



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE

Volume 10, Issue 3
March 2011

Official Newsletter
www.lakesoneldridge.net

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL

Santa's Toy Drive



We do not want another month to go by without thanking all who helped last December! The annual Children's Christmas Party and Santa's Toy Drive was held on the 10th. Santa Claus made an appearance to ask our boys and girls what they wanted for Christmas, and to pick up the many gifts donated by our families to less fortunate children. The weather was just perfect for the hay rides around the neighborhood to look at the wonderful Christmas lights. Back in the clubhouse, children had their

photos taken with Santa, and enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate, coloring, and crafts. The adults also enjoyed the cookies and beverages, as well as good company!

A big thank you then to the many residents who so generously donated to this most worthy cause. Also, many thanks to the tireless team who arranged and set up the event, brought food and beverage for all to enjoy, organized the hay ride, took photographs of the kids with Santa,
(Continued on Page 2)

NOTICE

Please Send Contractors and Guests to Eldridge Gate

Residents are reminded that the two access gates on Tanner Road (Ginger Ponds and Heather Run) are for use by residents only. Use of the access gates by visitors has been problematic. Ignorance of the policy and a willful desire to "short cut" the Eldridge gate are some obvious reasons for visitors to use the back gates. When questioned, contractors have also indicated that residents directed them to the back gates and were told they would be "clicked in". Compounding the problem is that GPS mapping systems indicate that the Ginger Ponds gate is the main entrance to the neighborhood (the Eldridge gate doesn't show at all on some).

There are no easy solutions to the problem. The access issues are topics of constant discussion at the monthly Board meetings. Permanently closing the Heather Run gate and adding access control at the Ginger Ponds would be effective measures; however, there are practical problems with these solutions. The Board feels that installing another gate house or cameras at the Ginger Ponds entrance would be prohibitively expensive at this point in time. Adding to the expense is the fact that the gate would have to be moved back to avoid back-ups on Tanner Road.

Our patrol has been instructed to spend a portion of its time monitoring the Tanner Road gates for non-resident entry. Any non-resident observed attempting to use these gates is informed of the policy and escorted around to the Eldridge gate by the patrol. You can also assist the effort by informing your contractors and guests that they should use the main gate off of Eldridge Road and log in with the attendant.

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)	
SouthWest Water Company	713-405-1750
Harris County Tax Office.....	713-224-1919
Reliant Energy.....	713-207-7777
CenterPoint (gas)	713-659-2111
Center Point (street light).....	713-207-2222
(give pole # of street which is out)	
Comcast.....	713-341-1000
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
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LOE Board Of Directors

To contact a member of the Board of Directors, call Richard Lowstetter with AMI at 713-932-1122. Leave the number where you can be reached. Your message will then be forwarded onto one of the following board members:

Bronson Clay	President
Carlton Thorpe.....	Vice President
Heather Von Sternberg.....	Secretary
Cory Hammond	Treasurer
David King	At large

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Santa's Toy Drive- (Continued from Cover Page)

and cleaned up after the party. Our volunteers were Georgia Shotwell, Gus Lester, Anita Manning, Heather von Sternberg, Toby Ellis, Tom Stallings, Cory and Angela Hammond, and Bronson and Rosa Clay. A very special thank you goes to Georgia Shotwell whose efforts made the event and the hay ride possible. Thank you also to our younger residents Karsten Knobles and Daniel Gutierrez for sticking around and assisting with clean up!



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Here are some tips to get you started:

- Our last frost has passed, trim winter burn from plants and hedges.
- Check out your local nurseries for ideas, sales and coupons:
corneliusnurseries.com
houstongardencenters.com
- Check your sprinkler system, make sure the heads are not pointing at a window or broken. You will want to start watering 1" per week in April through June.

(recommended by Teas Nursery)

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SPRING

Lakes on Eldridge

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt for the young children of Lakes on Eldridge will be held on Saturday April 16, 2011 in front of the Beach Club. The hunt begins at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

To participate in the hunt, parents are asked to fill a dozen plastic eggs for each child hunting and drop them off at any neighborhood drop site no later than April 15, 2011. Egg hunt flyers, containing complete information, will be distributed door to door throughout the neighborhood. Please watch for gate signs.

