

Volume 11, Issue 6 June 2012



Official Newsletter www.lakesoneldridge.net



It is becoming more difficult to choose the YOM from many of the yards this month, as so many of you have done a fabulous job of landscaping with colorful flowers and plants! The Yard of the Month Committee definitely enjoys looking at all the hard work and thought going into the planning of these lovely gardens.

Winner: Matthew & Diana Brogdon, 12902 Watermist

Winner: Janan Kash, 5415 Summer Falls Honorable Mention: Debbe Zumberge, 5306 Cedar Bend Creek

Honorable Mention: Susan & Matthias Kjellquist, 5311 Summerland Ridge Ct.

Congratulations to you all for a job well done! Winners, please allow 8 weeks for receiving your gift certificate from Cornelius.



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Texas DPS	.713-681-1761
Waste Management	.713-695-4055
(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)	
SouthWest Water Company	713-405-1750
Harris County Tax Office	
Reliant Energy	
CenterPoint (gas)	
Center Point (street light)	
(give pole # of street which is out)	
Comcast	.713-341-1000
Houston Chronicle	
Metro Transit Info	.713-635-4000
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Cy-Falls High School	
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message will then be forwarded onto one of the following board members:	
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Visit the Association Website: www.lakesoneldridge.net



Join The Social Committee

Are you new to Lakes on Eldridge, or looking to get to know some fellow neighbors? Maybe you have been a long-time resident or just a temporary renter? We have the right project for you. Become involved in your neighborhood. Join the social Committee and help plan fun events, like the annual Easter Egg hunt, fourth of July parade, or our fantastic Christmas party. Just stop by, at the Clubhouse on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 AM, or contact rosa.clay@prudential.com. Volunteers are needed for our next project, the National Night Out in October.



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FOR SALE: 2 Berkline Recliners with heat & massage, burnt orange microfiber. Excellent condition. \$150.00 each. 713-983-9651.

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Timely Tips for June Gardeners

from Cornelius Nursery

June is a fun month filled with good weather for outside activities. Watching butterflies can be an entertaining pastime. Attracting butterflies to your garden is easy. Select foliage plants as food for the larvae or caterpillar, and flowering plants to provide nectar for adults. Butterflies are attracted by fragrance, flower-shape and color.

Choose a location with plenty of sun and protection from strong winds for your butterfly garden. A planting along a wall, building or hedge is ideal. Add a supply of dark rocks or mass of dark pebbles to collect the morning sun for the butterflies to rest and warm up. Sink a container full of sand or gravel into the ground and keep it moist. This will serve as a resting spot for some to drink and obtain minerals

Start your butterfly bed by improving the soil. Incorporate Calloway's 100% Organic Compost into your garden soil. After planting, mulch your flowerbeds with 3 to 4 inches of Calloway's premium mulches. You will eliminate weeding, reduce watering, keep the soil from cracking, and protect roots of plants by maintaining cooler soil temperatures.

Butterflies are mostly active in mid-and late-Summer, so make sure you have lots of nectar-rich plants and flowers blooming by then. If you plant large sections of flowers that are the same color, it will make it easier for them to find your garden. Plant flowers that will bloom at different times of the year and ones that bloom even at different times of the day and night, this way; you will always have something in bloom.

There is a world of exotic butterflies out there flying freely so offer a haven to these fabulous creatures and happy watching! Stop by the nearest Cornelius garden center on Saturday, June 9 at 10:15 am for a free clinic on Backyard Entertainment!

Saturday, June 2: Summer Blooms (10:15 a.m.) - Discover hot-weather garden debuts, presented by Greenleaf Nursery.

Saturday, June 9: Backyard Entertainment (10:15 a.m.) - Plants and groupings that attract butterflies and hummingbirds for a backyard show!

Saturday, June 16: Summer Lawn Care (10:15 a.m.) - Bring Dad and take in the ideas that will help you create lush, barefoot soft lawns!

Saturday, June 23: Some Like It Hot! (10:15 a.m.) - A showing of plants that love our Texas "Hot Zone" and thrive in the heat!

Saturday, June 30: Fall Tomatoes (10:15 a.m.) - Select and plant now for a Fall Harvest!

Visit www.calloways.com for more Summer events and to become a member of our Garden Club. Have fun in the sun at Cornelius Nursery!



