

Volume 14, Issue 4

April 2015

YARD OF MONTH

Having served for the past five years as the Lakes on Eldridge Chairperson for Yard of the Month, this will be my last year to serve. This Good Neighbor Program requires a couple of LOE volunteers who enjoy gardening and would love to oversee this Program. The Chairperson would be working with Cornelius Nursery which would probably take about 3-4 hours a month of your time. In the beginning, I will provide learning instructions for the new volunteers. Please let me know if you are interested. My number is 713-466-3306. *Thanks, Maggie Wegner*

The Yard of the Month winners for the month of April are:

WINNER Dan Rusu - 12806 Rock Falls Way



HONORABLE MENTION Mary Proud - 5311 Bristol Banks Court

WINNER Pam & Matt Czuba - 12431 Summerland Ridge Lane



HONORABLE MENTION Lynn & Jim Ruoff - 12102 Summerland Ridge Lane

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

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

First Service Residential713-932-1122		
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Waterfowl, Betty Burkett713-302-9929		
Sheriff - (non-emergency)713-221-6000		
Cy-Fair Fire Department - (emergency)		
(non-emergency)		
Poison Control1-800-764-7661		
Texas DPS713-681-1761		
Waste Management		
(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)		
TNG Utility (Water)		
Harris County Tax Office		
Reliant Energy		
CenterPoint (gas)		
Center Point (street light)713-207-2222		
(give pole # of street which is out)		
Comcast		
Houston Chronicle		
Metro Transit Info713-635-4000		
Kirk Elementary 713-849-8250		
Truitt Middle School		
Cy-Falls High School		
Cy-Ridge High School		
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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	Secretary
Doug Ray	Treasurer
Gene Giles	

Visit the Association Website: www.lakesoneldridge.net



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE ON THE LOE BOARD?

This October the LOE Board anticipates one or more openings. If you would be interested in possibly serving the community, the Board would like to meet with you now to help you understand the responsibilities and time commitment. Ideal Board members have a strong background in Business, Engineering, Finance, Accounting or Legal. In an average year, Board members typically spend about 4 hours per week discussing issues with a formal monthly meeting lasting approximately 4 hours. Board members also work with subdivision committees. Board membership is a service position to the community. It is a big commitment, but very rewarding. If you would be interested in serving, please contact elise.campagna@ fsresidential.com for an application. One or more current Board members will get back to you.



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LOE WELCOME COMMITTEE

The dedicated volunteers of the Welcome Committee prepared and delivered baskets to 60 new residents coming to Lakes on Eldridge in 2014. The baskets included a beautifully flowering plant, a current LOE newsletter, a list of LOE committees, and important area telephone numbers. The span of newcomers purchased homes in most of the villages within our Community. Sometimes the committee members were daunted especially during the holidays when absent families were most certainly celebrating elsewhere. Inclined to never give up, the Committee was determined to deliver as many baskets as possible. It was a wonderful experience for them to meet and greet newcomers who, as may be expected, were still somewhat bewildered after their move. Regardless, the committee volunteers encountered big smiles and gratefulness for a community that recognized new residents from far and near. We truly are a friendly locality!



LOE BOOK CLUB

In March we discussed a book that covered both a chapter of Texas history and a famous John Wayne movie. Next up is one of our favorite authors, Khalid Hosseini, author of the award-winning The Kite Runner. We're still working on our reading list for the next several months. We look forward to seeing more of our neighbors join us!

We meet 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.

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.

So many books, so little time!...



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THE STORY OF TANNER AND CLEO

... and the important lesson learned

Tanner, a brown Shepherd-mix male, was found along with Cleo, a Pit-bull mix. You probably did not hear about this twosome, nor read about them in the newspaper. Our area often attracts lost or throwaway dogs, but it still isn't newsworthy. I want to share my story about caring residents who are devoted to all animals.

Tanner and Cleo were spotted roaming our neighborhood and Eldridge Parkway for almost a week last November, when I was finally able to catch them. My next door neighbor helped out tremendously by agreeing to set up a kennel for them on her patio, while I networked them and found a vet. With the financial assistance from yet another resident, and the vet who generously reduced the rates, the dogs were examined and vaccinated.

