

Volume 13, Issue 11

November 2014



The new clubhouse facility officially opened at 2:00 pm on October 4th with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Approximately 250 people joined the festivities to see the beautiful new facility on Saturday. Additional viewing opportunities were also held on Tuesday evening, October 7th and Thursday evening, October 9th with over 150 additional residents in attendance.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, Carlon Thorpe, HOA President, reminded us of the events leading up to the grand opening. This included the establishment of a web address within 3 days of the fire asking for resident's suggestions for a new facility, the creation of an initial design team to establish the overall plan for the new facility, and 3 townhall meetings to review the design plan with residents. She thanked all the residents who have worked directly on the project. She also thanked

the social committee (Georgia Shotwell, Kay Horst, Deborah Dunaway, and Clive Garner) for coordinating the refreshments for the grand opening and Clive Garner for providing musicians that performed during the opening. She announced that the project had been completed within the established budget and the HOA Association remains debt free. Finally, Carlon reminded the crowd that the Board would keep their promise and reduce everyone's homeowner dues by \$146 in 2015.

Above is a picture of the actual ribbon cutting. From left to right is David Westphal, HOA Secretary, Carlon Thorpe, HOA President, and Gary Fehsenfeld, HOA Vice President. It was an amazing day and a tremendous milestone for our community. The tragedy of the fire was transformed into a triumph for all of us.

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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	Vice President
David Westphal	
Doug Ray	Treasurer
Gene Giles	Director

Visit the Association Website: www.lakesoneldridge.net



- ANNUAL MEETING -

The Annual Meeting of the LOE Homeowner Association will be November 11 at 6:00 pm at our new clubhouse. The purpose of the meeting is to review the previous year's achievements, look forward to 2015, and elect 2 Board of Director positions. The terms of Gary Fehsenfeld and David Westphal are expiring, but both are seeking re-election. As previously announced, the homeowner dues for 2015 will be \$1460 which is a reduction of \$146 from 2014.

> IF YOU ARE NOT ATTENDING THE MEETING, PLEASE RETURN YOUR PROXY TO FIRST SERVICE RESIDENTIAL OR TO A CURRENT BOARD MEMBER.



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THANK YOU TO OUR RESIDENTS

Below is a list of the individuals who worked on the teams which made the new clubhouse a reality. Chairpersons are shown with a *.

Executive Team Gary Fehsenfeld Gene Giles Carlon Thorpe* David Westphal

Architect Gene Giles

Initial Design Team

Suzie Austin Gary Fehsenfeld* Gene Giles* Marcia Healy Adrienne Lyons Carlon Thorpe* Kim Treas

Security & Audio Team

Carl Chapman Al Florido Kyle Schmid Carlon Thorpe Robert Wegner* David Westphal

Fitness Committee

Jennifer Dawson Marcia Healy Srinivas Rao Doug Ray Colette Spiers*

Outdoor Furniture Restoration Team

Bob Baker Phyllis Baker Gary Fehsenfeld* Clive Gardner Marcia Healy Robert Healy Jamie Powers Susan Strebel

Interior Design Team

Gary Fehsenfeld* Stephanie Leggett Maggie Wegner Carlon Thorpe*

The Board sincerely thanks all the residents who participated in the new clubhouse.





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Our Brand New Clubhouse!







Here is a selection of photographs within our new clubhouse. A special thanks to Mark Durka and Susan Kjellquist for taking photographs before, during, and after the Grand Opening.

4 Lakes on Eldridge - November 2014

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FAQ Regarding our New Clubhouse Facility

Is this facility larger than the original clubhouse? Yes!! The clubhouse is more than twice as large as before. The outside covered area is also more than twice the size of the original. In total the interior and exterior facility is approximately 9000 square feet.

Where did the furniture come from? The furniture and lamps were purchased from Gallery Furniture. We selected the fabrics and special ordered much of the furniture. The credenzas on each side of the room and the large tables at the back were made to our exact dimensions by the Amish. All the furniture is solid wood and made in America. The soft goods (couches and upholstered chairs) were made in Texarkana, Texas.

Does the new clubhouse have additional features? Yes!! The entire outside and inside are now covered by 24 hour cameras and a security system. The doors are operated electronically either by a striker lock or a mag lock. A key fob is necessary for entry. The main room and the flex room also have an audio system where you can plug in any portable electronic device and send music to either or both rooms. Finally, there are fire and heat sensors in the building.

Is the design of the clubhouse unique? Yes. It is a copyrighted design done by our architect and resident, Gene Giles. No one can use the design without permission.

Can I enter the main room at any time? No. Only approved function users can enter the main room, but the flex room and the workout room are available for use from 5 am- 10 pm. Anyone interested in sponsoring a main room function should contact First Service. Many functions are already approved for free use in the main room including stitchers, bible study (women's and a new men's group), book club, and bunco. Reservations are also being accepted for the flex room.

Can I rent the facility? Yes! If the function is for the use of the community, you can apply for a free rental. Some free rentals may require a cleaning fee. Private functions are by paid reservation only with a \$500 deposit.

