



Volume 14, Issue 7

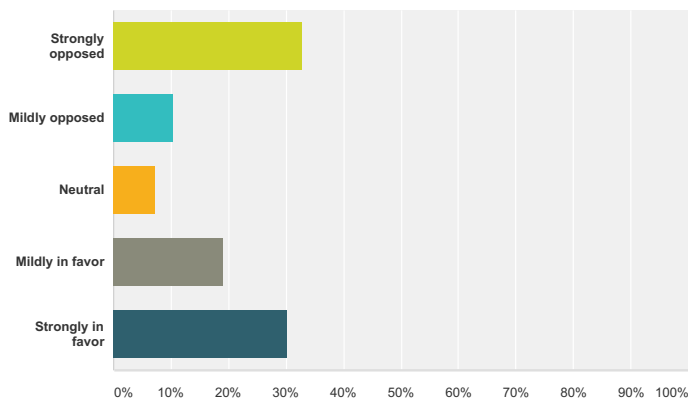
July 2015

July 4th Fireworks in Lakes on Eldridge

Last New Year's Eve, we received numerous complaints from homeowners about the noise and perceived danger to property from residents who were using fireworks. At the same time, we received complaints from homeowners who were engaging in fireworks and were complaining about their neighbors who were opposed to their usage. In order to more effectively understand the issue, the Board

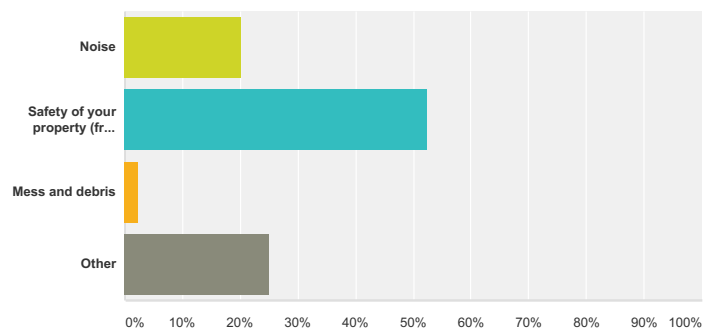
decided to take a survey open to all residents to determine the actual preference of the community. We want to thank all the 247 residents who participated. The full results are published in the newsletter. FYI, for those residents who attempted to vote multiple times, we have scrubbed all duplicate votes from the final results. Also, we note that about 500 residents did not respond.

Q1 Please tell us your feelings about fireworks in LOE.



Answer Choices	Responses
Strongly Opposed	32.79%
Mildly Opposed	10.53%
Neutral	7.29%
Mildly In Favor	19.03%
Strongly In Favor	30.36%

Q2 If you are opposed to fireworks, please indicate the reason that you are most opposed:



Answer Choices	Responses
Noise	20.31%
Safety of your property	52.34%
Mess and Debris	2.34%
Other	25%

(Continued on Page 2)

Lakes on Eldridge

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

First Service Residential.....	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)	
TNG Utility (Water).....	281-350-0895
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
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Cy-Ridge High School	281-807-8000
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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:

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Gary Fehsenfeld	Vice President
David Westphal.....	Secretary
Doug Ray.....	Treasurer
Gene Giles	Director

