, his intimate circle of friends, and his tumultuous times are at the heart of this remarkable book about the man who rose from nothing to create the modern presidency. Beloved and hated, venerated and reviled, Andrew Jackson was an orphan who fought his way to the pinnacle of power, bending the nation to his will in the cause of democracy.
- *February 28, 2011* A Conspiracy of Paper by David Liss. Benjamin Weaver, a Jew and an ex-boxer, is an outsider in eighteenth-century London, tracking down debtors and felons for aristocratic clients. The son of a wealthy stock trader, he lives estranged from his family, until he is asked to investigate his father's sudden death. Thus Weaver descends into the deceptive world of the English stock jobbers, gliding between coffee houses and gaming houses, drawing rooms and bordellos. The more Weaver uncovers, the darker the truth becomes, until he realizes that he is following too closely in his father's footsteps--and they just might lead him to his own grave. An enthralling historical thriller, A Conspiracy of Paper will leave readers wondering just how much has changed in the stock market in the last three hundred years.

Yoga, Nia, and Relaxation Meditation Practice



After a long day, come stretch and unwind with some gentle yoga and relaxation meditation. No experience or flexibility needed except for a willing heart and open mind, and it is open to all residents free of charge. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat (borrowing mats are available at the class).

Meetings in January will be in the Lakes on Eldridge Club House at 7:30 pm on

the 4th, 11th, 13th, 18th (if there is no meeting that evening), 20th, and 25th.

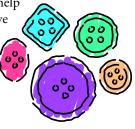
Contact Jennifer Adams, adamsjjenn@gmail.com and 713-466-1346 for more information.

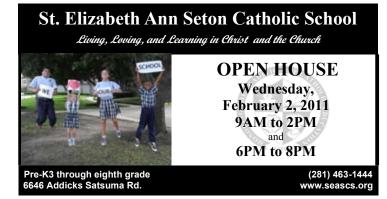
Stitch & Chat

Members of Stitch and Chat meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at the LOE Beach Club House. We knit, crochet, do needle point, embroidery, and counted cross stitch, plus mend items and sew on buttons that we have put off much too long. We make quilts for family members, shawls for cancer patients, and caps for newborn babies. We would love to have you join us for coffee and conversation. We would be happy to help

and conversation. We would be happy to help you get started on any project that you have always wanted to do.

You do not have to be a resident of Lakes on Eldridge to join us. For more information contact: Catherine Spellings at CTSpellings@aol.com, or call 713-628-7083 or 713-896-1652.

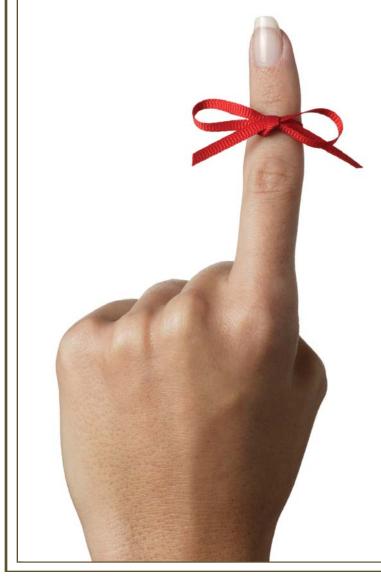






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BUNCO JUNKIES

Members of Bunco Junkies meet & play at the LOE Beach Club House on the 1st Thursday of each month from 12 noon until 2 pm. We must have 12 players each month to be able to play. Please speak to your friends & neighbors and ask them to join us in this easy and fun game. Players do not have to be residents of Lakes on Eldridge to play.

For more information contact Catherine Spellings at CTSpellings@aol.com, or call 713-628-7083 or 713-896-1652.

Recipe of the Month Picante Sauce

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. peppers (bell, banana, & jalapeno; according to how hot you want the sauce; the seeds of the jalapeno peppers add a lot of WARMTH!)
- 3 onions
- 3 qts. tomatoes
- 3/4 C sugar
 4-5 cloves garlic
 2 T salt
- 1 C vinegar

DIRECTIONS

Scald tomatoes and peel. Quarter and place in large pot. Chop peppers, onions, and garlic; and mix with tomatoes. Add sugar, vinegar and salt. Simmer slowly several hours until the sauce is the desired consistency. Pour into sterilized jars. Close and invert to seal. (*I pressure mine for 5 minutes at 5 # pressure.*)

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3 Steps to Kick-Start your Career in 2011

By Amy Wolfgang, M.Ed.

It's a new year and many of us spend this time evaluating different aspects of our lives: our health, our finances, and our career. Below are the 3 most important actions you can take to kick-start your career in 2011!