Why did the construction take so long? There are lots of reasons, but the primary issues related to the enormous amount of construction going on in Houston and our determination to finish the project both within the budget and in accordance with our desired quality. We could have expedited the project

if we had been willing to spend more money or accept a lesser quality. The general contractor had a difficult time lining up subs as quickly as we wished. Overall the entire project from the fire to the grand opening was 21 months, but 3 months of that were a self-imposed halt to keep the pool open during the summer of 2013. Eighteen months seemed long, but is not unusual for a design and construction project of this magnitude.

What about the arbors? We elected to wait to install the arbors until this winter. Again, the general contractor couldn't line up our preferred sub-contractor at the time we wanted, so rather than close the pool during the prime season, we decided to wait for a time with less overall impact.

How much did this cost? The total cost for everything from demolition of the previous clubhouse to final completion of the new was just over \$1.2 Million. That was within the established budget. At the last Annual meeting, we set the remaining construction budget at \$1.024 Million. Prior expenditures for demolition and design services totaled \$99,000. The clubhouse contents budget was set at \$110,000, but it was "use it or lose it" from the insurance company. We spent \$111,000. Contents included all interior furnishings, workout equipment, refrigerator, outdoor furniture and swim team equipment reimbursement.

How much of the cost was paid by insurance? Insurance paid \$818,673 toward the clubhouse itself and \$110,000 for contents. The remaining funds came from the one time owner contribution of \$146/family, savings from the 2013 operating budget, and the allocation of the normal 2014 reserve contribution to the project.

Does that mean everything has been paid? Yes. All obligations have been met and the community remains debt free. As promised, the Board will reduce the homeowner assessment by the one-time fee of \$146 for 2015.

Will the pool and lanai be open year round? Yes. The pool and lanai area are open for use from 5 am -10 pm every day except on Mondays when only the pool will not be available due to chemical treatment.

If I didn't get a key fob yet, how can I apply? Contact First Service Residential at 713.932.1122 or email elise.campagna@ fsresidential.com.

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THE ORIGIN OF THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

The Pilgrims left Plymouth, England, on September 6, 1620 for the New World. Although filled with uncertainty and peril, it offered both civil and religious liberty. For over two months, the 102 passengers braved the harsh elements of a vast storm-tossed sea. Finally, with firm purpose and a reliance on Divine Providence, the cry of "Land!" was heard.

Arriving in Massachusetts in late November, the Pilgrims sought a suitable landing place. On December 11, just before disembarking at Plymouth Rock (so named after the English port Plymouth), they signed the "Mayflower Compact"- America's first document of civil government and the first to introduce self-government.

After a prayer service, the Pilgrims began building hasty shelters; however, unprepared for the starvation and sickness of a harsh New England winter, nearly half died before spring. Yet, persevering in prayer, and assisted by helpful Indians, they reaped a bountiful harvest the following summer. The grateful Pilgrims then declared a three-day feast, starting on December 13, 1621, to thank God and to celebrate with their Indian friends. Pilgrim Edward Winslow described the Pilgrims' Thanksgiving in these words:

"Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent four men on fowling [bird hunting] so that we might, after a special manner, rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as ... served the company almost a week... Many of the Indians [came] amongst us and... their greatest King, Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for



OPEN HOUSE - Thurs, Jan. 23rd - 5-7 p.m.

In 1789, following a proclamation issued by President George Washington, America celebrated its first Day of Thanksgiving to God under its new constitution. That same year, the Protestant Episcopal Church, of which President Washington was a member, announced that the first Thursday in November would become its regular day for giving thanks, "unless another day be appointed by the civil authorities." Yet, despite these early national proclamations, official Thanksgiving observances usually occurred only at the State level.

Much of the credit for the adoption of a later annual national Thanksgiving Day may be attributed to Mrs. Sarah Joseph Hale, the editor of Godey's Lady's Book. For thirty years, she promoted the idea of a national Thanksgiving Day, contacting President after President until President Abraham Lincoln responded in 1863 by setting aside the last Thursday of November as a national Day of Thanksgiving. That proclamation was made shortly after his famous Gettysburg Address where he witnessed and was overcome by the loss of 60,000 Americans. Over the next seventy-five years, Presidents followed Lincoln's precedent, annually declaring a national Thanksgiving Day. Then, in 1941, Congress permanently established the fourth Thursday of each November as a national holiday.

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NEW MEN'S BIBLE STUDY IN LOE

A MEN'S Bible Study will be launched in the new LOE clubhouse this fall. If you are interested in discussing the Bible and its applications to our lives today, please join us on Tuesday nights beginning October 21st at 7:00 PM until 8:00- 8:30PM. See you there!

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

In addition to the clubhouse, several other projects were completed. The front gate house was remodeled including repainting outside and inside, the installation of a new outdoor ceiling fan and completion of the plumbing and interior modifications. New lights were installed in the parking lot at the clubhouse. All the trees along Tanner and Eldridge were trimmed (300+) to permit the brick wall repairs to proceed in late October. A community bulletin board was installed near the workout room. New electrical circuits were run at the Heather Run and Ginger Ponds entrances to permit the installation of lighted Christmas decorations.