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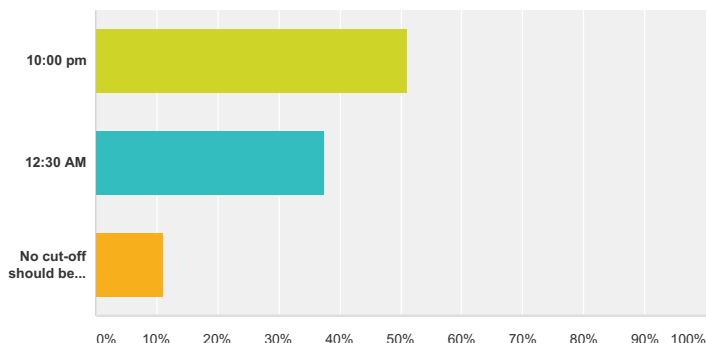
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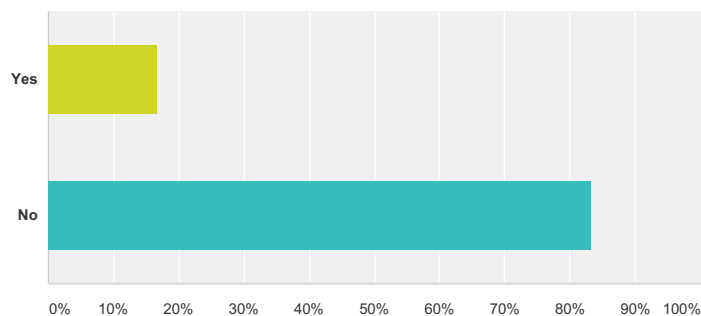
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Q3 If the hours of approved fireworks were limited, what do you feel is an appropriate cut-off?



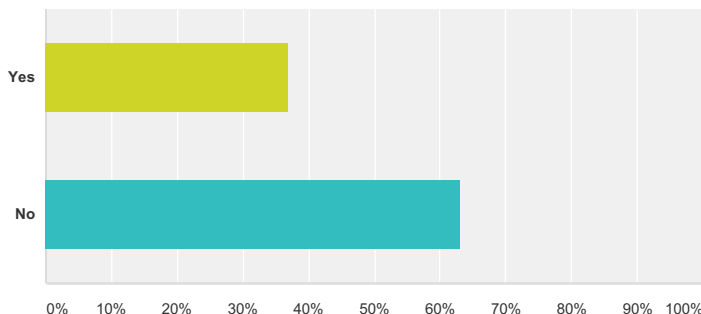
Answer Choices	Responses
10:00 PM	51.24%
12:30 AM	37.60%
No Cut-Off Should Be Given	11.16%

Q4 Did anyone in your family purchase fireworks for New Year's Eve?



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	16.60%
No	83.40%

Q5 If fireworks are allowed, would you support paying for a sheriff to monitor usage?



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	36.99%
No	63.01%

(Continued on Page 3)

Lakes on Eldridge

(Continued from Page 2)

As you can see, among those voting, there is a near even split in the community. Approximately 33% of those voting are strongly opposed to fireworks and 30% are strongly in favor. If we assume that those that did not respond would have voted as neutral, then 11% are strongly opposed and 10% are strongly in favor. A majority prefer any fireworks to be completed by 10 pm which should be acceptable for July 4th, but may not be suitable for New Year's. The plan for fireworks, set forth below, does not address New Year's. The primary objections to fireworks are safety and noise.

The LOE Board chose not to hastily make a decision immediately after the survey anticipating that Harris County may obviate any Board decision with its own enhanced restrictions. As yet, Harris County has not issued any new restrictions. We are told that Harris County pays attention to what special rulings are issued for the City of Houston through its fire department. Here is the information from the Houston Department: <http://www.houstontx.gov/fire/news/fireworks.html>. While we are not specifically in their jurisdiction, members of our volunteer fire department have expressed the same concerns. Highlights from the article are in italics.

Fireworks are not only illegal in the City and parts of the county but they are also very dangerous. Harris County residents should also be aware that HFD will be enforcing the fireworks ban in the Limited

Purpose Annexation areas. The fines are anywhere from \$500 - \$2000 for each individual firework. Warnings are no longer used because of the seriousness of the firework laws. If a minor is caught with fireworks, the parent or guardian will receive the fine even if they were unaware of the minor's possession and/or usage. Even though it is legal to buy, possess, and use consumer fireworks (1.4G) in the unincorporated areas of Harris County, there are some places you cannot use fireworks even in the unincorporated county. Such as near churches, hospitals and asylums, a licensed child care center, or a public or private primary or secondary school or institution of higher education unless the person receives authorization in writing from that organization. Citizens should report all complaints regarding the illegal use of fireworks directly to the HPD Tel-communicator (non-emergency line) at 713-884-3131. If the citizen believes that there may be a fire and/or medical emergency related to the use of fireworks, he/she should dial 9-1-1.

