



Volume 13, Issue 8

August 2014

# CLUBHOUSE UPDATE

The clubhouse project has picked up the pace. Interior finishing work is on-going at a fast rate. The moldings, ceiling, and cabinets are now being installed. The fountain is complete. Please feel free to peek in the windows. Also watch your email for grand opening information. If you aren't receiving community emails, please send your contact information to [elise.campagna@fsresidential.com](mailto:elise.campagna@fsresidential.com).



## MAINTENANCE UPDATE

This past month involved the repair of a several major plumbing issues. In the Men's pool restroom, a pipe leaked in the wall between the sinks and the outdoor showers. This has been repaired along with the associated sheetrock. In the same area, the drains from the outdoor showers were clogged and have been cleared and revised to facilitate drainage.

In the pool pump and chemical storage rooms, we had a major leak that significantly damaged the walls. This damage coupled with years of chlorine and chemical damage necessitated a full sheetrock replacement including the ceiling in the storage room and a large sheetrock replacement in the pump room. The light fixtures and receptacles/switches in both rooms were also replaced. We are currently pricing replacing

the doors to both those rooms with fiberglass doors that will give better ventilation as well as be less susceptible to chemical induced degradation.

One pump used at Lake E waterfall is under repair. A temporary pump has been installed in its place.

Major sections of landscaping have been replaced several times. The vinca developed a fungus which we believe entered the soil causing subsequent plantings to also die. The landscaper replaced the plants at his cost, but we subsequently changed to different varieties to have greater viability. The landscaping at the clubhouse fountain was completed including a French drain for fountain spray.

# Lakes on Eldridge

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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:

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Doug Ray.....	Treasurer
Gene Giles .....	Director

Visit the Association Website: [www.lakesoneldridge.net](http://www.lakesoneldridge.net)

## LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR COMMON GROUNDS AND POOL AREA CLEAN

We live in a beautiful neighborhood and want to keep it looking pristine. Just a little effort from all of us makes this an easy task. At the pool, please remember the following rules:

1. If you eat at the pool, remove all trash and food from the tables and place in the refuse containers.
2. If you spill food, wipe the table before you leave.
3. Make sure you take with you any children's toys, towels, or personal items. Each Wednesday, items left at the pool will be donated to charity.
4. Return the chairs or lounges to their original locations.
5. Remember no dogs or pets are permitted in the pool area except service dogs.

### PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS AND DO THE RIGHT THING!

In the common areas, do not litter. A large bag of trash is removed from the common areas every day. Trash receptacles are available at all playgrounds and the pool.

Let's work together to keep our grounds beautiful. Pitch in!



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## UNLEASHED DOGS INJURE A DOG ON A LEASH!



On June 28th two dogs on a leash were attacked by two dogs being walked off a leash. The owners of all 4 dogs were present during the attack. The two dogs who initiated the attack have been removed from the neighborhood. One of the two dogs attacked was able to be rescued before major injury occurred. The other dog has extensive damage to one of its legs. She has had surgery and numerous treatments. Only in mid-July was she no longer considered in critical condition. The owners also suffered injuries in trying to break up the dog fight.

By Harris County Regulations, all dogs and cats are to be "kept under restraint". The rules are located at [http://www.hcpes.org/vph/Animal\\_Laws/AnimalRegulations/index.html#SECTION\\_4.\\_RESTRAINT\\_AND\\_IMPOUNDMENT](http://www.hcpes.org/vph/Animal_Laws/AnimalRegulations/index.html#SECTION_4._RESTRAINT_AND_IMPOUNDMENT). This means that all dogs

should always be walked on a leash. Everyone thinks their dog would never do such a horrible thing such as injure another dog or person; however, as evidenced above, that is not the case. The dogs initiating the attack are not normally regarded as an aggressive breed and, according to the owner, had never been aggressive prior to this event.

This notice was sent by eblast to the community on July 1. Since that distribution, many homeowners have shared their frustration over homeowners who routinely walk or bicycle with their dogs off a leash.

Please be considerate of your neighbors and always have your dog on a leash near any street or greenbelt. You can report any violations to Harris County Animal Control at (713) 439-6000.

## THE MARKET IS STILL HOT!

IF YOU HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT MOVING, IT'S A COOL 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 little inventory to show. Both Lakes on Eldridge and Lakes on Eldridge North have 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!



For More Information, Contact

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## The Wilds of LOE

*Brady Reed, resident of LOE and Amateur Naturalist*

Our Lakes on Eldridge neighborhood is a wonderful paradise, but just as a rose has thorns, there are a few plants and animals in our area that can be irritating or even dangerous in a close encounter. I will provide the common names with the scientific names in parenthesis so that readers can do more research on any item. And this article will only concern itself with my actual encounters and observations.