INVENTORY IS LOW AND BUYERS ARE ACTIVE



IF YOU HAVE BEEN THINKING About Moving, It's a prime time to lease or sell!

Our market continues to thrive both for sales and for leases and inventory remains low. This leaves us with a list of buyers looking for that perfect home and no inventory to show. Lakes On Eldridge in general has been very strong and the buyer/tenant interest is growing with each passing week.

I'd be happy to meet with you in person to discuss the market conditions and the value of your property. I look forward to hearing from you!

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Lakes On Eldridge Dolphins Swim Team News

Time goes by fast when you are having fun! It's hard to believe that the season is half over already. The good news is that there is a lot more fun ahead for everyone involved!

Please come to our meets and cheer for the wonderful Dolphins swimmers. Our second, and last, home meet is June 2 from 8:30am until early afternoon.

Here's a calendar of our remaining LOE Dolphin events:

June 2 – Home Meet(*) – Fairfield June 9 – Away Meet – Coles Crossing

June 16 – Away Meet –

Wortham

June 23 – Divisionals – Magnolia HS

July 1-3 – Invitational Meets

*Pep Rally at LOE Pool on Friday night

For more information on the LOE Dolphins, see our website: www. loedolphins.org.



Swim Team Donates \$5,000 to Support LOE Pool Renovations

The LOE Dolphins Swim Team has been working closely with our neighborhood to maintain and improve our beautiful clubhouse and pool area. Here's a list of the Dolphins' recent activities:

- Donating \$5,000 to support the renovation of the pool, pool decking and surrounding areas.
- Using signage to highlight pool access for residents during swim team practices.
- Cleaning out the back outdoor storage area of debris and broken furniture.
- Assisting the lifeguards to take out the trash during the off season.
- Funding an assessment to determine how to improve the working of the pool bathroom toilets.
- Contacting Waste Management to get recycling containers for the pool area.
- Using signage and parking monitors to restrict parking to one side of the main roadways during swim meets, thereby leaving residential streets available for residents' access and parking.
- Meeting with neighborhood representatives to identify and address other resident concerns.

We value being an important part of the LOE neighborhood's youth activities and are always ready to listen to residents' suggestions. Please e-mail any comments to: teamrep@loedolphins.org.

Cypress Christian School News

Cypress Christian School will host academic, baseball, and volleyball camps in July and August to help children hone their skills, prepare for next year, and just have FUN! For more information, please go to the school website at CypressChristian.org or call 281-469-8829.







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6 Worth-the-Price Fix-Ups*

Simple and affordable do-it-yourself projects can greatly increase a home's resale value, according to HomeGain's annual home improvement and staging survey. The marketing company surveyed nearly 600 real estate professionals to discover which DIY home improvement projects give sellers the biggest return for their buck. Here are six projects under \$1,000 (amounts are estimated) that made the list.

1. Cleaning & decluttering. Remove any personal items, unclutter countertops, organize closets and shelves, and make home sparkling clean.

- \$290 COST | \$1,990 RETURN

2. Brightening. Clean all windows inside & out, replace old curtains, update lighting fixtures, and remove anything that blocks light from the window.

- \$375 COST | \$1,550 RETURN

3. Smart Staging. Rearrange furniture, bring in new accessories and furnishings to enhance rooms, incorporate artwork, and play soft music in the background.

— \$550 COST | \$2,194 RETURN

4. Landscaping enhancements. Add bark mulch, bushes, and flowers in front & back yards and make sure current plants are well cared for and manicured.

— \$540 COST | \$1,932 RETURN

5. Repairing electrical or plumbing. Fix leaks under sinks, remove any mildew stains, and ensure all plumbing is in good working order. Update the home's electrical with new wiring for modern appliances, fix any lights or outlets that don't work, and replace old plug points with new safety fixtures.
— \$535 COST | \$1,505 RETURN

5. Replacing or shampooing dirty carpets. Steam-clean carpets, replace any worn carpets and repair any floor creaks. — \$647 COST | \$1,739 RETURN

Contact us for more Rock Solid Tips or a FREE, no obligation Home Price Evaluation.



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Excerpted from HomeGain's 2011 Home Sale Maximizer Survey. www.homesalemaximizer.com

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Something fun to do this Father's Day weekend!

