



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE

Volume 12, Issue 4
April 2013

Official Newsletter
www.lakesoneldridge.net

New Clubhouse Design!



On March 5, 2013, the Board of Directors and the Clubhouse Design Team unveiled the proposed design for the new clubhouse facility. The design was developed after taking into consideration suggestions from over 45 residents through the loclubhouse@gmail.com site, direct consultation with major clubhouse users and tours of several other clubhouse facilities. The design team worked to achieve the following objectives:

- Enhance the overall clubhouse functionality
- Create WOW factors – front and back
- Strive for more of a “country club” look
- Implement Security related provisions
- Keep costs reasonable, yet improve LOE property values

The major features of the new clubhouse include:

1. Add a workout area for machines AND a workout/general purpose room for yoga, exercise classes or small functions.
2. Add heating/air conditioning to outside restrooms making them suitable for use year round by clubhouse users and particularly workout users.
3. Create a catering kitchen that serves regular users and rentals. The kitchen will include a double oven, two microwaves and a full double sink.
4. Enlarge the main room to accommodate large functions.
5. Improve storage and make the storage more user friendly. This was achieved by locating storage directly off the main room and by flooring attic space above the workout and flex rooms which will be accessible by a staircase.
6. Increase the outdoor shaded areas by the addition of 2 arbors and by covering the former grassy area. These additions will create

over 3500 sq. ft. of covered area.

7. Remove the Porte Cochere to reduce rebuilding costs. The new front entrance is two stories tall and has a fountain placed in the center of the circle drive.

8. Utilize both brick and stucco on the exterior to enhance visual interest. The brick will match the existing brick in the community, as well as the adjacent brick pool restrooms and pool equipment building which were not seriously damaged by the fire.

9. Remove the previous tower to reduce rebuild costs and install a cupola to provide a similar overall height to the structure as well as a sky light in the main room.

10. Replace all roof tiles on the restroom and pool equipment buildings to match the new roof over the clubhouse structure.

11. Implement cameras, door/window alarms, key fobs and a new fence configuration to achieve full monitoring and greater barriers to entry.

12. Install a small office to allow for future part time on-site management and to store the security related monitoring equipment.

13. Increase the air conditioned/heated size from 1935 sq.ft. to 3506 sq.ft. to accommodate the above changes.

The following residents participated in the Design Team: Suzie Austin, Gary Fehsenfeld, Gene Giles, Marcia Healy, Adrienne Lyons, Carlon Thorpe, and Kim Treas. At the meeting Carlon Thorpe recognized Gary, Gene and Marcia for their extraordinary efforts in the development of the design. The Security Design Subcommittee, chaired by Robert Wegner was also recognized. Other members of this subcommittee are Carl Chapman, Al Florido, and David Westphal.

(Continued on Page 2)

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
Cy-Ridge High School	281-807-8000
Newsletter Publisher	
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LOE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To contact a member of the Board of Directors, call Elise Campagna 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:

Carlton Thorpe.....	President
Gary Fehsenfeld	Vice President
David Westphal.....	Secretary
Doug Ray.....	Treasurer
Kim Treas	Director

Visit the Association Website: www.lakesoneldridge.net

New Clubhouse Design - (Continued from Cover)



The cost of the new clubhouse has not been finalized. Several budget cost estimates have been completed, but the numerical values vary widely. Additional estimates are in progress. The insurance payout is also still unknown. The residents in attendance at the meeting thought an additional funding over and above the insurance settlement of approximately \$200/owner as a one time or multi-year payment was very reasonable for the enhanced functionality of the clubhouse. The community also encouraged the Board to consider using money from the Reserve account to supplement funding for the new clubhouse.

Due to a very high interest in making this new clubhouse a reality, several residents have offered to also make a donation to the clubhouse. If you are interested in participating in a committee to coordinate these donations or if you would like to make a donation, please send an email to loclubhouse@gmail.com.



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Lakes on Eldridge

New Procedures for Gate Access to LOE

As outlined in an email blast to the community on February 28, 2013 and further discussed at the March 5, 2013 Town Hall, the following major changes for vehicles passing through the Main (Eldridge) LOE gates will be implemented in the second half of March:

1. Rearrange main exit gate to direct exiting traffic through the lane furthest away from the Gate House. This will improve safety for persons working or approaching the gate house.
2. Close the main exit gate from midnight until 5AM. The exit gate will operate in automatic mode opening only for cars that approach from inside the neighborhood and trigger the sensor. This change will prevent entrance into our community through the 'exit' gate during the otherwise quiet hours of the very early morning.
3. Close the main resident entry gate from midnight until 5AM and direct all entering traffic to the main visitor entry gate. This change will ensure that any car entering after midnight is viewed by the gate attendant.