Based on all this information, the Board sought to find a middle ground. While we understand and expect that many people will dislike some part of the plan, we believe it will most clearly allow some enjoyment of fireworks while limiting the disruption. Specifically here are the rules that will be enforced within LOE:

Fireworks will be permitted only on July 4th up to 10:00 pm. Any aerial fireworks must be pointed away from any homes, the

(Continued on Page 4)



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Lakes on Eldridge

(Continued from Page 3)

elementary school, people or animals. Any resident using fireworks is required to clean up all debris. Any fireworks usage outside these limits of days or times will be subject to fine from the HOA and/or the Sheriff. We will re-evaluate the times and days of fireworks usage again for New Year's Eve. Part of that evaluation will be the compliance with the July 4th limitations. The Board strongly encourages all residents to attend one of the major fireworks displays available either from the City of Houston, City Centre or at Katy Mills Mall.



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or email me at: nazanin_amiri83@yahoo.com**

Ladies of LOE Meet

The Ladies of LOE Meet will gather at the LOE clubhouse 30 July 2015, the last Thursday of the month at 10:00 am to 12:00 pm to enjoy creative stitching, chatting, and refreshments. New faces are always invited and welcomed; we all look forward to seeing old friends.

We Ladies of LOE Meet are a convivial group of women! Some of us are long time stitchers and pleased to provide instructions if one of the various creative stitching methods is appealing...come and learn. If chatting while working on your project is appealing, we do that too! Most of all if a meet-your-neighbors visit is enough then come along and have light refreshments and conversation.

Catherine Spellings, a lovely lady and the founder of Stitchers since November 2004, will soon celebrate 14 years of calling for ladies to gather and share. Please call Catherine 713 628 7083 or email catherinespellings@gmail.com if you have questions about a project.



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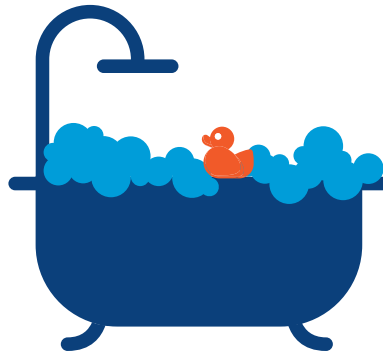


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YARD OF THE MONTH

In the last couple of Newsletters, I had explained that this will be my last year to chair Yard of the Month. If no one is willing to take over this volunteer position, then the Yard of the Month Program will have to be disbanded. I hope this does not happen. People work diligently on their yards and deserve to be rewarded! I am looking

for a couple of people who enjoy gardening and would love to oversee this volunteer position. You would be working with Cornelius Nursery. This would probably take up about 3-4 hours a month of your time. I will help you get started. 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 July are:

WINNER

Mercedes Perez - 5422 Lake Place Dr.



WINNER

Susan Rainbolt - 5519 Sterling Brook



HONORABLE MENTION

Gus & Georgia Lester - 12915 Silent Shore Dr.



HONORABLE MENTION

Richard & Marie Costello - 12103 Millstream



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LOE BOOK CLUB

Do you enjoy reading a good book? Join your fellow LOE reading enthusiasts at Book Club! Below is a brief description of each selection. We meet the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. (unless we decide to skip a month or change the meeting day). 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.

July 27 - *The Kitchen House* by Judy Kathleen Grissom. In this gripping *New York Times* bestseller, Kathleen Grissom brings to life a thriving plantation in Virginia in the decades before the Civil War, where a dark secret threatens to expose the best and worst in everyone tied to the estate.

August 24 - *The Secret Keeper* by Kate Morton. From the *New York Times* and internationally bestselling author of *The Distant Hours*, *The Forgotten Garden*, and *The House at Riverton*, a spellbinding new novel filled with mystery, thievery, murder, and enduring love.

