

Volume 12, Issue 12 December 2013 Official Newsletter www.lakesoneldridge.net

# Lakes On Eldridge Annual Meeting

The Lakes on Eldridge Annual Meeting was held Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at Kirk Elementary. Carlon Thorpe introduced the Board members and elaborated on the following major topics:

#### **CLUBHOUSE REVIEW**

What a year!!! The clubhouse burned down on December 25, 2013 and Carlon shared an overview and timeline of the activities following the event and coordination between LOE and the insurance company, demolition company, and surrounding communities. She also detailed the redesign process and acknowledged the 50 residents who shared ideas for the new clubhouse. Construction began 9/3/13 and is projected to be completed 5/16/14. A grand opening celebration will be held upon completion. The Board will host a sneak peak open house at completion of framing which is currently anticipated in early to mid-December. More details and an exact date of the open house will be announced by email. The new clubhouse is dramatically larger than the previous clubhouse (1926 sq. feet to 3506 sq. feet) and has over 4000 square feet of covered area.

## 2013 OTHER MAJORACHIEVEMENTS-ACCESS CONTROL

Extensive additional efforts were implemented regarding access control procedures. Specifically, a new Dash Tag system for entering vehicles which identifies the visitor as a day visitor, frequent visitor or contractor was completed. New colored stickers for residents' vehicles were implemented. The gate entry/exit configuration was improved to prevent unauthorized entry and the additional security patrol during summer and holiday periods vielded lower vandalism rates and will be continued. Carlon requested that all residents please place either a new sticker on their windshield or apply for a resident dash tag.

## 2013 OTHER MAJORACHIEVEMENTS - MAINTENANCE

A number of activities were completed this year to enhance the appearance and functionality of our common area including: removal of dead trees throughout the subdivision and trimming major trees at the entrance and major boulevards, power washing the walls, curbs and sidewalk entrances; installing new benches at the tennis courts;

rebuilding/repairing the pagoda at Auburn Shores as well as the playground equipment near the clubhouse.

## 2013 OTHER MAJORACHIEVEMENTS - COMMUNICATION

With the destruction of the clubhouse, the Board knew the criticality of excellent communication. The first email to the community was sent the day after the fire. For several months, weekly emails were distributed to keep the community aware. An email address was established for design suggestions, and 3 town halls were held to specifically address issues related to the clubhouse destruction, the proposed redesign and the plan to pay for the new clubhouse. Additionally, the newsletter process was revised to reduce the time between submission and publication from 45 to 15 days. The Board sponsored a Legislative Town Hall bringing LOE, LOEN and Twin Lakes together. The Board agreed with the community's request to delay construction to allow usage of the pool over the summer. Finally, in conjunction with the Wildlife Committee, the wildlife plan was modified to remove potentially aggressive swans, thereby eliminating the need for warning signs.

(Continued on Page 2)

#### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

First Service Residential	
Gate Attendant713-937-8825	
Waterfowl, Betty Burkett713-302-9929	
Sheriff - (non-emergency)713-221-6000	
Cy-Fair Fire Department - (emergency)281-466-6161	
(non-emergency)281-550-6663	
Poison Control1-800-764-7661	
Texas DPS713-681-1761	
Waste Management	
(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)	
TNG Utility (Water)	
Harris County Tax Office713-224-1919	
Reliant Energy	
CenterPoint (gas)	
Center Point (street light)713-207-2222	
(give pole # of street which is out)	
Comcast	
Houston Chronicle	
Metro Transit Info	
Kirk Elementary	
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#### **LOE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

To contact a member of the Board of Directors, call Elise Campagna with First Service Residential 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:

Carlon Thorpe	President
Gary Fehsenfeld	
David Westphal	
Doug Ray	
Gene Giles	

Visit the Association Website: www.lakesoneldridge.net

Lakes on Eldridge Annual Meeting - (Continued from Cover Page)

#### 2013 OTHER MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS - FINANCIAL

The Board negotiated a significant insurance settlement - \$818,673 for the clubhouse and \$110,000 for contents. The Board also negotiated a new agreement with MUD 341 for increased annual reimbursement to the community without additional tax cost to homeowners. The new arrangement will provide approximately \$120,000 in additional revenue. The Board thanked the MUD for their cooperation. A new Reserve Study was also completed during 2013. Finally, the Board changed the assessment collection firm for homeowners in arrears. Collections have improved and the community collection rate now exceeds 98%.

As previously announced, the assessment rate for 2014 will be the 2013 rate of \$1460 + a one- time increase of \$146 for the clubhouse, making a total assessment of \$1606. The Board reiterated its belief that the assessment can return to \$1460 in 2015. The Clubhouse will be completely paid upon completion. No Borrowing was required.