Houston Family Arts Center (www.houstonfac.com) is a lovely family-focused theater here in our area that puts out great theater and has a phenomenal children's academy as well. It is hosting a series of shows on Father's Day Weekend.

The website (http://goo.gl/4fK03) gives you complimentary magic tricks as part of the show promotion! Las Vegas and Atlantic City Comedy Magician Harry Maurer will be performing there,

presenting clean and fun shows filled with comedy, drama, danger, spectacle, surprise, puzzlement and wonder to benefit the HFAC Actor's Academy!

Showtimes are Friday, June 15th at 8:00pm; Saturday, June 16th at 6:00pm and 8:30pm; and Sunday, June 17th at 2:00pm and 7:00pm. Tickets for kids are \$15 and adults \$25.



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TWRC Wildlife Center Baby-Bird Program 2012



TWRC Wildlife Center (Caring for Urban Wildlife since 1979) is just 10 minutes from LOE at 10801 Hammerly Blvd. Ste. #200 in Spring Branch. TWRC provides a fully-equipped Vet Room for wildlife first-aid/follow-up care, experienced and trained wildliferehabilitators and a variety of educational outreach programs for the public.

This year marks the 12th year of operation for the TWRC On-Site Baby-Bird Feeding Program. With over 2,000 rescued birds (songbirds, raptors, shore birds, waterfowl) admitted to TWRC during the spring and summer months, we could not handle the intake volume without this valuable program and the dedicated volunteers who care for, and feed, these little ones in need.

If you love animals and are interested in how you can help TWRC give wildlife a second chance for life in the wild, please visit our website www.twrc-houston.org. We have many volunteer opportunities to suit your interests and time available; we provide training for new wildlife rehabilitators, center volunteers and babybird feeders! Students and Scouts needing volunteer hours can get involved too with volunteer time and special projects!

You can find current updates, photos and stories from TWRC Wildlife Center on Facebook (www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-Wildlife-Rehabilitation-Coalition-TWRC/112131967693). You can also follow us on Twitter: @wildtimes. Call for more information or for wildlife advice: 713.468.8972.

Sago Palm is Toxic to Pets

At this time of the year, many of us will start thinking about gardening and landscaping needs. In the southern United States, small cycads called Sago Palms (Cycas revoluta) are very popular in landscaping. The plants seem to do very well in the heat and humidity that we have in our area. Unfortunately these plants are extremely toxic to animals and humans! While all parts of the plant are toxic, the seeds that are dropped by the female plant are extremely toxic, as they contain high levels of cycasin. The seeds are oblong in shape, with a reddish-orange color, and a



little bigger than a golf ball. Many dogs seem to really enjoy chewing on the bitter seeds, which leads to nothing but trouble. Cycasin is extremely toxic to the liver. Ingestion of the tiniest amount causes liver failure within 24-36 hours. The patients will lose their appetite, start vomiting, develop diarrhea, and then become jaundiced. If a pet has ingested Sago Palm, it is very important that you seek veterinary attention immediately. If it is soon after ingestion, we



References Available • Fully Insured NO PAYMENT UNTIL COMPLETION bashanspainting@earthlink.net

4-6 hours since ingestion of the seed, vomiting will not help as the toxin is already being absorbed. Unfortunately, most gardening centers and landscapers do not realize the plant is toxic. They are often sold to families with small children and pets with no

may be able to induce vomiting to rid

the stomach of the seeds. If it has been

with small children and pets with no warnings about their toxicity. The past way to treat Cycad toxicity is prevention. If you have Sago Palm in your yard, it would be best to have them removed. The male plant is just as toxic, but for some reason, dogs do not really chew on

the leaves or the trunk, they just like to chew on the seeds. The seeds are supposed to taste really bitter (none of us have ever tried one), so it is unknown what makes a dog want to eat them. It is important to keep in mind, that even a tiny amount of the seed is enough to cause liver failure.

If you have any questions about Sago Palm Toxicity, please don't hesitate to talk to your family veterinarian.



Swans Can Be Dangerous!