First on the list is Poison Ivy ("*Toxicodendron radicans*"). Upon exposure to the sap of Poison Ivy most people experience an allergic reaction. Each subsequent exposure typically causes a greater reaction, often resulting in itching and blisters. The plant is a clinging vine, attaching to tree trunks, fences and shrubs. The leaf is composed of three leaflets. The bottom two leaflets usually have a pointed asymmetrical mitten-like form, and the topmost is similar but with a thumb on each side making it symmetrical. On exposure to air, the sap turns black and resembles tar. While working at a nature center years ago, many visitors related their experience of never having reacted to Poison Ivy as a youth, but now as an adult they easily get a blistering rash.



Red Mulberry ("*Morus rubra*") trees grow in some of our greenways and along the forest edges near the pedestrian bridge. The fruits resemble raspberries and are very good to eat. Also growing in the Addicks Reservoir and along our border with the reservoir are Mustang Grapes ("*Vitis mustangensis*") and

Common Persimmons ("*Diospyros virginiana*"). I have made wine from these grapes, but it is recommended that you use gloves when picking a lot of these Mustang Grapes because they are so acidic that your hands can become irritated. The Common Persimmons are candy delicious only when they are mushy. Before ripening, they are astringently bitter. Persimmons undergo a particular over ripening process called "bletting", and is essentially a kind of rotting. Only then are they edible.

Snakes have always drawn much attention. The only dangerous snake that I've come across in and around our neighborhood in the four years I have been an LOE resident is the Western Cottonmouth ("*Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma*").



This snake is also often referred to as a "Water Moccasin". The scientific name means "Fishhook tooth, fish eating, white mouth" which is description of this snake. Water Moccasins will usually stand their ground and open their mouth in a menacing show of the white flesh inside the mouth, in stark contrast to its dark outer coloring. They also have a tendency to lie still with their head cocked up at a 45 degree angle. Most other snakes will run for the hills when approached. Other venomous snakes that I have come across several miles away are the Copperhead ("*Agkistrodon contortrix*") and the Coral Snake ("*Micrurus tener*"). These last two snakes prefer a dryer forest and with more leaf litter than we have in our immediate area.



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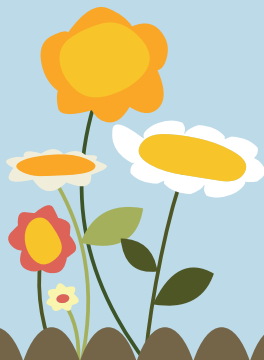
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## Pool Usage

As part of our evaluation of the Swim at Your Own Risk procedure, we have been monitoring pool usage. Between 6:30 a.m. and 4:00 pm, on weekdays and weekends, the average usage is less than 4 people at any one time. After 4:00 on weekdays and weekends until 8:00 p.m., the usage averages around 6 people at one time. Obviously from all these numbers, the pool is a valuable amenity, but is not used more heavily than other facilities. With the low usage, we continue to believe it is in the community's best interest to keep the pool a swim at your own risk facility. It seems inappropriate to staff the pool with a lifeguard when many times there is no one present. We do have residents that are enjoying early morning swimming that was not available when we had the shorter hours and lifeguards. We would like to continue to offer the expanded hours and keep the pool open year round. The lanai areas at the pool are used more extensively and we anticipate an even greater usage this fall when the pool area would normally be closed.

Our primary challenges since the switch to swim at your own risk have been residents inadequately cleaning up their trash upon leaving, a couple of residents bringing a dog into the pool area and

teenagers opening the pool gates to friends. No persons should be entering the pool without a key fob or in the accompaniment of a resident with a key fob. If you use the community pool, please respect your neighbors and our new facility by familiarizing yourself with all the pool rules and adhering to them. A few people should not cause unnecessary expense for the community as a whole.



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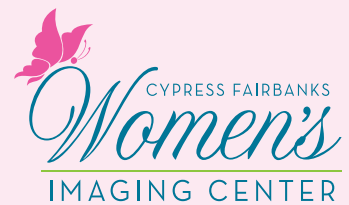
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## Meet Officer Michael Sales

Since August 2007, LOE residents have often been welcomed to our community by the unmistakably friendly face of Security Officer Michael Sales wearing a big smile and an even bigger hat! It's not a surprise to those residents who have spoken to Michael that he loves being a part of LOE and is quite familiar with many residents and regular guests. He attends to our front gate for twelve hour shifts during the day on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and for part of the day on Wednesdays and is quite committed to the security of the community.