Additionally, in anticipation of a significant increase in the number of contractors in our community during the construction of the new clubhouse and following up on previously expressed concerns of a number of residents, a system of hang/dashboard tags will be implemented in our community. This system will impact virtually every vehicle that enters LOE. The hang/dashboard tags are being developed to quickly identify vehicles that do not belong in our neighborhood and to help speed pre approved vehicles through the visitor gate. Each category of hang/dash tags will be a unique color with defined expiration dates. There will be four categories of tags:

- Resident tags - These are only for residents that do not want a sticker on their car. They will be valid for one year.
- Frequent Visitor tags - These tags are designed for routine visitors such as cleaning and yard personnel or close relatives of residents. These tags will only be issued upon the request of a resident and will be good for a set period (maybe up to one year). Application forms will be available from the gate attendant or AMI and when completed will be submitted to AMI.
- Construction contractor tags - These are issued solely to a contractor associated with the clubhouse rebuild or to a contractor hired by a resident for a multi-week construction project. A construction tag will have a visible expiration date allowing for a reasonable time for completion of the project. Application forms will be available from the gate attendant or AMI and when completed will be submitted to AMI.
- Day Visitor tag - These tags will be issued by the gate attendant with the current date clearly displayed on the tag.

We are planning to have this new hang/dash tag procedure in operation in the latter half of April 2013.

LOE Architectural Control What You Need To Know

As the weather improves, many homeowners will consider making improvements to the appearance of their home. Most improvements will enhance the appearance of their homes and actually increase the value of many other homes in our community. These changes and improvements should be encouraged. However, some "improvements" may not fit so well in to our neighborhood and may actually undermine the aesthetics of our community. To encourage the many positive improvements and, at the same time, control the not so positive improvements, most Houston communities have instituted architectural standards and established standing committees to review proposed improvements. Lakes on Eldridge was created with a full set of community standards and an Architectural Control Committee (ACC). The current standards are accessible on line at www.lakesoneldridge.net or from AMI. If you are thinking about making changes to your home that include painting, roofing, all structural changes, pools, basketball goals and major landscaping changes, you must seek and obtain approval from the ACC prior to starting your project. The application form is accessible on the community's website or is available from AMI. The ACC has up to 25 days to review any application and typically provides approval very quickly. However, please submit any proposals in a timely manner to avoid delays in your project. If you are unclear about any particular points in the community standards documents, please contact AMI with questions. You may be referred to a member of the ACC committee to aid you in the design process. This simple discussion regularly clears the way for quick approval.

The downside to having standards and procedures is that they must be respected and enforced in order to maintain their future effectiveness. If someone were to paint their house an unusual color that was not approved and enforcement was not pursued, the LOE Community Association will likely have forfeited its power in the future to stop a different neighbor from painting their home fluorescent purple. No one wants to resort to enforcement action, but enforcement is necessary to preserve the aesthetics and high standards for our neighborhood. Thus, any installation that does not meet the defined community standards and does not have ACC approval will be subject to removal. Failure to remove or correct the nonconforming installation is necessarily likely to result in legal action.

We live in a beautiful community and we all want it maintained. Your cooperation with the procedures and compliance with our community standards is greatly appreciated.



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Calloway / Cornelius Good Neighbor Program Yard Of The Month

The weather has definitely been uncooperative lately with not enough rain. Yet we still have some very lovely yards that fulfill all the criteria for being winners! The vibrant colors of all the flowers in these yards was so mindful that Spring is just around the corner. So pull up your sleeves and start planting! You will not be sorry you did.

The following is a list and photos of our two winners and names of our two honorable mentions for April:



WINNER: ERIC & MELISSA FORD
12711 WATERSIDE WAY



WINNER: MIKE & LAURA STYSLINGER
12223 SUMMERLAND RIDGE

Honorable Mention:

Tom & Betty Burkett -12606 Waterside Way

Honorable Mention:

Gregg & Cheryl Sapp -12126 Summerland Ridge

Congratulations to you all for a job well done!
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Lakes on Eldridge

Activities For Children

Summer is a time for your children to experience numerous enrichment activities that they may not have ever considered before. So many places throughout Houston offer these during the summer months as a way to expose your children to areas in botany, science, zoology, nature, art and summer camps.