September 28 - *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini. In a life that spanned nearly a century and witnessed some of the most momentous events in American

history, Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley was born a slave. A gifted seamstress, she earned her freedom by the skill of her needle, and won the friendship of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln by her devotion. A sweeping historical novel, *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* illuminates the extraordinary relationship the two women shared, beginning in the hallowed halls of the White House during the trials of the Civil War and enduring almost, but not quite, to the end of Mrs. Lincoln's days.

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Timely Tips for July Gardeners from Calloway's and Cornelius

Gardening activities usually slowdown in the summertime as the temperature continues to climb into the 90's and beyond. July is often a very dry month and can be very hot. New garden projects are not usually started but there are always maintenance chores to do. The best time to do any kind of gardening or maintenance is in the early morning or late in the day after supper.

Proper watering is essential to keep plants healthy in the heat of summer. It is best to water as deeply and infrequently as possible, as opposed to frequent light sprinklings. This will encourage a deeper root system that can take advantage of water stored in the soil.

One of the best strategies for getting shrubs and young trees through summertime dry spells is to apply a thick layer of mulch over the root systems of plants. Mulches break down over time, so if it has been awhile since you've mulched, check all the plants in your yard. A three to four inch layer will prevent most evaporation from the soil and lower the soil temperature in the root zone, reducing stress on the root system.

Drip irrigation combined with mulch is an excellent way to maintain high quality of plant materials. Drip irrigation, also known as trickle irrigation or micro irrigation, is an irrigation method that saves water and fertilizer by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants, either into the soil surface or directly into the root zone, through a network of valves, pipes, tubing, and emitters. It is done through narrow tubes that deliver water directly to the base of the plant. This allows for fertilizer and nutrient loss to be minimized due to localized application and reduced leaching. Soil erosion and weed growth is lessened with this type of irrigation along with the foliage remains dry, reducing the risk of disease. If drip irrigation is not an option at this time, consider using soaker hoses to provide a good source of water to your garden or bedding plants.

Water plants in containers and hanging baskets more frequently in the summer to keep them from drying out. This can leach out plant nutrients from the soil, so use a water-soluble fertilizer regularly to keep your plants growing and healthy.

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DANIELLE GEBARA

Resident of Lakes on Eldridge North

832-788-6002

danielle@dgebara.com



Lakes on Eldridge

HARRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 341

Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 341 (the "District") is the local governmental entity that provides water, sewer, drainage and garbage/recycling collection services to the Lakes on Eldridge community. The District is governed by a Board of Directors that meets on the second Monday of each month at 12:00 p.m. The meetings are held at 1300 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 1400, Houston, Texas 77056. Residents are welcome to attend the monthly Board meetings to learn more about the District and the services it provides, as well as to provide public comments to the Board members regarding District matters. Residents may also contact a Board member directly about District matters outside of the regular Board meetings. The contact information for the current resident Board members is:

- David King - (713) 432-6012
- Christine Mink - (713) 306-9213
- Russell Rush - (713) 346-1434

The Board of Directors values resident involvement and feedback regarding the services provided by the District and it looks forward to continuing its efforts to make the Lakes on Eldridge community a great place to live, work and play.

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MAINTENANCE UPDATE

This month extensive maintenance work was done in the community. Here are the major items.

- Resurfaced the Tennis Courts. This was a major expense for the community. The backboard was also replaced. New court divider nets will be installed when the shipment arrives. Thanks to the Tennis Committee for helping coordinate.

- Commenced repair of badly damaged sidewalks and curbs throughout the Common Areas. This project will take several weeks and is the first significant sidewalk repair project for the community. As part of this project, the HOA negotiated favorable terms for homeowners to also repair their sidewalks and/or driveways.

- Insulated attic for Clubhouse Office and Pool Baths. This will keep the pool baths cooler in the summer.

- Installed new fob/code activated mag lock on back door of clubhouse Main Room, matching features on front door.