But he is not just a Security Officer. Michael has worked in a number of industries. After High School, Michael was in a formal occupational studies program where he was able to work for several different companies over about a years' time. Each of these experiences taught him to be flexible and to see what was needed and to step in and do it. This program lead to opportunities to work for a bank where he organized and provided the forms for various large transactions, to working for a wholesale office supply company fulfilling orders in their warehouse, to working for a law firm filing papers at courthouses in Houston and surrounding states while providing litigation support for document productions. He eventually worked for Foley's aiding in the staging of products for sales catalogs such as furniture and clothing on manikins. Being the "go to guy" lead him to helping Santa during the Christmas season where he dressed up as one of Santa's helpers. Michael is willing to do most anything for the cause!

When Michael first came to LOE in 2007, he was a flex officer, meaning that he was not assigned to a single community. He says that he worked at 26 different communities over about two years. Each community is quite different and having worked at so many makes him really appreciate the people at LOE. He also appreciates the respect and support he gets from the residents. When asked if he had any advice or special request to make, he said his request would be "for residents to tell their guests to have the address where they are going ready for us when they arrive so that we can let them into the neighborhood more quickly". His advice is for "everyone to secure their vehicles and homes regardless of the fact it is a gated community. We still have people (kids and landscapers and other service people) in the neighborhood that will take advantage of unsecured property."

When Michael relaxes, he really likes to fish. He is really proud of his four sons: 28 year old Arthur, Michael 25, Brandon 24, and high schooler Malik, who is 16. He plays basketball with his sons and takes them fishing when he can. He rides on bike trails, but with that aforementioned big smile, he says "There's nothing better than fishing!"

Michael hasn't just been working and playing. Michael has been a student for the last few years. In 2011, he obtained an Associate

of Applied Science Degree in Information Technology - Computer Network Systems from ITT Technical Institute. Just recently, in June 2014, he obtained his Bachelors of Science in Information Systems and Cybersecurity from ITT Technical Institute. This is quite an accomplishment for someone working a full time job and really sets a great example for his boys.

We generally think that Michael and the other S/O's work for Industrial Security Service Corporation, but ISSC was recently acquired by Universal Protective Service. While LOE does not expect there to be any substantive changes to the services we now get from UPS, the uniforms might become slightly different. Michael is curious to know if there will be other changes that will impact him.

Thank you, Officer Sales, for consistently demonstrating your care and concern for everyone at Lakes on Eldridge. It does not go unnoticed!





## LOE BOOK CLUB

Read a good book lately? Pick one of our book selections and take it on vacation with you, then consider joining us on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. We elected to change a switch of our selections around, so note that August and September have changed. 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.

**August 25 – The Boy on the Wooden Box by Leon Leyson.** Even in the darkest of times—*especially* in the darkest of times—there is room for strength and bravery. A remarkable memoir from Leon Leyson, one of the youngest children to survive the Holocaust on Oskar Schindler's list.

**September 22 – Me Before You by Jojo Moyes.** They had nothing in common until love gave them everything to lose. Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life—steady boyfriend, close family—who has barely been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex-Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life—big

deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel—and now he's pretty sure he cannot live the way he is.

**October 27 – Inferno by Dan Brown.** Harvard professor of symbology Robert Langdon awakens in an Italian hospital, disoriented and with no recollection of the past thirty-six hours, including the origin of the macabre object hidden in his belongings. With a relentless female assassin trailing them through Florence, he and his resourceful doctor, Sienna Brooks, are forced to flee. Embarking on a harrowing journey, they must unravel a series of codes, which are the work of a brilliant scientist whose obsession with the end of the world is matched only by his passion for one of the most influential masterpieces ever written, Dante Alighieri's *The Inferno*.



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## LOE Wildlife Spotlight The American Green Tree Frog

By Nick Kjellqvist, 8th Grade, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School

Have you noticed those small green frogs that like to hang around the damp corners of your backyard? These frogs are known as American Green Tree Frogs or *Hyla cinerea*. I recently did a science fair project on these frogs and learned a lot about them. Here are a few interesting facts I discovered:

- **YOUR BACKYARD FROG:** The American green tree frog, *Hyla cinerea*, is a species of frog commonly found in the United States east coast and southern states. They are most often found in wet environments such as ponds, lakes, marshes and streams...or a backyard pool! This frog has adapted well to urban environments, so it is not uncommon to find them in your garden.