The Houston Zoo has many classes as well as daily field trips. These are usually offered to preschoolers up to teens. The Science Museum offers classes that deal with dinosaurs, astronomy, geology, insects, animals etc. The Glassell School of Art finds the artist in all children with drawing, painting and different mediums. The Houston Arboretum offers activities dealing with plants, trees, nature, animals etc. The Children's Museum offers a wide variety of activities for children of all ages. These would include both indoor and outdoor activities. The YMCA also has wonderful daytime summer camps as well as sleep away camps for children of all ages.

Other swimming and fun places to share with the entire family include Splash town off I- 45 in Spring, Galveston beaches and their water fun park, Moody Gardens with their rainforest pyramid, IMAX, aquarium and indoor rides.

Please contact these organizations soon if you wish to participate. The Zoo summer camps and Science Museum fill up quickly. If you have memberships to any of these places you are usually given first priority for signup. Be sure to check your local newspaper daily for any offerings of children's activities coming up. They are usually offered on a first come, first serve basis.

This is just a sampling of what Houston has to offer as well as the surrounding areas. Be imaginative with your children. They love to be exposed to new ideas especially if it is a hands-on experience. Not only will you broaden your child's learning but your own as well!




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Timely Tip for April Gardeners

The weather is warmer, and the days are getting a little longer. It's time to get outside and prepare your garden and lawns for spring. Enjoy a weed-free lawn by applying a pre-emergent to prevent summer broadleaf and grassy weeds. Bonide Light Crabgrass Preventer can be easily applied using a fertilizer spreader. Add a little natural inspiration to your home by creating colorful container gardens. Simply select an appropriate-sized container, choose a well-blended potting soil, secure plants with similar light and watering requirements, plant them, decorate with mulch and enjoy! For those of you who choose to garden with a purpose, start your own vegetable and herb garden today for summer harvesting. Vegetable and herb gardens are aesthetically-appealing and fragrant. You and your family can enjoy the fruits of your labor for months and years to come!

Celebrate Earth Day this month and go "green". Many organic products help you develop a naturally-inspired green environment. Here are a few ideas for the gardener who is exploring the "greener" side:

A successful garden begins with good soil. Organic material is important to the soil composition. It helps with drainage and increases the soil microbe population. Expanded shale is used to break up hard, compacted clay soils. Food-grade meals can be applied to your lawn and other plantings. Applying molasses will help stimulate microorganisms and energize your plants. Top dress your flowerbeds and containers with organic mulches. They not only break down slowly putting organic material back into the soil but, they also prevent weeds, conserve moisture and cool the soil during the heat of the summer.

Other organic insecticides and fungicides are Neem Oil, Diatomaceous Earth and Insecticidal Soaps. These are products which are safe to use around pets and children. There are also beneficial insects available such as Ladybugs, Lacewings and Beneficial Nematodes! These guys will attack the pests and take care of them "naturally."

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 rearing the area for their young. We need to be as cautious of them as they are of us. Thank you for your cooperation!



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Houston single-family home sales in January increased a whopping 28% in comparison to last year. Inventory is 25% below what was found this time last year and average days on the market are down 15% from last year.

It's a seller's market and now that listings are low, sales are high and median sales prices are up. Call or email me today for a *free, no obligation* Competative Market Analysis to find out what your house is worth!



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Lakes on Eldridge

Lakes on Eldridge Dolphins 14th Season!

The Lakes on Eldridge Dolphins Swim Team will begin their 14th season in 2013! We are 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 second week of practice.) We have three returning coaches and one new coach this season. Meagan Wien will return as Head Coach. Elizabeth Allen will assist for the first few weeks of practice. Audrey Vinall returns as an Assistant Coach and our new coach is Nick Carroll.

LOEST is a voluntary recreational swim team operated for Lakes on Eldridge and the 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, so each participating family is required to fulfill a volunteer commitment. It's a great way to meet other families and adults in our community!

March 24 Registration begins for new families

March 31 Registration ends

April 22-26 Pre-Season Swim Clinic

April 29 Regular Practices Start

Meet Schedule for 2013:

May 11 – AWAY Deerfield Village Time Trials

May 18 – AWAY Copperfield

May 25 – AWAY Jersey Village

June 1 – AWAY Lakewood Forest

June 8 – AWAY Spring Creek Oaks

June 22 – AWAY Winchester

June 29 – Divisionals (Location TBA)

Check the website www.loedolphins.org for important dates, and also for everything and anything about the LOEST DOLPHINS!

SEND US YOUR *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to lakesoneldridge@peelinc.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



Stitch & Chat

Members of Stitch and Chat meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. 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.

Because of the club house fire, we have been taking turns hosting meetings in our members' homes. To find out the location of the next meeting, or just to get more information on our group, contact Catherine Spellings at CTSpellings@aol.com, or call 713-6288-7083 or 713-896-1652.