This time of the year, Mother Nature provides our LOE swans with some common sense. It is for them mating, nesting, then egglaying season, and they feel the need to protect their territory against predators including humans, dogs, and other 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 fed while posing no threat. However, the males (cobs) will become aggressive and territorial in trying to protect their mate and their 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 picture, please do not attempt to feed him but stay away. In fact, walk to the other side of the street as he is in ATTACK position! Please warn your nannies and sitters not to stroll babies around the swans.

We must try to remember that the swans are protecting their territory and readying it for their young. To antagonize, tease, throw objects at, or injure the swans is a felony and we need to be as cautious of them as they are to us. Thank you for your cooperation!





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Book Club —

Your Pet and 4th of July

With the summer in full swing, it's almost time for one of our great celebratory days here in the US: Independence Day. The backyard barbecues and the firework shows are events that most of us look forward to for many weeks beforehand, but we must, as always, take a few seconds to remember safety for both ourselves and our pets.

The number one thing to remember during this time of year is to be careful and smart when handling fireworks. These tips don't just apply to dogs, but to every household pet that you may have. The first tip is that it is better to leave your pet inside when there are fireworks around! Dogs can get terrified from the loud noise, may chase and try to catch fireworks, and there are dogs whose curiosity gets the best of them and who will smell lit fireworks and get burned.

Since you should most likely leave your dog or other pets at home, there are a few things you can do for them to give them a comfortable night:

• Have your animal in a room with few or no windows. The sudden flashes from fireworks getting set off can startle and upset quite a few pets.

- Put on soft music or a TV so that the sudden bangs from fireworks don't upset your pets. Anything that is usually making noise at home and can help cover up the booms and bangs will help your pets see this as just any old night
- Make sure your pets get plenty of exercise the day you know fireworks are going to be around. The idea here is to get your pets worn out and ready to call it a night before most of the partying starts.
- While we all love Independence Day and the fun it brings, for most of our animals, it's best if they do not have any idea anything is going on at all.
- The final pet tip: make sure that the day after fireworks have gone off you are on your guard. As the saying goes, "what goes up must come down," and this applies to fireworks. Used fireworks still contain chemicals that are dangerous to your pets, so make sure they do not try to eat any of the leftover components that may be laying around, as they are dangerous to both domestic and wild animals, so take a little time and collect them from the night before to avoid accidents.

For information on joining the pet safety committee go to www.lakesoneldridge.net or contact Anke Arnold at ankearnold@att.net. So far this year the book club members have been to Italy, England in the 1400s, around the U.S., and Viet Nam. If you would like to join our literary journey, contact Celeste Fritz at celeste.fritz@gmail. com to find the location of each meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

June 25 - A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens. We celebrate the 200th birthday of Charles Dickens by adding a classic to our reading list. Perhaps one of Dickens' best novels, the book is set in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution. The novel depicts the plight of the French peasantry demoralized by the French aristocracy in the years leading up to the revolution, the corresponding brutality demonstrated by the revolutionaries toward the former aristocrats in the early years of the revolution, and many unflattering social parallels with life in London during the same time period.

July 23 - Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson. Based on more than forty interviews with Jobs conducted over two years—as well as interviews with more than a hundred family members, friends, adversaries, competitors, and colleagues—Walter Isaacson has written a riveting story of the roller-coaster life and searingly intense personality of a creative entrepreneur whose passion for perfection and ferocious drive revolutionized six industries: personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing.



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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.

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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).

Upcoming meetings will take place at 7:30 pm in the Lakes on Eldridge Club House, on Tuesdays and Thursdays in June (class by the pool weather permitting on June 19 and 22).

Contact Jennifer Adams, adamsjjenn@gmail.com and 832-628-5425 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 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.



Cypress-Tomball Democrats June Meeting

The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will hold their next monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 20th, at Rudy's Grill & Cantina, 11760 Grant Rd., Cypress, TX 77429. A meet and greet will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the general meeting at 7:00 p.m.

June's guest speaker will be Lydia D. Avila, with the Texas Sierra Club. Ms. Avila will discuss the Sierra Club's efforts to inform communities of the EPA's recently announced carbon (or greenhouse gas) protections.

All are welcome to join this growing club. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month. For more information, contact Olga Moya at cytomdems@yahoo.com.

Houston Jazzercisers Participate In Fund-Raiser Halftime Show

It's a fact that exercise is important for good health. And it's even better when that exercise helps others in the community. 260 Houston area Jazzercisers, combined healthy exercise and helping the community by participating in a Houston



Rockets halftime show that was also a fund-raiser and danced for over \$43,000 in donations for The Pink Ribbons Project.