#### **ELECTION OF BOARD POSITIONS**

Two Board positions were elected. Carlon Thorpe was re-elected to the Board and Gene Giles was elected for a first term. The Board thanked Kim Treas for her service to the community.

#### 2014 LOOK AHEAD

Plans for 2014 include the Clubhouse completion, implementation of key fobs for the Clubhouse, promotion of higher residents' usage of vehicle stickers, the development of a tree replacement plan and the evaluation of major community contractors such as landscaping. The Board also thanked the many residents who contribute their time and talents to making LOE an outstanding place to live.

#### First Service Representative Change

Elise Campagna who has been LOE's community manager for almost a year is currently on maternity leave. Jennifer Meador will be assuming her responsibilities. Elise is anticipated to return sometime in February. Jennifer's phone number is 713-984-7264 and her email is Jennifer.meador@fsresidential.com.







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# **VOLUNTEERS**

#### MAKE OUR COMMUNITY GREAT

Lakes on Eldridge would like to recognize and thank all of the caring and capable volunteers who gave essential support to our community in 2013.

We salute you!

#### **COMMITTEES**

**ACCESS CONTROL:** David Westphal – Chairperson, Robert Wegner, Clive Gardner, Lindsay Buchannan, Doug Ray, Rob Ramierez, Adrienne Lyons, David King. They develop procedures and policies for the gates and access control.

**ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL:** Gary Fehsenfeld – Chairperson, Alphine Freeman, Friedel Liptay, Kim Treas, Sharon Flynn. They review and approve architectural change requests.

**CLUBHOUSE (MULTIPLE SUBCOMMITTEES):** Carlon Thorpe – Chairperson, Gary Fehsenfeld, Gene Giles, Marcia Healy, Suzie Austin, Kim Treas, Alphine Freeman, Carl Chapman, Al Florido, Robert Wegner, David Westphal, Maggie Wegner, Stephanie Leggett. They work on the design and implementation of our new clubhouse.

**GATE REPAIR:** David Westphal – Chairperson, Lane Enderby. Susan Kjellqvist, Mattias Kjellqvist, Dick McCasland, Mike McCurdy, Rob Ramirez, Doug Ray. They complete minor repairs to the gates to avoid a contractor call-out.

**SOCIAL:** Georgia Shotwell – Chairperson, Clive Gardner, Kim Treas, Kay Horsch, Melissa Hunzeker, Carol Peters, Carrie Loid, Patti Couglin. They develop and coordinate community wide events.

**TENNIS:** Jennifer Poole- Chairperson, Dennis Disbot, Tom Lee, Bal Bangaher. They monitor the courts and develop/implement court usage procedures.

**TREES/LANDSCAPING:** Carlon Thorpe – Chairperson, John Hasenbank, Gary Fehsenfeld. They are developing a tree removal and replacement plan.

**WILDLIFE:** Betty Burkett – Chairperson, Maggie Wegner, Sam and Sarla Rampuria, Lee Mueller. They feed our swans and ducks every day and care for those that are sick or injured.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

**BIBLE STUDY:** Stephanie Leggett – leader. The Lakes on Eldridge Bible Study has been teaching God's Word for 10 years.

**BOOK CLUB:** Celeste Fritz – coordinator. They meet monthly to discuss member chosen selections.

**BUNCO GROUP:** Catherine Spellings- coordinator. They provide an opportunity to get to know your neighbors with a fun game.

**PET SAFETY:** Anke Arnold- coordinator. They rescue lost or abandoned animals and promote animal safety.

**STITCH & CHAT:** Catherine Spellings- coordinator. They offer the opportunity to learn to knit, crochet, quilt, counted cross stitch, etc. They also make Healing Shawls for cancer patients who receive treatments at area hospitals.

**SWIMTEAM-** The Dolphins: Steve Pittenger- President. The Dolphins work to provide opportunities for growth, training, enjoyment, good sportsmanship and active participation for all swim team members and their families.

**YARD OF THE MONTH:** Maggie Wegner and Stephanie Leggett. They identify beautiful yards and coordinate with Cornelius Nursery.

**YOGA:** Jennifer Adams – leader. Yoga promotes stress reduction and flexibility.

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# Happy Holidays

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#### Clubhouse www.

# Update and Sneak Peak

The new clubhouse continues to make outstanding progress. The Board is very anxious to show the construction to the community and will host a sneak peak upon completion of framing. The exact date and time will be announced in an eblast to the community approximately 3 days in advance. Since this is an active construction site, the following requirements must be met in order to be allowed entry:

- 1. Only closed toed shoes can be worn. No flip-flops or sandals will be permitted.
- You must be at least 12 years old. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Any persons entering will be required to sign a waiver of liability which will be available at the site.