IDENTIFY YOUR CAREER GOALS

Before you can begin to make changes in your career, you need to identify what you are looking to change. Identify a few career goals that you want to achieve in 2011. Sample goals include:

- Develop new skills in a particular area
- Make a lateral move at your company
- Earn a promotion
- Start a new job in a different industry

Once you know what you want to achieve you can begin the work to make those changes happen.

Action Item: Write down your career goals for 2011. This does not need to be a formal document, but write them down on paper or type them into a document.

GET YOUR RESUME IN SHAPE

When was the last time you updated your resume? For some it was years ago when they last applied to a job. For others, it was only a few months ago. Regardless of when you viewed your resume last, now is the time to review it and make sure it includes all of your latest accomplishments.

Look at the bullet points on your resume and ask yourself the following questions:

- Do they describe your responsibilities or do they focus on results? A good resume focuses on what you accomplished rather than the tasks that filled your day.
- Is your resume attractive to read or is it too dense with information? Sometimes it can be hard to edit your own work.

We feel a personal connection to what we have accomplished and we should, however, we do not need to include every accomplishment for every position we have ever held. *Action Items:* Review the bullet points on your resume and make sure your accomplishments jump out. Then make sure your resume is easy to read. Ask others to help you decide what you should and should not keep on your resume.

DEVELOP CONNECTIONS

Finding a new job typically takes more than just applying for a position on a website. You need to tap into the hidden job market by making connections with other professionals. These connections can often help get your resume on top of the pile in front of the hiring manager. Additionally, knowing people at the company you are applying to can help you understand the culture better and the type of individuals that succeed at that company. Developing relationships now will help you in the future, even if you are happy at your current job.

Are you already using professional social networking sites? Great. Are you utilizing them effectively? Have you recently added connections to your sites? Have you joined all relevant groups on the sites?

Professional social networking sites are an important tool to use in a tech-savvy town like Austin, Texas. Once you are connected virtually, it's time to start making an effort to connect with people in your network. Take them to coffee or schedule a phone conversation. You want individuals to keep you in the front of their mind for when an opportunity comes up. Remember, part of developing relationships is reciprocating. It's a two way street. Think about how you can help the individual you are connecting with and offer that help.

Action Items: Join professional social networking sites and "invite" those you know to join your network. Then search for good contacts to have personal meetings and conversations with.

In a tight job market, you need every advantage you can get. These actions will give you a leg up and lead to a great career in 2011!

Good Luck!



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HOME TRENDS IN LOEN & LOE

2009 / 2010	LAKES ON ELDRIDGE NORTH			LAKES ON ELDRIDGE		
QUARTER	# of Homes Listed	# of Homes Sold	Absorption Rate	# of Homes Listed	# of Homes Sold	Absorption Rate
Quarter 1	35	17	48.5%	23	4	17.3%
Quarter 2	27	21	77.7%	27	16	59.2%
Quarter 3	14	10	71.4%	20	9	45.0%
Quarter 4	20	6	30.0%	13	6	46.0%
Total	96	54	Avg: 56.9%	83	35	42.1%

Thank

Absorption rate = sold/listed x 100

Special Thanks to all who participated in the food drive for February & March.

DANIELLE GEBARA

Resident of Lakes on Eldridge North

832-788-6002 danielle@dgebara.com Proud to be involved!



Top Listing Agent in LOEN 2008 and 2009

Lakes on Eldridge

Turning New Years Resolutions Into ALL Year Resolutions

by Sarah S. Jordan, MS

January is here, and so is the tradition of making New Year's Resolutions. And many times, the tradition of breaking those resolutions. We find ourselves excited and motivated for the start of a new year, and within a few months we often experience frustration because we simply cannot stick with the resolutions we set.

I have been teaching fitness classes, personal training, and coordinating fitness programs for over a decade, and I see it every year. Gyms are packed from January through March, and then many members just seem to disappear or give up.

Here is my question. What can we do to stick with exercise and making healthy choices for twelve months out of the year instead of just three? It is not easy, but laying a proper and realistic foundation is the key. And remembering that if we do fall off the wagon, we need to hop right back on and not give up. As I have outlined in some of my previous articles, commitment, time management, setting measurable goals, and being realistic are all vital components to our success.

If a sedentary and overweight client begins training with me and says, "My goal is to lose 50 pounds in five weeks," that client is sure to fail before she even begins. That rate of weight loss is simply not healthy, realistic, or lasting. However, if the same client says, "My goal is to workout three days a week for 20-50 minutes each time and as a result, lose 50 pounds this year," she is off to a

(Continued on Page 11)





Turning New Years Resolutions - (Continued from Page 10)

great start! That goal is specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound.

People often ask me what my New Year's resolutions are, and to be honest, I don't really set them anymore. You see... I, too, have set resolutions many times in the past, and within weeks or months felt defeated and gave up because they were not realistic. Instead, I find myself setting little goals throughout the year, but they very rarely include numbers on a scale.