The children hunt in two separate areas in front of the Beach Club. One area is designed for the younger children, ages 1 – 4 and the other is for children ages 5 and up. After the hunt, everyone is invited to enjoy light refreshment and a visit with the Easter Bunny. Please bring you Easter baskets and remember your camera!

Volunteers are needed to help with the distribution of the information flyers and egg collection. Help is also needed to hide the eggs and assist with the set up the morning of the hunt beginning at 9:00 a.m. For more information or if you can help with the hunt, please call Georgia Shotwell at (281)460-8505 or email at gshotwell@sbcglobal.net or Heather Von Sternberg at heathervons@att.net

Book Club

We're off to a great start in 2011! So many great books, so little time... 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

Upcoming Books:

March 28 - The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford. Set during one of the most conflicted and volatile times in American history, Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet is an extraordinary story of commitment and enduring hope. In the opening pages of Jamie Ford's stunning debut novel, Henry Lee comes upon a crowd gathered outside the Panama Hotel, once the gateway to Seattle's Japantown. It has been boarded up for decades, but now the new owner has made an incredible discovery: the belongings of Japanese families, left when they were rounded up and sent to internment camps during World War II. As Henry looks on, the owner opens a Japanese parasol. This simple act takes old Henry Lee back to the 1940s, at the height of the war, when young Henry's world is a jumble of confusion and excitement, and to his father, who is obsessed with the war in China and having Henry grow up American.

April 25 - Freedom by Jonathan Franzen. From the National Book Award-winning author of The Corrections, a darkly comedic novel about family framed through the eyes of neighbors, observers physically close but emotionally at a remove.

May 23 - The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood. In this Orwellian dramatization, religion becomes a tool of repression and social control to force women into the roles of stay-at-home wives, domestic staff, prostitutes, or surrogate mothers. They have no rights to their bodies or property and are completely dependent upon men. Those women who have had at least one child find themselves forced into the role of breeding machine, producing children for childless couples.

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Lakes on Eldridge

Yard Of The Month **GUIDELINES**

The Yard of the Month Committee will again be coming to your neighborhood beginning the month of April! Here are the guidelines.

1. No household may win more than one season.
2. No household may nominate themselves.
3. No household may nominate a neighbor.

Criteria for choosing yard of the month winner are 1) Color, 2) Balance, 3) Maintenance, and 4) Aesthetics.

There will be two yards of the month and two honorable mentions chosen each month from April to November, one for the neighborhoods east of Turkey Creek bridge and one for neighborhoods west of the bridge.

Each household that wins will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate from Cornelius Nursery for their "Good Neighbor Program", along with a Cornelius Nursery yard sign and a Lakes on Eldridge yard sign identifying the winners. The "Honorable Mention" winners will receive a Lakes on Eldridge yard sign.

The yard of the month committee will select the yards, award the gift certificates to the homeowners, and plant the yard signs on the first day of each month. The signs will be removed on the last day of the month.

Winners should not remove the signs. If for some reason you do not want the sign in your yard, please contact a committee member to have it removed.

Photos of the winning "Yards of the Month", and names and addresses of all winners and honorable mentions, will appear in the Lakes on Eldridge newsletter.

Timely Tip for March Gardeners

"Gardening with a purpose" continues to be the battle cry for 2011. Whether this is creating "green" sanctuaries, growing fruits and vegetables or promoting gardening projects in our neighborhoods or communities, the trend continues for gardeners to get involved with their environment.

March is a great time to plant vegetables and herbs. Our two most popular clinics in 2010 were about vegetable gardening. You can grow your own tasty, healthy fruits and vegetables at home. Today, the home gardener does not have to till a plot of ground for a garden; plants can be grown in containers on patios, in hanging baskets and even nestled in among other permanent landscape plants. Be creative and start your own trend!

Our Free in-store clinics this month mostly focus on vegetable gardening. Go to mytexasgarden.com/index.php/free-clinics/ for a complete list of our FREE in-store clinics. Clinics are held in every store.