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Lakes on Eldridge

NEW LOE STICKERS!

By popular demand, new LOE stickers are now available! The new stickers are blue; the previous red stickers will no longer be issued. All residents should have a new sticker on their car or apply for the new resident hang tag. Cars without identification in LOE are subject to being stopped by the patrol officers and the gate attendants. To receive your new sticker, please complete and return the following information to AMI:

Lakes on Eldridge Vehicle Decal and Gate Remote Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Vehicle Details:

Car # 1

Make- _____
Model- _____
Color- _____
Year- _____
License Plate #- _____
Decal #- AMI COMPLETES

Car # 3

Make- _____
Model- _____
Color- _____
Year- _____
License Plate #- _____
Decal #- AMI COMPLETES

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Model- _____
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Year- _____
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Car # 4

Make- _____
Model- _____
Color- _____
Year- _____
License Plate #- _____
Decal #- AMI COMPLETES

By completing and submitting this application, I confirm:

- This vehicle is permanently kept at the above address
- I understand and will comply with all the Regulations about keeping and operating a vehicle within LOE
- I will remove the decal before disposing of the vehicle
- I will notify LOE immediately of any change in details of the vehicle or of the addition of any new vehicles.

Sign _____ Date _____

Mail, email or fax completed form to AMI, 5295 Hollister Street, Houston, Texas 77040. Fax # 713-932-6059,
ecampagnia@amitx.com

LOE Book Club

It looks like our theme for this year is "Reading Fun", as we have many books that look like they'll be fun to read. Consider joining us on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. We take turns hosting the meeting, so please contact celeste.fritz@gmail.com to get the details for each meeting.

April 22 - The Eye of the World by Robert Jordan. Still think Robert Jordan is the hero of Hemingway's For Whom the Bell Tolls? Not sure what all the hype's about? If you've yet to experience the magic, mystery, excitement, and splendor of Robert Jordan's spectacular Wheel of Time fantasy series, now's your chance to get hooked, as have millions of fans worldwide. It all began with The Eye of the World, which launched the complex, spellbinding adventures of Rand, Egwene, Moiraine, Lan, and so many others. Find out why The New York Times recently said, "Robert Jordan has come to dominate the world that Tolkien began to reveal."

May 20 - moved up because of Memorial Day. From Notting Hill with Love...Actually by Ali McNamara. She was a girl, standing in front of a boy...

Movie fanatic Scarlett O'Brien dreams of a life as glamorous and romantic as all the big screen flicks she worships. When a chance house-sitting job in iconic Notting Hill comes along, she knows living in one of her favorite movie settings is an opportunity too

good to pass up. Leaving behind her skeptical friends, family, and fiancé, Scarlett heads to London and finds herself thrust into the lead role of her very own romantic comedy. But can real life ever be just like the movies? Larger-than-life new friends, a handsome but irksome new neighbor, and a mystery from her past may prove to Scarlett that living her life like a RomCom is more complicated than she thought!

June 24 - The Casual Vacancy by J. K. Rowling. When Barry Fairweather dies unexpectedly in his early forties, the little town of Pagford is left in shock. Pagford is, seemingly, an English idyll, with a cobbled market square and an ancient abbey, but what lies behind the pretty façade is a town at war. Rich at war with poor, teenagers at war with their parents, wives at war with their husbands, teachers at war with their pupils...Pagford is not what it first seems. And the empty seat left by Barry on the town's council soon becomes the catalyst for the biggest war the town has yet seen. Who will triumph in an election fraught with passion, duplicity and unexpected revelations? Blackly comic, thought-provoking and constantly surprising, The Casual Vacancy is J.K. Rowling's first novel for adults.

July 22 - Coyote by Allen Steele. The national bestselling story of Earth's first interstellar colonists-and the mysterious planet that becomes their home.

August 26 - Les Miserables by Victor Hugo.

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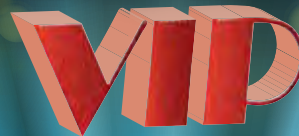
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Lakes on Eldridge

Swimming Pool Availability

Some residents have asked about the availability of the swimming pool during construction of the club house. After much investigation, it has been determined the LOE pool cannot affordably be available this summer. The fencing cost to meet the liability and security issues was in excess of \$20,000. Additionally even with fencing, the pool could only be used on weekends and after construction working hours. At the March 5, 2013 Town Hall, residents were queried on this situation and overwhelmingly encouraged the use of the \$20,000 toward the new clubhouse rebuild rather than for a fence.