With my children's help, we spent a great deal of time making and putting up posters, placing notices on every possible online site, calling all surrounding neighborhoods and more, too numerous to list.

The female was eventually taken by a neighbor, who named her Cleopatra and called her Cleo. This beautiful, sweet discarded canine ended up with a wonderful home ... the kind of home every dog deserves. Thank you neighbors (you know who you are) for giving this sweetheart a chance, and showing her the love she most likely never had before.

The information about the male dog (we called Tanner) continued to circulate on Facebook to avoid having to take him to a shelter, where he might face euthanization.

Soon a foster was found to come for a meet and greet at my house, along with one of my friends, so I could get a second opinion. Even though I had lined up a rescue group to take Tanner, my friend and I agreed to let him go to the foster's home for a weekend sleep over. Happily, it went well and the foster asked to keep him on a foster-toadopt situation.

In addition, the foster worked for a vet so she had him neutered. She and I had an agreement that she would contact me if things didn't work out, plus I stayed in touch with her on a regular basis to assure the arrangement was a good match. I was so relieved.

But there is more to the story. A few weeks after Tanner was given to foster care, I was looking for a different dog, and spotted a "Lost Dog" poster in a small residential area off Brittmoore. The dog in the poster picture looked strikingly similar to Tanner. It WAS Tanner. Unbelievably, his posters had survived three months and remained in fairly good shape. I contacted Tanner's foster immediately, only to sadly learn she didn't have him anymore. She had given Tanner to a "friend" who literally DUMPED him at a shelter. After frantically searching for the right shelter and a contact person, we successfully located Tanner who had been left tied to the front door, and no doubt was very confused.

The real owners were notified immediately that we had found a dog that might very well be the dog in the poster. They were completely thrilled to get their dog back after THREE MONTHS! This was one HAPPY REUNION!

How did Tanner end up on the streets?

His owners had given him to friends in the Brittmoore neighborhood to watch him while they took a couple days' vacation. The friends also had a dog, a Belgian Shepherd. Both dogs escaped from the backyard while they were briefly unsupervised. The Belgian Shepherd was reunited with his owners immediately because he had a microchip. Tanner did not. He continued to roam the streets, and eventually buddied up with the beautiful Pit-bull mix, Cleo.

By the way, after being called Tanner, then renamed Jake, we learned his name was Rebel! After Rebel returned to his owners, completely neutered and microchipped, he met the two playmates his owners had adopted during Rebel's BIG adventure.

Ultimately, Cleo and Rebel were guided to a safe and happy ending. But the stressful saga could have been avoided if the owners had realized the importance of microchipping and tagging pets, both dogs and cats. That is the lesson learned from the true story that happened in our neighborhood. Please spread the word.





NEW MUD 341 BOARD MEMBERS

Lakes on Eldridge is served by Harris County Municipal Utility District 341, which provides clean water to our homes, disposes of our waste water and provides twice weekly trash/garbage collection and removal. The MUD also attends to other quality of life amenities and works with the HOA on various maintenance and operational aspects of our neighborhood. Outside the walls of LOE, for example, the MUD 341 Board recently approved jointly funding, along with MUD 370 (which serves LOEN) and Harris County Parks, the Tanner Sidewalk Connector Trail that will connect Tanner Road, starting from Ginger Ponds, to the Addicks reservoir hiking and biking trail. This is the first step of a project that is expected to eventually benefit the residents of a number of nearby communities, but considering its proximity to LOE and LOEN, our hiking and bicycling residents will be the primary beneficiaries.

The MUD 341 Board has not had new faces for about six years, until very recently. The Board has added LOE residents Christine Mink and Russell Rush in February and March, respectively. With their addition, LOE will increase the number of residents on the MUD Board from one to three (out of five). LOE resident David King continues to serve as a MUD Board Member and had served for several years on the LOE HOA Board. Mitch Creekmore and Annette Edmonds reside outside the district, but own small lots in LOE called Directors Lots and have served our community for more than 20 years.