Saturday, March 5th at 10:15 am-Vegetables in Containers-
Learn how to grow and maintain a small space garden.

Saturday, March 12th at 10:15 am-Spring Vegetables and Herbs-
Come see and hear how to start and nurture a home garden.

Saturday, March 19th at 10:15 am-Groundcovers in the Landscape-
Learn the ins and outs of designing, choosing, planting and caring for groundcovers.

Saturday, March 26th at 10:15 am-The Edible Festival-Encore!
Learn how to grow and harvest the best vegetables and herbs for our area! We will have special events on home gardening this day.

Success in the garden begins with a good foundation. Become a member of our Garden Club and come grow with us! Visit www.mytexasgarden.com to join.

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SWANS CAN BE DANGEROUS

This time of the year, Mother Nature provides our LOE swans with some common sense. It is mating, nesting, and egg-laying season and they feel the need to protect their territory against predators including humans, dogs, and waterfowl. Most of the swans in our neighborhood are not old enough to mate but some will go through the motions of even building a nest. The pairs of swans that are old enough to produce young (cygnets) are normally gentle and can be hand fed while posing no threat. However, our cobs (males) will become aggressive and territorial in trying to protect his pen (female) and nest. This is usually temporary until mating season is over. If you are walking past a lake and a swan swims to your side and follows you, **BEWARE!** If you see a swan with his neck back and feathers up such as the one in the accompanying picture, please stay away, do not attempt to feed him, and walk on the other side of the street as he is in his **ATTACK** position. **Please warn your nannies and sitters not to stroll babies around the swans.** We must try to remember that the swans are merely protecting their territory and readying the area for their young. We need to be as cautious of them as they are of us. Thank you for your cooperation!

A graphic advertisement for StarTex Power. It features a red carpet leading to a large, illuminated sign that reads "Experience the STAR treatment FOR YOURSELF with low rates, award-winning customer service, and no surprises." The sign is flanked by palm trees. Below the sign, there are silhouettes of photographers with cameras. The StarTex Power logo is prominently displayed. Text at the bottom encourages signing up online or by phone, and mentions a referral program using the "Neighborhood Newsletter".

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Lakes on Eldridge



Lakes on Eldridge *Dolphins* Swim Team Registration **COMING SOON!**

The Lakes on Eldridge Swim Team (LOEST) is once again recruiting enthusiastic swimmers ages 5 to 18 looking to have great fun this spring and summer. (Swimmers must be able to swim the length of the pool by the end of the 2nd week of practice.)

LOEST is a voluntary and non-profit recreational swim team operated for the Lakes on Eldridge and surrounding neighborhoods. LOEST encourages a competitive swim team environment and provides the opportunity for growth, training, enjoyment, good sportsmanship and participation to all active Team members. LOEST cannot function without parent involvement. Each family is required to fulfill a volunteer commitment. It's a great way to meet other families and adults in our community. The Board and the coaches are very excited about the upcoming 2011 season!

We expect online registration to open in late March or early April. More information and announcements will be posted soon on our website (www.loedolphins.org). Our team size is limited so we recommend registering as soon as the online module is available.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

DATES To Be Determined: SWIM CLINIC
MAY 2: FIRST DAY OF SWIM PRACTICE

MEET SCHEDULE FOR THE 2011 SEASON:

MAY 21:	AWAY MEET	NORCHESTER
MAY 28:	HOME MEET	DEERFIELD
JUNE 4:	AWAY MEET	JERSEY VILLAGE
JUNE 11:	AWAY MEET	WINDSONG
JUNE 18:	HOME MEET	COPPERFIELD
JUNE 25:	AWAY MEET	DIVISIONALS
JULY 1-3:	AWAY MEET	INVATIONALS

We have several open Chair positions, including hospitality and apparel. If you are interested or would like to get more information on the positions please contact Carolyn Jenkins at carolyn1997@gmail.com.

Should you have any questions or further inquiries regarding the upcoming 2011 LOEST Season, please contact any of the Board Members listed on our website.