Setting "number goals" (ex: "I want to lose 20 pounds by May") certainly has its merit, but I encourage my clients to move toward setting the "How can I become a better and happier person/wife/ mother?" type of goals. And why limit ourselves to January? If you find something you want to do or become in March, set that goal right then and there, and create a specific plan of action that will get you there. Keeping a positive and realistic spin on our goal setting throughout the year will allow us to experience more success. And that is what matters in the end, right? Feeling successful and improved because of the things we learn along life's journey.

Here Are A Few Tips To Setting All Year Resolutions.

- Set S.M.A.R.T. goals. They should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely.
- Find what works for YOU. If joining a gym is not realistic for you,



find other activities, classes, and opportunities that don't involve a gym membership.

- Get support. That could be a close friend, spouse, personal trainer, meet up group, or coworker. Communicate your goals and have people in your corner cheering you on.
- Set goals that will better yourself and those around you. Ex: This month, I will go on more walks with my child. This month, I will clean up my eating. This month, I will start a gratitude journal. You will find that little changes equal huge improvements over time.
- If you set "number (weight) goals," remember that your beauty and worth do not lie in the numbers on the scale. Healthy weight loss is slow and steady at a rate of about one pound per week. To lose just one pound per week, you must burn 3,500 calories more than you consume, which is no easy task.
- Keep in mind that fitness and health are a lifestyle not a onemonth trial. Any movement is good movement, and many times, the hardest part of exercise is just getting it started.
- Nutrition is key. What goes into your mouth is just as important as the exercise you get.

We are all beautiful and have so much to offer this world. Here is to an amazing 2011!



Lakes on Eldridge

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HEALTH BRIEFS

PARENTS: BEWARE OF HOLIDAY WEIGHT TALK

Adults should pay attention to how they talk about their weight during this time of year and what impact it might have on young children, according to an expert at Baylor College of Medicine.

"Parents should model healthy living and behaviors and use caution when using words such as 'fat' and 'overweight' around children," said Dr. Leng Bang, assistant professor in the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at BCM.

Because children model what parents do, they may end up feeling guilt and shame in relation to food, said Bang. The most important thing to do is focus on the positive rather than the negative and beware of your influence on a child.

Bang suggests looking out for signs that a child may have a negative image of themselves due to their weight. Children may have a change in behavior and avoid school or social events because they worry about what people will think about them. They may feel anxiety or depression and use food to cope.

Consult a nutritionist or mental health professional if these signs are present, he advised.

SUGAR, HEART AND LIFE

A new program called Sugar, Heart and Life: A Guide to Living with Diabetes is available for people dealing with the disease. The interactive and fun program developed by Baylor College of Medicine's department of family and community medicine offers information on how individuals with type 2 diabetes can manage their diabetes. The SHL program includes recipes, practical tips and games on diet, exercise, and medication. The program allows users to follow a year in the life of the Gonzalez family as they learn more about managing diabetes and help them make decisions that will keep their family healthy.

All diabetes management recommendations contained in this program are consistent with clinical practice recommendations of the American Diabetes Association and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Recipe Box was adapted from heart healthy recipes from the National Heart,

Lung, and Blood Institute.

Sugar, Heart and Life can be found at www.bcm.edu/sbl.

TACKLE HUNGER IN TEXAS with the Souper Bowl of Caring!

Learn more at tacklehunger.org.

What would happen if every American that celebrates the Big Football Game donated one can of food or \$1 to fight hunger and poverty in their local community?

The result would be an astounding \$90 million in cash and cans to help feed the hungry, provide shelter to the homeless and help our neighbors in need.

With all eyes on North Texas this year as they host the Big Game, you can join the Souper Bowl of Caring and help make this vision a reality! For more than 20 years, groups all over the country have joined forces to demonstrate the power of caring. To date, more than \$71 million in cash and cans has been collected and 100% was donated in communities throughout the U.S. Every penny stays local and every collection matters!

THERE

HEATERATE

Last year, 1,900 schools, churches, businesses and grocery stores in Texas collected more than \$4.5 million for local charities that fight hunger and poverty. The need is growing and we need your help!

JOIN THE TEAM. GET STARTED TODAY!

ACCHERTER AND

- 1. REGISTER your school, church or business at tacklehunger. org and designate an organizer for your Souper Bowl of Caring event. You'll receive a free Resource Kit!
- 2. COLLECT money and/or canned foods anytime January 17-February 6, 2011. Super Bowl Sunday is February 6, 2011.
- 3. REPORT the amount of your collection to the Souper Bowl of Caring so it can be added to the national tally.
- 4. DONATE 100% of your collection to the charity of your choice in your own community.