- Installed new AC/Heat damper system for Workout and Flex Room so temperature can be controlled with thermostats in both rooms. The Workout users preferred a much cooler temperature than the people using the flex room. This damper system will allow for that variation.

- Installed new, larger Resident Only signs and No Soliciting signs on Ginger Pond and Heather Run gates. Also installed new School Bus Zone and 20 MPH signs along Lake Center Run in front of clubhouse and Pet leash/cleanup signs in high use areas near the lakes.

- Additionally, many small maintenance items were completed including replacing the stolen clock on the pool deck and repairing two pool deck umbrellas damaged by strong winds. Please help prevent future damage by lowering umbrellas after use.



The LOE MEN'S Bible Study continues to meet at the LOE clubhouse on Tuesday evenings. We have had between three and six gentlemen each week for a relaxed meeting and discussion with a little pizza beforehand. If you are interested, or just simply a little curious, you will be welcomed. We meet at 7:00 PM and generally wrap up about 8:15. Hope to see you there!

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Lakes on Eldridge



Putting on a New Roof?

Making External Changes to your Home?

Before you begin any project that will change the look of your home such as a roof replacement, repainting in a different color, garage door replacement or installation of any visible structure, you must obtain permission from the HOA architectural control committee (ACC). The goal of the ACC is not to slow down your project, but to ensure community rules are followed. Failure to obtain permission can result in the required removal of your installation. Please understand that even if you believe your installation is attractive, that does not mean it complies with the community standards. Save yourself and the HOA a lot of headaches by obtaining pre-approval. For complete rules and forms, please see the lakesoneldridge.net website or contact First Service Residential.

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.



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Hosting An Exchange Student

Did you ever wonder what hosting a foreign exchange student is about? Well here it is in a nutshell....

Hosting an exchange student is a great way to learn about another country and culture without leaving your home town. It provides a cultural exchange experience for the entire family while providing a student from another country with a slice of American life.

Hosting an exchange student is like adding an international branch to your family tree. Many host families develop lifelong friendships with their exchange students and keep in regular touch with them. Some even visit them in their home countries, or invite them back for weddings and graduations

Hosting an exchange student provides your family, your high school and your community with a direct window into another country and culture, providing an opportunity for life-long learning.

Families of all shapes and sizes can host an international exchange student. We've had host families with young children, no children, high school aged children – as well as empty nesters and single parent households.

Ayusa is a non-profit based in San Francisco that promotes global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad programs for high school students from around the world.

For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact your local representative Vicki Odom at 832.455.7881 or vodom@ayusa.org or Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.



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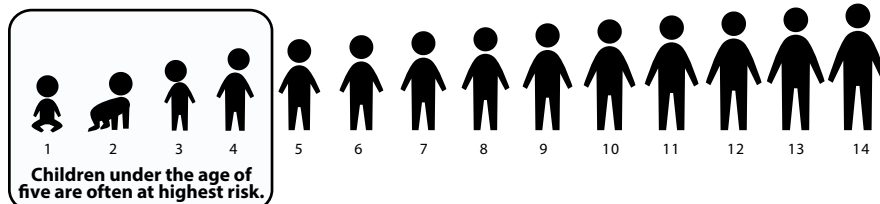
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24 Texas children have already lost their lives to drowning in 2015

DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

Lakes on Eldridge



CICADAS



Cicadas are fairly large insects but can vary in size with some growing over 1 ½ inches. Color may also vary depending upon species, but many are brown or green. All cicadas have bulging eyes and, on adults, wings that are held roof-like over the body. The wings are semi-transparent with thick wing veins. The majority of their life cycle is spent underground.

Cicadas have 2-5 year life cycles and appear in Texas in mid to late summer. Females insert egg clusters into branches of trees using their saw-like ovipositor

(egg laying structure). Eggs hatch after about 6 weeks and small nymphs drop to the ground where they burrow into the soil. Nymphs feed on sap of tree roots with their piercing-sucking mouthparts. After becoming fully developed, nymphs emerge from the ground at night and climb onto nearby objects such as tree trunk, plants, fences, etc. Adult cicadas emerge from the last nymphal stage leaving behind the exuviae (cast skin). Adults can live 5-6 weeks.