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*Many thanks to all my clients for allowing me to help!
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Lakes on Eldridge

LOE Bible Study

The Lakes on Eldridge Bible Study group has resumed 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.

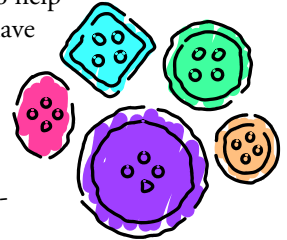
James is believed to have been the brother of our Lord Jesus Christ. He understood and lived by the Jewish Law. He also understood that the meek would inherit the Kingdom of God, the persecuted are blessed, and true believers in Jesus Christ live the life that Jesus demonstrated. Fortunately for us, 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.

For more information please email Stephanie at mrstjl10179@gmail.com. Study guides are available for \$10.00.

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 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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Save the Date for April 30!

Mark your calendars for Saturday evening, April 30. The Social Committee will be hosting an adults-only event at the Beach Club. More details to come in next month's newsletter. Also, don't forget the children's Easter Egg Hunt and party on Saturday April 16!

Yoga Practice

After a long day, come stretch and unwind with some gentle yoga. 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).

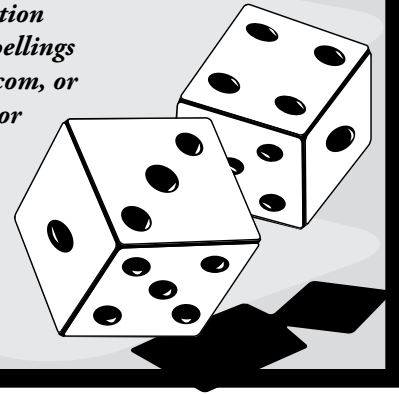
In March, meetings will be at 7:30 pm in the Lakes on Eldridge Club House (unless otherwise noted), on the following days: 1st, 3rd, 8th, 15th (By the pool weather permitting), 17th, 22nd, 29th and 31st.

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

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
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SCHOOL NEWS

Kirk Elementary Receives Award From Texas Dept. Of Agriculture (TDA)

Our own Kirk Elementary is one of fourteen elementary schools recently honored by the TDA with the HealthierUS School Challenge Gold Certificate Award, recognizing schools for their dedication to healthy lifestyles on campus and beyond. The award was given to schools whose food service program embodies Commissioner Staples' health initiative of the 3 E's for healthy living - Education, Exercise and Eating Right. Congratulations to cafeteria manager Mrs. Ahlgrim and PE Coaches Mrs. Elder and Coach J for their efforts!

Cy-Fair Independent School District Facts

Did you know that...

- It is the 3rd largest school district in Texas
- It is the largest "Recognized" district in Texas
- In 2010, 97% of its campuses are either Exemplary or Recognized including ALL high schools
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- The CFISD / Lone Star College partnership saved parents more than \$500,000 in tuition, based on college credits earned during high school

Stay "in-the-know" by visiting www.cfisd.net. CyFair schools are building strong students and strong communities!

Cy-Ridge Dance Team Instructor Named Dance Director of The Year

Stephanie Lyle, Dazzlers dance team instructor at Cypress Ridge High School, has been named the 2011 Dance Director of the Year by the Texas Dance Educators Association (TDEA). Lyle received the honor at an awards banquet during the 2011 TDEA Convention, Jan. 5-8, in Houston. She was one of three finalists selected by dance teachers across the state of Texas.

"It is a personal and professional honor to be part of the dance education program in CFISD. I am blessed on so many levels to receive this award and I am so grateful to have been selected," Lyle said. "I appreciate the support I have received from both my campus, within the district, my students and their families."

PLEASE LET US KNOW!

If you know of a LOE resident who has had any outstanding awards, milestones or accomplishments, please let us know at news@lakesoneldridge.net so they may be recognized in the newsletter.

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Lakes on Eldridge

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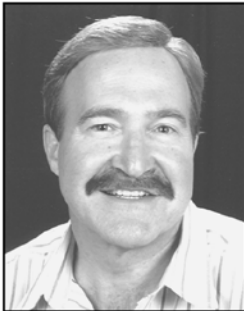
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