- **WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE:** *Hyla cinerea* is primarily green in color, with a pale white or yellowish stripe extending from its jaw to its groin area.

- **WHAT THEY EAT:** They are insectivores, eating insects such as mosquitoes, flies and crickets.

- **RAIN FROGS:** Green tree frogs are sometimes called “rain frogs.” Some people think that they are good indicators of rainy weather because they call loudest during damp weather.

- **LOOK BUT DON'T TOUCH:** It is not good for frogs to be handled by humans. Frogs absorb practically everything through their skin. Some salts and oils from our hands can hurt frogs.





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# Lakes on Eldridge



Lakes on Eldridge  
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## BIBLE STUDY

Lakes on Eldridge/Lakes On Eldridge North Bible study continues to meet every Tuesday at 9:30 AM at the Lakes On Eldridge North Activity center.

Come join us on our journey to loving relationships and peaceful lives.

The Bible is our spiritual food, but we also serve coffee and breakfast snacks. We lift our voices in praise songs and in prayers for one another. Study guides are available at the meeting. We hope to see you there.

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## A Focus on Heat Emergencies

Healthy tips to stay cool in extremely hot weather



Heat emergencies fall into three categories of increasing severity:

### HEAT CRAMPS, HEAT EXHAUSTION, AND HEATSTROKE

Heat illnesses are easily preventable by taking precautions in hot weather. Children, elderly, and obese people have a higher risk of developing heat illness. People taking certain medications or drinking alcohol also have a higher risk. However, even a top athlete in superb condition can succumb to heat illness if he or she ignores the warning signs.

If the problem isn't addressed, heat cramps (caused by loss of salt from heavy sweating) can lead to heat exhaustion (caused by dehydration), which can progress to heatstroke. Heatstroke, the most serious of the three, can cause shock, brain damage, organ failure, and even death.

#### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

##### Heat Cramps

- Sweating
- Pain in arms, legs, and abdomen

##### Heat Exhaustion

- Moist, pale skin
- Fatigue and fainting
- Dizziness and lightheadedness
- Headache and confusion
- Nausea and vomiting
- Rapid pulse and breathing

##### Heat Stroke

- No sweating
- Dry, hot, red skin

- Confusion and loss of consciousness
- Rapid pulse
- Temperature over 103° F
- Seizures

#### CAUSES:

The following are common causes of heat emergencies:

- High temperatures or humidity
- Dehydration
- Prolonged or excessive exercise
- Excess clothing
- Alcohol use
- Medications, such as diuretics, neuroleptics, phenothiazines, and anticholinergics
- Cardiovascular disease

#### WHAT TO DO IN HEAT EMERGENCIES...

##### First Aid

1. Have the person lie down in a cool place. Elevate the person's feet about 12 inches.
2. Apply cool, wet cloths (or cool water directly) to the person's skin and use a fan to lower body temperature. Place cold compresses on the person's neck, groin, and armpits.
3. If the person is alert, give cool water or sports beverages. It's advisable to drink slowly and steadily, particularly if they are experiencing nausea.
4. For muscle cramps, give beverages as above, and massage and stretch affected muscles gently, but firmly, until they relax.
5. If the person shows signs of shock (bluish lips and fingernails, and decreased alertness), starts having seizures, or loses consciousness, call 911 and continue cooling procedures, as described above.

##### DO NOT:

- DO NOT underestimate the seriousness of heat illness, especially if the person is a child, elderly, or injured.
- DO NOT give the person medications that are used to treat fever (such as aspirin or acetaminophen). They will not help, and they may be harmful.
- DO NOT give the person salt tablets.
- DO NOT give the person liquids that contain alcohol or caffeine. They will interfere with the body's ability to control its internal temperature.
- DO NOT use alcohol rubs on the person's skin.

*(Continued on Page 16)*



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# Lakes on Eldridge

*(Continued from Page 14)*

- DO NOT give the person anything by mouth (not even salted drinks) if the person is vomiting or unconscious.

## **PREVENTION:**




- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in hot weather.
- Rest regularly in a cool area; seek shade when possible.
- Avoid strenuous physical activity in hot or humid conditions.
- Drink plenty of fluids every day. Drink more fluids before, during, and after physical activity.
- Be especially careful to avoid overheating if you are taking drugs that impair heat regulation, or if you are overweight or elderly.
- Be careful of hot cars in the summer. Allow the car to cool off before getting in.
- Avoid heavy meals and hot foods.

*For more information on how to cope with the heat, ask your Concentra health professional, or visit the CDC's Web site at: [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/)*



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