#### Yorkshire Academy's MILK (Morning Intensive Language Chinese Klass).

Featured in the middle are LOE residents, Cameron and Annabelle Alemand. The MILK students take either Chinese or Spanish classes Mondays – Thursday from 7-7:40 a.m. For more information visit www.vorkshireacademv.com.

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#### References Available • Fully Insured NO PAYMENT UNTIL COMPLETION

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## CALLOWAY / CORNELIUS GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

# YARD OF THE MONTH

This will be our last Yard of the Month for 2013. We will begin again in March of 2014. You can use this time to think about your yards, adding color, trying new plants, etc. Remember if you intend to sell your home anytime soon, this is the first part of your home that prospective buyers see and it does leave a lasting impression!

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

#### **NOVEMBER 2013:**

Winner: Juliet Ogah 5527 Evening Shore

Winner: Elizabeth & Otto Glaser 12111 Medina Bend Lane

Honorable Mention: Melody & Paul Cavicchi - 12510 Pebble Way Ct.

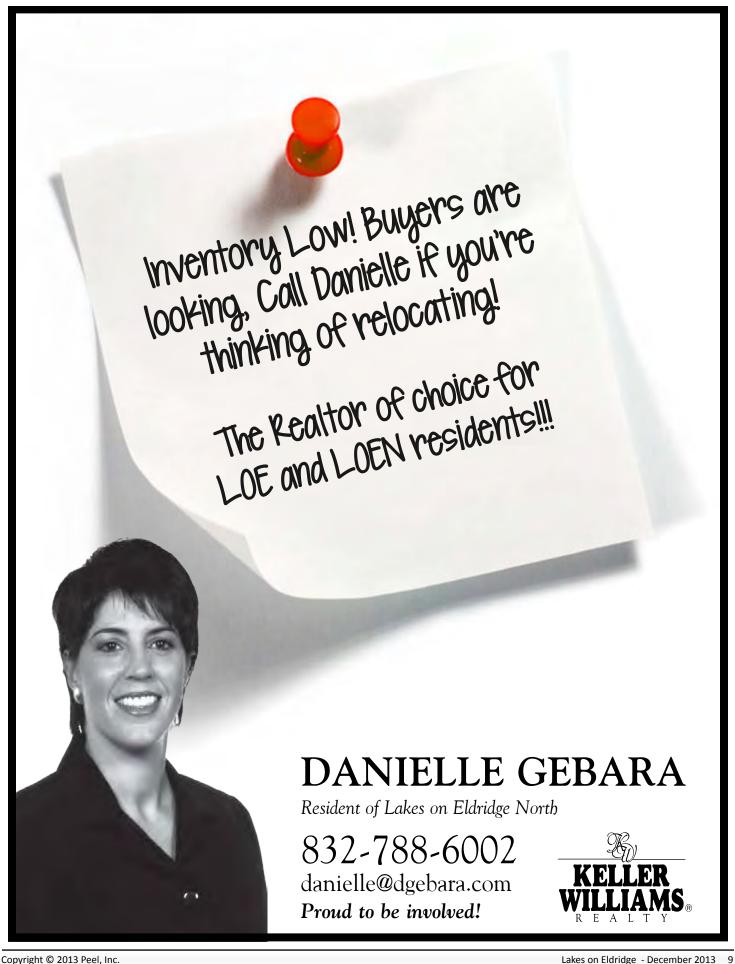
Honorable Mention: Linda O'Keefe 5307 Emerald Brook





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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# Bible Study

The Lakes On Eldridge Bible Study resumed September 10 at the Lakes on Eldridge North Activity Center. New times were set for the start of the gatherings: Fellowship begins at 9:30; Bible study discussion at 9:45, break for coffee and snacks at 10:45, Prayer and Praise until 11:30, Our new study is authored by Joanna Weaver, and called "How to Be a Mary in a Martha World", and developed from Mark 10:38-39 when Jesus and the disciples stopped off at Mary and Martha's home for a visit. The theme of the study is "Finding intimacy with God in the busyness of life." Most of us live in the chaos of kids, school, sports, and many other extracurricular activities, as well as jobs, aging parents, and family spread all over the world. Joanna Weaver suggests how we might develop and maintain an intimate relationship with our Lord in the midst of all this activity.

Please join us every Tuesday at the Lakes on Eldridge North activity center. Study guides are provided for \$13.00 each. We look forward to seeing you there. If you need additional information, you may email Stephanie at mrstjl10179@gmail.com.



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# TIMELY TIPS for Winter Gardening

from Calloway's and Cornelius

Winter can be a wonderful time of year in the garden. Winter may lack the wild riot of color and growth that we all so love in Spring, but Winter has a different kind of beauty. Some of our favorite Winter gardens are understated, tranquil and calming. Interesting evergreen shrubs and grasses really stand out in this season, as well as trees with beautiful bark. Flowering shrubs like Camellias are Winter favorites.