Meet New MUD 341 Board Member Christine Mink

Christine Mink has been a resident of LOE since 1999. She was a cofounder of our LOE Swim Team in 2000 and served as its president for two years from 2001 until 2003. Christine is a 30 year IT professional currently working as an IT manager for a large oil and gas enterprise in the Galleria area. As an original resident, she has a special appreciation for the quality of life in LOE and a commitment to providing highly reliable and quality services while maintaining our low tax rate.

Meet New MUD 341 Board Member Russell Rush

Russell Rush has been a resident of LOE since 2007. He has been involved with running the primary and general elections for our Precinct 155 as a Precinct Chairman since 2007. Currently, he is an Associate Director at Wortham Insurance where he has focused on risk engineering for property insurance clients for more than 30 years. Prior to moving into LOE, he was a Board Member for ten years in a different MUD, south of the Sam Houston Raceway Park. Additionally, Russell and his wife, Marie Anne, are Directors of World Missions at Believers World Outreach Church in Katy, Texas, and are one of the founding families of that church. Like Christine Mink, he looks forward to serving our district to efficiently provide reliable and quality services.



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MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Some of the major maintenance items for the previous month were:

- Hired a new contractor for pool maintenance Sweetwater Pools. They replace Greater Houston Pool Maintenance. Sweetwater is doing a full evaluation of our systems prior to swim season. We have already replaced the motor on pool pump and corrected other pump room deficiencies.
- Painted new stripes at the clubhouse parking lot.
- · Painted new stripes at the school bus loading area behind Kirk Elementary.
- Identified 125 places where curbs are severely damaged. We are seeking competitive bids for repairs. We are requesting pricing for any homeowner who wishes to repair/replace sidewalks in front of their home.
- Trimmed the trees at entrance esplanades, all cul-de-sacs, and other selected areas.
- Installed a coat rack in the Workout Room, replaced the stolen 12# weights, and realigned the equipment for better TV viewing.
- Repaired two Main Room Clubhouse tables for scratches.

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- Texture
- Garage Floor Epoxy
- Roofing



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR

HOA assessments were due in full before March 1. As of March 12th, there are 84 homeowners with outstanding balances. If you are one of those homeowners, please follow the payment instructions you received with your late notice. You may also contact Elise Campagna at elise.campagna@fsresidential.com if you have any questions. Thank you for your prompt payment.





WHAT HAPPENED ON THE MARKET IN 2014?

RENTALS V/S SALES IN LOE AND LOEN BETWEEN 1/1/2014 AND 12/31/2014 MORE HOMES HAVE LEASED THAN SOLD IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

	RENTALS CLOSED	SALES CLOSED
LOE	38	39
LOEN	60	57
TOTAL	98	96

PLEASE EMAIL ME OR CALL ME FOR INSIGHT ON WHAT THESE FIGURES COULD MEAN!



Resident of Lakes on Eldridge North

832-788-6002

danielle@dgebara.com



Pet Owner Etiquette

With spring just around the corner, weather will become warmer and the days longer. Our community has a beautiful network of sidewalks/trails to enjoy. This will bring everyone out of their "winter" hibernation, including our pets.

As pet owners, we need to be responsible when we walk our pets. The sidewalk/trails can get pretty crowded around the green belt along Turkey Creek. The Animal Humane Society has some great advice for managing our pets and ensuring good behavior in public (AHS link included):

- 1. Teach dog-to-dog introductions.
- 2. Always leash your dog.
- 3. Discourage barking.
- 4. Be aware of other peoples' spaces.
- 5. Be aware of other peoples' feelings.
- 6. Scoop your dog's poop!

http://www.animalhumanesociety.org/training/ etiquette-dog-owners

In addition, Harris County has specific laws concerning control of your pet. Harris County animal regulations state that "All dogs and cats must be kept under restraint while in unincorporated areas of Harris County, Texas. The custodian of a dog or cat is not authorized to have, harbored or keep any unlicensed dog or cat, or to allow any dog or cat to become a stray." Strays can be impounded requiring the owner to appear before a justice of the peace.