A REPERTIE



Blackhorse Ranch Bridgeland **Coles Crossing** Copperfield Cypress Mill **Cypress Point Eagle Springs** Enchanted Valley Fairfield Fairwood Harvest Bend The Village Lakemont Lakes of Fairhaven Lakes of Rosehill Lakes of Savannah Lakes on Eldridge Lakes on Eldridge North Lakewood Grove Legends Ranch

Longwood **Oak Forest Riata Ranch** Shadow Creek Ranch Silverlake Steeplechase Stone Gate Summerwood Village Creek Villages of NorthPointe Willowbridge Willowlake Willow Pointe Winchester Country Winchester Trails Windermere Lakes Woodedge Village Wortham Villages



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Events

- **4, 11, 18, 25—CLUTE:** Brazosport Planetarium Show Begins at 7 p.m. Center for the Arts & Sciences. www.bcfas.org 979/265-3376
- 7-23—LEAGUE CITY: The Unexpected Guest Adapted from an Agatha Christie thriller. Clear Creek Community Theatre, 18091 Upper Bay Road. www.clearcreekcommunitytheatre. com 281/335-5228
- 8, 22—ARANSAS PASS: Farmers' Market/Trade Days Includes vegetables, arts & crafts, animals and more. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 130 W. Goodnight. www.aransaspass.org 361/332-6574
- 14-16—GALVESTON: Yaga's Chili Quest and Beer Fest Features a chili cook-off, live entertainment, 5K fun run/walk, margarita-making contest, jalapeno-eating contest and a washers tournament. 409/770-0999
- **15—LAKE JACKSON:** Bird Banding The public is invited to join workers collecting data on birds at the Bird Observatory. www.gcbo.org 979/480-0999

15—SAN BENITO: Market Days Plaza de San Benito. www. sanbenitochamber.org 956/399-5321

- 18—GALVESTON: Menard House Lecture Learn about Walter Mathis' collection in the Villa Finale in San Antonio. Menard House, 1605 33rd St. www.galvestonhistory.org/Special_ Lectures.asp 409/765-7834
- **18—HOUSTON:** Miami String Quartet & Arianna Zukerman Begins at 8 p.m. Stude Hall, Rice University. www. houstonfriendsofchambermusic.org 713/348-5400
- **19—GALVESTON:** Lost Bayou Historic District Walking Tour Meet at 16th Street and Avenue K at 9 a.m. for this 1.5-hour tour of this historic area. www.galvestonhistory.org 409/765-7834
- **21-22—BEAUMONT:** Hot Hearts Combines contemporary Christian messages and music with state-of-the-art video and light shows. www.hothearts.org 409/951-5400
- 22—BEAUMONT: Symphony of Southeast Texas Pops Concert Features selections from film composer John Williams, including music from Raiders of the Lost Ark, Star Wars and Harry Potter. Julie Rogers Theatre. www.sost.org 409/892-2257
- 22—EDNA: Snow Day & Winter Carnival Play in the snow, enter the snowman contest, and enjoy carnival games, clowns and more. Brackenridge Main Event Center. www. brackenridgepark.com 361/782-7272
- 22—GALVESTON: Monty Python's Spamalot The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894

22—LAKE JACKSON: Yvonne Washington with the Brazosport Jazz Orchestra The Clarion at Brazosport College.



www.clarion.brazosport.edu 979/230-3156

- 22—ORANGE: Great Explorers Family Day See paintings by some of America's greatest artist-explorers, create your own masterpiece, join a scavenger hunt and enjoy stories, games and refreshments. Stark Museum of Art. www.starkmuseum. org 409/886-2787
- 22—PORT ARANSAS: Port Aransas Garden Club Tour of Homes Morning bus tours are available at 9 and 11 a.m. Selfguided tours are between 1 and 5 p.m. Tickets required. Tour starts at the Port Aransas Community Center. 361/290-0301 or 361/876-8991
- **22—PORT ARTHUR:** Music Hall of Fame Show Includes a concert and induction ceremony into the Music Hall of Fame. Bob Bowers Civic Center. 409/548-4444 or 409/985-7822
- 27-28—HOUSTON: The Peking Acrobats Features daring maneuvers, powerful precision, spellbinding contortion and live music. Jones Hall. www.spahouston.org
- **29—HOUSTON:** Tango Buenos Aires: Fire and Passion of Tango Jones Hall. www.spahouston.org
- **29—PEARLAND:** Winterfest Includes snow, dancing horses, pony rides, petting zoo live entertainment and more. Independence Park. www.pearlandparks.com 281/652-1673
- **29-30—GALVESTON:** The Oak Ridge Boys Performances at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894
- **29-Apr. 3—BEAUMONT:** Southeast Texas Art: Cross-Currents and Influences This exhibit examines connections between Southeast Texas artists and early Texas modernists from 1925–75. Art Museum of Southeast Texas. www.amset.org 409/832-3432

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*Realtor Teams per Remax 9/2008, 3/2009

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