Male cicadas are well known for their “song”. They rest on a tree and produce a whining sound to attract females. The sound is produced by two vibrating membranes on the side of the abdomen. Females do not “sing”. Adults feed on juices from tender twigs, but usually do not cause lasting harm to the plant from feeding.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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A FEW DAYS IN THE LIFE OF A HOME HANDYMAN

by: Gordon R. Watson

DRIPPING FAUCETS

Vacationing at my mother-in-law's home always means doing some repair work. I like keeping busy, and there are generally some things needing attention. One of the recent issues there was a dripping kitchen faucet. Drips are really a thing of the past for most faucets. Happily, ceramic has replaced rubber as the seal, so most faucet manufacturers have a lifetime warranty of one sort or another. I gave her my standard verbal disclaimer (that her home's piping is old and something might break and require a real plumber). So far, I have never had to resort to calling one (knock on wood). I turned off the main water supply outside because her 1950's home doesn't have shut off valves (called stops in the trade) beneath the kitchen sink. Outside, after digging a hole in a flower planter to find the shut off valve, I gently advised her not to bury the main shut off valve because it wasn't designed to be buried, and it might be difficult to find quickly. In the kitchen again, fully expecting the old style rubber washers, I removed the kitchen faucet handle, protected the shiny chrome with masking tape, applied a wrench, and removed the faucet stem. To my surprise, the sink faucet did have new-style ceramic style seals. The problem, it turned out, was that debris, probably from her home's aging and rusting (50+ year old) galvanized pipes, had stuck in the ceramic cartridge, causing the seal to be incomplete. Fortunately, once I cleaned the debris out, the drip went away. I love it when I don't have to buy parts for a repair. The fact that the old piping is obviously corroding and slowly failing is another story for another time. Replacing that piping almost certainly will require a real plumber. Sometime I might mention to her that it might be a good idea to replace the old pipe on her schedule rather than the pipe's schedule.

CORROSION

Her home also has a clothesline (not all that common these days) which had all but fallen over. The old clothesline was the old style with two "crosses" each cross with a two-inch galvanized pipe stuck in concrete (with five ropes for holding the clothes). Over time, these pipes rusted away. The funny thing is that the pipes really only rusted in one place: about two inches above the ground and two inches below the ground. The remaining pipe was in near-perfect condition. Even the pipes buried twenty-four inches in the ground were near-perfect! My point in mentioning this is that this corrosion is caused by moisture and oxygen. While we will likely never have a clothesline, the principle applies to all materials such as iron and wood placed in the ground and prone to rust or wood rot. While there is little we can do about oxygen, to the degree



feasible, we should try to keep water away from anything placed in the ground. Better yet, when feasible, avoid putting anything which can rust or rot directly in the ground.

STUD FINDERS

Over the years, I have owned at least three electronic stud finders. These are the devices that are supposed to locate the wooden or metal studs behind the sheet rock. My history with them hasn't been trouble-free. My last one worked fairly well for a few years, but it recently proudly advised me that the closet wall I wanted to attach a shelf to, had no studs. I now have three "broken" stud finders in my tool box. I promise to properly dispose of them soon. Fortunately, while doing some work at my son and daughter-in-law's home, I found (in my son's tool chest) a non-electric, entirely rare earth magnet-type "stud finder" that works so well that I don't think I will ever go back to the electronic type. It is made by C.H. Hanson. Of course, it only indirectly finds the stud. It finds the nails or screws holding the sheet rock to the stud. At about \$10, it is a bargain. I just bought one for myself, and believe it may be the last I ever have to buy (unless I lose it, of course). Hint: Once a stud is found, you can apply painter's tape (masking) tape (not too tight or you may strip away the paint) to the stud location, or you can place another magnet on the nail location as a marker.

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