Restraint is defined as "the control of a dog or cat" under the following circumstances:

1. When it is controlled by a line or leash not more than six (6) feet in length, if the line or leash is held by a human being, who is capable of controlling or governing the dog or cat in question

2. When it is within a fully enclosed vehicle

3. When it is on the premise of the custodian and the animal does not have access to sidewalk or street

Not leashing your dog can have dire animal health consequences, even when you think you know your pet "wouldn't hurt a fly." Last year in June, a dog on a leash was viciously attacked by two other dogs that were not leashed. The dog that was attacked still has not fully recovered. We have also had multiple reports of dogs taken off leash and being encouraged to chase the wildlife in our lakes. This endangers the wildlife and their nesting areas. Please be respectful of your neighbors and your neighbors' pets – always walk your dog on a leash. Violators will be referred to Harris County Animal Control.

Timely Tips for April Gardeners from Calloway's and Cornelius

April means "to open" or "opening", in allusion to it being the season when trees and flowers begin to "open". This is the month of rebirth and hope for the future. If April means spring to you, get out your gardening tools and get moving. Consider adding Native Plants to your landscape. Native plants tolerate our Texas Summer heat better than most, require less water, require less mowing, provide habitats for birds, butterflies and other wildlife, protect the soil and save on fertilizers and insecticides.

A successful garden begins with good soil. Organic material is important to the soil composition. It helps with drainage and increases the microbe population. Expanded shale is used to break-up hard compacted clay soils. Top dress your flowerbeds and containers with organic mulches.

Hopefully you have your tomatoes, peppers, squash, and other warm season vegetables already planted; if not, get them in the ground right away. To get the highest yields, make additions of fertilizer (called sidedressing) every couple of weeks, starting about a month after transplanting or seeding.

If your yard is too small for traditional garden plot, try gardening in containers. The bigger the container, the better! Container gardens need more attention since they dry out faster and need regular additions of fertilizer to compensate for the more frequent irrigation.

If you want to create a truly dynamic garden, inviting colorful guests like butterflies and hummingbirds is definitely the way to go. Butterflies like sunshine and plenty of space to fly around, so opt for a sunny, open spot. Both enjoy having some type of cover as a resting spot. Your garden should include some type of water feature as butterflies and hummingbirds often congregate around water.

St. Augustine and Bermuda lawns should be actively growing now; it is a great time to apply fertilizer. A correctly fertilized lawn now will better help your lawn to handle the Texas Summer Heat!



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Lakes on Eldridge

Lakes on Eldridge Dolphins 16TH SEASON

The Lakes on Eldridge Dolphins Swim Team will begin their 16th season in 2015! We are again recruiting enthusiastic swimmers ages 5 - 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.)

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!

April 27 - Regular Practice Starts

MEET SCHEDULE FOR 2015:

May 9 - AWAY Winchester Time Trials May 16 - LOE vs. Cypress Mill May 23 - LOE vs. The Woodlands Riptides May 30 - LOE vs. Bridgeland June 6 - LOE vs. Deerfield Village June 13 - LOE vs. Copperfield June 20 - Divisionals at CySprings HS

Check the NEW website http://loedolphins.swim-team.us./ for important dates, and also for everything and anything about the LOEST DOLPHINS!

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Lakes on Eldridge





The technology that opens and closes our gates is getting quite dated. We need to have a plan for updating the technology, but maybe even re-thinking how we want vehicles coming and going from the community. If you would like to have input and be involved in gate solutions, please let Elise Campagna know. If you have been previously involved with the gates, whether repairing or resetting them or reviewing and revising procedures for entering and exiting the front or side gates, AND are still interested in being involved, let Elise Campagna know. This could be an exciting time to be involved with the community working on a very visible and useful amenity. It is best to let Elise know by emailing her at Elise. Campagna@fsresidential.com.



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