The YMCA has offered to reduce their joining fee by 50% to \$50. The YMCA has month to month memberships for anyone who wishes a place to swim this summer. Individuals interested in this offer should contact Vicki Watson, Y member services coordinator, at 713-467-9622, Ext 203.



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Considering Getting A New Dog?

...or if you know friends and family who are, please consider and suggest rescuing vs. buying a dog from a breeder.

We have every breed of purebred dog available in our Texas pounds and shelters, in great quantities.

This is because of the complete lack of any regulations or limit on breeding in Texas.

Approximately 30-40% of euthanasias in pounds involve purebred animals .

Mixed breeds in TX stand almost no chance of making it out of the pounds alive. There is absolutely nothing wrong with these dogs; they just had the misfortune of being owned by people who did not provide for their needs and care and obviously had no real commitment to their pet.

Countless numbers of people turn their own dogs in to high-kill shelters, dump them rurally in the middle of nowhere, or let them roam and stray. It reflects a mentality that most dog lovers do not understand.

When you or someone you know considers adopting a dog, please check out one of our five local animal shelters:

1. BARC - Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care i.e. Houston's animal control or city pound
2. Harris County Animal Control
3. Houston SPCA
4. Houston Humane Society
5. CAP - Citizens for Animal Protection

Or check the following breed specific rescue organizations:

www.petfinder.com

www.adoptapet.com

<http://www.houstonpettalk.com/resources/rescue-groups/>

We are also planning on featuring a dog in need as "The Adoptable Dog of the Month" in the Twin Lakes newsletter in every issue.

For any questions contact the Pet Safety Committee at www.lakesoneldridge.net or call Anke Arnold @ 832-454-2037





LILY

Lily, a German Shepherd mix, was surrendered to BARC, the Houston city shelter, because her owners had "two many". She was very thin, had just had a litter of pups and was high heartworm positive, and was going to be euthanized at the shelter. Her owners kept the puppies, but dumped poor ol' mom at the shelter to die. She has filled out beautifully and been treated for the heartworms. She is now ready to find a home of her own.

Lily loves people and loves attention. Her favorite way of showing her love is to hug you and give you a kiss or two or three! Everyone that meets her loves her. She is probably too interested in cats, and even though she is learning about cats, life would probably be simpler if she went to a home without cats and very small dogs. Lily is a very smart dog, which is helpful with training, but she is so smart she can open gates and needs a secure backyard with a locked gate and tall fence. She is very loving and likes spending time with her people. People with Shepherd experience will probably understand her needs more than those who have not known Shepherds.

She is close to 60 lbs., could probably still stand to gain another 5 lbs., she is up-to-date on her vaccinations, spayed and microchipped. She is crate trained and is most likely housebroken. She is looking to join a family and she will be very loyal to her person or family. Seems to be fine with children, older children would probably be best. If you would like to meet Lily, or find out more about her, please contact Cindi at cindi.hohle@c-a-m.com or Anke at ankearnold@att.net.

Looking for Volunteers!

High School Students from 60 countries are arriving to our area this coming august and I am looking for volunteers to host them. You need to provide a bed and meals for the student. They have their own spending money and are fully insured. If you are interested in volunteering and making a dream of a teen come true please email or call.



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Lakes on Eldridge

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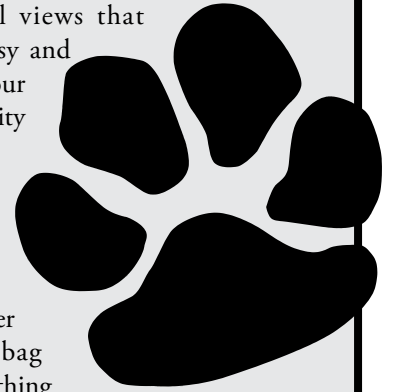
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Please Clean After Your Dog

One of the best things about LOE is the abundance of sidewalks, footpaths and beautiful views that make taking walks an easy and very pleasant break from our frenetic lives. It is a real pity then to come across spots that are starting to look like doggy restrooms...

Please be a good neighbor! When you take your dog for his or her constitutional, bring a bag along and don't leave anything behind, whether it is on a neighbor's lawn or on one of the public areas. We are all counting on each other to keep LOE beautiful!



Lakes of Eldridge *Online*

Join Us For A Chat!

Your LOE Neighbors are gathering on the Internet!

- Meet neighbors by using neighborhood-wide discussion forums
- Organize and learn about events in your neighborhood
- Share recommended businesses and services
- Post Lost and Found notices
- Post photos, links and files

Go to www.i-neighbors.org/77041/LOE to join the LOE i-neighbors Message Board. Be sure to include a message identifying yourself as a Resident of LOE in your request to join.



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