Jazzercise Instructors and customers were a part of a group from around Houston who participated in the Saturday March 26, 2012 show at Toyota Center. Jazzercise performed a high-energy choreographed routine took many hours to perfect.

"The Bear Creek Copperfield and Northwest Jazzercise customers along with other locations had been coming to Jazzercise classes about 3 times a week since early January to get in shape to perform the halftime routine," said Wadsworth, owner of the Bear Creek Copperfield and Northwest Jazzercise Centers. "In addition, they had practiced the routine at least once a week since mid-December to learn the moves. They practiced on the court to learn the blocking so we would have a professional looking halftime show that absolutely wowed the Rocket fans at the game. This was a lot of hard work."

The Jazzercisers who performed this routine were not professional dancers. They came from all walks of life — nurses, doctors, teachers, architects, secretaries, business

owners, parents.

And the driving force behind this performance — in addition to the excitement of performing in front of thousands of people at Toyota Center — was raising money to benefit The Pink Ribbons Project. In the last several years, Jazzercisers have raised thousands of dollars to benefit this worthy cause, and they are expected to raise thousands more in years to come.

Each participant was required to raise at least \$75.00 to be eligible to participate. Others have raised additional money. Pink Ribbons raises money for the National Alliance Cancer Organizations (NABCO), providing free mammograms for local women and an educational breast awareness program.

For more information on Jazzercise contact Wadsworth at 281-256-8210, or go to jazzercise.com or call (800)FIT-IS-IT.



2012 Open Regattas at Seabrook Sailing Club

The Seabrook Sailing Club is hosting two major regattas this summer on Galveston Bay, open to all interested sailors. Whether it's challenging one design racing or family fun, Seabrook Sailing Club's summer regatta schedule has it all. We are looking forward to having local and out-of-town sailors join us for competition and fun on the bay.

Summer Solstice Regatta: Seabrook Sailing Club's annual Summer Solstice Regatta will be held on June 23 and 24, 2012. This year we will be kicking off the regatta on Friday night with fireworks and a keg! We encourage everybody to leave work early and bring a picnic. This regatta is open to all small sailboats and beginner racers are welcome. Lasers, 470's, Sunfish, windsurfers, Vangaurd 15's, and catamarans are regular classes at this fun event. This regatta is on the Texas Laser District 15 Circuit schedule, drawing Lasers from around the state. There will be one design starts for all classes with at least three boats. A Portsmouth handicap fleet will be formed for boats that do not make up a one design fleet. Official Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions will be posted on the SSC website nearer the time of the event.

Endless Summer Regatta: Each year, youth sailors from all over Texas and surrounding states participate in the Endless Summer Regatta at the Seabrook Sailing Club. The Endless Summer Regatta is the best attended event on the Texas Youth Circuit after Texas Race Week, with approximately



Optimists on the downwind run at the Endless Summer Regatta

200 sailors, coaches, parents, and organizers coming to Seabrook and Galveston Bay. The youth sailors participate in 6 different fleets; the beginner sailors in the Optimist Green fleet, the experienced Optimist sailors in the Red/White/Blue fleet, Laser 4.7, and Laser Radial. Parents enjoy the view of the sailing course and Kemah from the clubhouse deck, while their kids put their skills to the test. Sailing is a great sport for kids that fosters self-confidence, independence, and responsibility. As skippers, they are in control of their own destiny; they make their own decisions, which have a direct result on their finish position, well-being, and boat condition. But most importantly, it's fun! The 2012 regatta will take place September 22-23, 2012. Official Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions will be posted on the SSC website nearer the time of the event.

The Seabrook Sailing Club has been providing safe, organized, and challenging sailing for local sailors and guests since 1934. If you've been thinking about learning to sail, getting back on the water, or competing in our organized club races, check out what the Seabrook Sailing Club has to offer. For more information about SSC, contact James McTurk at SSCmembership@yahoo.com, or visit www.seabrooksailingclub.org.



DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

COLIN'S HOPE water safety tips at www.colinshope.org



DID YOU KNOW? The **MOST** near-drowning and drowing incidents occur during June and July in Texas!

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