LUNAR ECLIPSE!

The lunar eclipse on October, 8th around 5:30 AM as viewd from outside of the clubhouse, by the pool.

Photo taken by Guillaume Tamboise

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LOE BOOK CLUB

We have finalized our reading list and meeting dates for the rest of this year, and there are some wonderful books coming up. Our numbers are growing, as we welcomed another new member last month. 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.

No Book Club meeting in November (Thanksgiving).

December (date TBD) – *One for the Money* by Janet Evanovich. This meeting will be our Christmas party, and we decided to have a light, fun book to read. The first of the Stephanie Plum series, this one introduces Stephanie, her wacky family, and other assorted interesting characters.

January 26 - Vampines in the Lemon Grove by Karen Russell. Named a Best Book of the Year by: *The Boston Globe, O The Oprah Magazine, Huffington Post, The A.V. Club, A Washington Post* Notable Book, An *NPR* Great Read of 2013. From the author of the novel *Swamplandial*—a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize—comes a magical and uniquely daring collection of stories that showcases the author's gifts at their inimitable best. NOTE: This will be the Houston Inprint series book lecture in January, so those interested may want to attend that.

February 23 - Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline. Between 1854

and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran regularly from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by luck and chance. This is the story of one such child.

March 23 - The Searchers: The Making of an American Legend by Glenn Frankel. In 1836 in East Texas, nine-year-old Cynthia Ann Parker was kidnapped by Comanches. She was raised by the tribe and eventually became the wife of a warrior. Twenty-four years after her capture, she was reclaimed by the U.S. cavalry and Texas Rangers and restored to her white family, to die in misery and obscurity. Cynthia Ann's story has been told and re-told over generations to become a foundational American tale. NOTE: This will be the Holly Hall book review in March, so those interested may want to attend that.

April 27- And the Mountains Echoed by Khalid Hosseini. Khaled Hosseini gifts us with a poignant story of love, loss, and recovery across several families and over several generations. Like an intricately woven tapestry, And the Mountains Echoed pulls us into the lives of disparate children, men, and women in Afghanistan, France, Greece, and California, showing us how the choices they and other make resonate over decades.

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2014 Festivities, Markets, Crafts & More!

Oct 31 & 11-2 • 26 th Annual Fall Festival of Roses	The ADE see as the second seco
Oct 51 \approx 11-2 \approx 20 Annual rail restivat of Roses	weAREroses.com
Nov 7 - 8 • Sugar Plum Market, Stafford Junior League	sugarplummarket.com
Nov 9 • 19th Annual Children's Festival	woodlandscenter.org
Nov 9 - Dec 24 • Old Town Spring 'Home for the Holidays'	oldtownspring.com/events
Nov 13 - 16 • Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market	houstonballet.org
Nov 14 - May 10 • Ice Age Exhibit	moodygardens.org
Nov 15 - Jan 3 • Moody Gardens Festival of Lights	moodygardens.org
Nov 15 - Jan 4 • Moody Gardens 'Ice Island Ice Sculptures'	moodygardens.org
Nov 21- 22 • Brazos Valley Worldfest	brazosvalleyworldfest.org
Nov 21 - 23 • Holidays Christmas Gift Mkt, Katy TX	homefortheholidaysgiftmarket.com
Nov 21 - 23 • Woodlands Jr League Holiday Market	jlholidaymarket.org
Nov 22 & 23 • 2014 ViaColoriHouston	centerhearingandspeech.org
Nov 27 • Houston Thanksgiving Day Parade	
Nov 27 • Uptown Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony	
Nov 28 -29 • Moody Garden's 'Home for the Holidays'	moodygardens.org
Dec 4 • The Woodlands 'Holly Jolly Jingle'	
Dec 13 • Conroe Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting	
Dec 13 • Annual Christmas Boat Lane Parade, Clear Lake	
Dec 14 - May 31, 2015 • Strawberry Picking at Blessington Farmes	/.blessingtonfarmes.com
Dec 15 - Jan 1,2015 • Houston 'Zoo Lights'	houstonzoo.org/zoolights
Dec 18 • Children's Campfire Christmas	georgeranch.org
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Stitch & Chat

Members of Stitch & Chat meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. until noon. Our members knit, crochet, needle point, embroider, cross-stitch, quilt and mend. We also make fleece blankets for Texas Children's patients, shawls for cancer patients and caps for newborn babies. We would be happy to help you get started on a project that you have always wanted to try. Please join us for coffee and conversation, even if you don't do any sewing or handwork!

You do not have to be a resident of Lakes on Eldridge to join us.

As soon as the clubhouse reopens are meetings will be held there at the time listed above. Until then, we are meeting in current members' homes in LOE. To get more information about our group, contact Catherine Spellings at CTSpellings@aol.com or call 713-628-7083 or 713-896-1652; or contact Cathy Casey at 713-856-6668.



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