As for annuals, we Texans are quite fortunate in Winter choices. The new generation of cool season pansies will provide color from now until late Spring. Other flowering annuals like Snapdragons, Cyclamen, Flowering Cabbage and Kale provide both color and shape for the Winter garden.

Even better Winter is the perfect time to plan and lay the foundation for Spring. December is the month to plant your chilled bulbs for big Spring blooms. And this is also a good time to prune and reshape your trees and shrubs. Do not top crapemyrtles, simply remove the seedheads and prune for shape.

You should also prepare your garden for cold weather. First of all, make sure that your plants are in excellent shape, well-watered and well-fed, because a healthy plant will survive cold snaps more easily. 3 to 4 inches of mulch provides insulation that keeps the ground beneath it warmer, thus protecting roots. If you have tender plants, stock up on Frost Cloth now, so that you have it on hand when you need it. Frost Cloth is simply an insulating blanket for your plants. It should be draped over them when cold weather is approaching. To be effective the Frost Cloth should reach the ground all the way around, so that it effectively captures the heat emanating from the ground and keeps the air around your plants marginally warmer.

It's a lovely season in Texas, enjoy the cool bite of frosty mornings, warm drinks by the fireside, bright lights on trees and homes, and most of all, your treasured family and friends.





# Happy Holidays From Our Home To Yours!

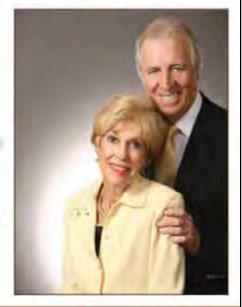
We hope you, your family and friends have a special Holiday Season filled with many happy moments and treasured memories.



GARY

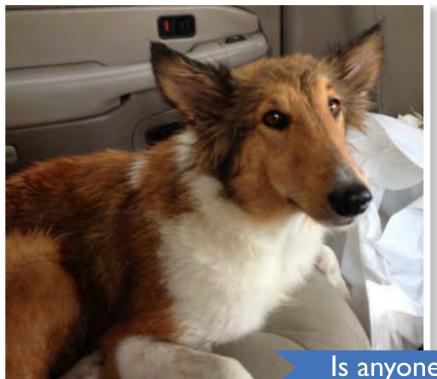
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# **ATTENTION**

# Lakes on Eldridge residents!

This dog, a female Shetland Sheepdog, or Sheltie, was found running loose at Lakes on Eldridge on Monday, October 28, 2013. We have since been trying to find her owner(s).

If this is your dog, or if you know where this dog belongs, please let me know. This dog is with the Texas Collie & Sheltie Rescue organization right now, waiting to be reunited with her owner.

Anke Arnold ankearnold@att.net 713-856-6795 or 832-454-2037

Is anyone missing this dog?



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this holiday season and
throughout the coming year.

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# LOE Book Club

We're down to our last meeting of 2013, which will be our Christmas Party. Our membership is growing, and we have had a great year. Thanks to each of our hostesses and discussion leaders.

Consider joining us on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. We take turns hosting the meeting and sometimes change the date or book, so please contact celeste.fritz@gmail. com to get the details for each meeting.

**DECEMBER 9 -** We combine the November and December meetings into a holiday party. Each attendee is asked to bring a wrapped book (gently used) for a gift exchange. This year, our book for discussion will be Nancy, the Story of Lady Astor by Adrian Fort. In 1919, Nancy Astor became the first female Member of Parliament elected to the House of Commons—she was not what had been expected. Far from a virago who had suffered for the cause of female suffrage, Lady Astor was already near the center of the ruling society that had for so long resisted the political upheavals of the early twentieth century, having married into one of the richest families in the world. She wasn't even British, but the daughter of a famous Virginian family, and fiercely proud of her expatriate ancestry. But her moral drive was strong, and she would utilize her position of privilege and influence to blow a bracing American wind into what she regarded as the stuffy corners of British politics.

JANUARY 22,2014 – Holly Hall Book Review of our December book on Lady Astor. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on Westheimer at 10:30 a.m. The cost per review is \$12 or the series is \$35. This money supports the Holly Hall Residence Fund for older adults living at Holly Hall whose years have exceeded their income and apply for scholarship funds to cover the costs of their living expenses. You may google www.hollyhall.org to learn more about this long time Houston retirement community.

JANUARY 27, 2014 – The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman. After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day's journey from the coast. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season and shore leaves are granted every other year at best, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby. M. L. Stedman's mesmerizing, beautifully written novel sweeps us into a story about extraordinarily compelling characters seeking to find their North Star in a world where there is no right answer, where justice for one person is another's tragic loss.





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