



Volume 14, Issue 12

December 2015

November 2015 Annual Meeting Recap

The Lakes on Eldridge Homeowner Association held their Annual meeting on November 2, 2015. Over 100 residents physically attended the meeting representing 65 homes and another 60 families represented by proxies. Carlon Thorpe, President of our HOA, opened the meeting with introductions of the Board and the Management Company. She then shared with the attendees the major accomplishments of 2015:

- **TENNIS COURTS**
 - Resurfaced all courts; installed divider nets, replaced backboard and bulletin board, installed new benches and repaired fence.
- **LANDSCAPING**
 - Installed 38 pallets of sod (over 17,000 sq. feet).
 - Removed 99 pear trees. Installed 11 new trees.
 - Trimmed all cul de sac trees as well as entrances and trees throughout subdivision (total over 150).
 - Updated ARC Guidelines for trees.
- **STREETS, CURBS AND SIDEWALKS**
 - Completed sidewalk and curb repairs throughout community. Offered HOA pricing to homeowners.
 - Worked with the parents committee to implement improvements for children boarding school buses at the clubhouse. Specific additions - a new concrete assembly pad, additional lighting and signage, new procedures for bus entry with lower speed limits.
 - Installed new Resident Only signs on back gates.
 - Painted stripes at school bus loading area behind Kirk elementary and clubhouse parking lot.
- **CLUBHOUSE**
 - Installed solar guard window film on all rear windows in clubhouse and workout area.
 - Replaced pool bath stall partitions.
 - Insulated attic for clubhouse office and pool baths.
 - Installed AC/Heat damper system for workout and flex room so temperature can be controlled separately.
- **PUMPS, POOLS & LAKES**
 - Hired Sweetwater Pools for all pool related maintenance replacing GHPM.
 - Replaced motor on pool pump.
 - Replaced 2 floating fountains.
 - Replaced rusted doors on Equipment Building housing pumps and pool chemicals. Repainted adjacent storage room.
 - In conjunction with the MUD, cleaned equalizer line to enhance irrigation.
- **ACCESS CONTROL & PATROL**
 - Hired new company, Securitas, to manage front gate and patrol operations.
 - Coordinated with Securitas to ensure new people were hired and desired procedures were implemented and followed.
 - Formed Gate Committee evaluating alternatives to achieve higher reliability of gate operations. Recommendations accepted for 2016 implementation.
- **OTHER MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS**
 - Cleaned, Repaired and Sealed over 310 feet of brick including 5 monuments and main entrance.
 - Sought and ultimately achieved high speed internet service availability for over 100 residents lacking service.
 - Coordinated installation of Fiber Optics with AT&T for over half the subdivision.
- **TEAM RELATED AND FUN**
 - Swim Team returned to LOE.
 - New Committees formed for parents of private school attendees, LOE mom's committee, high speed internet, and gate committee.
 - Welcome Committee has reached out to 81 families.
 - Community functions – Easter Egg hunt, Recycling Day, Fitness Demonstration, Legislative Update, Back to School Party, Oktoberfest, Family Halloween Party, Holiday Market.
 - 2 community surveys – Fireworks and Internet Speed.
 - Significantly greater coordination with MUD 341.

Carlon shared how last year the HOA had expressed significant

(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
Cy-Falls High School	281-856-1000
Cy-Ridge High School	281-807-8000
Newsletter Publisher	
Peel, Inc.	advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

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:

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

Visit the Association Website: www.lakesoneldridge.net

(Continued from Cover)

concern with the MUD about the lack of resident representation on the MUD Board. At that time there was only one resident on the Board even though the jurisdiction of the MUD is Lakes on Eldridge and the commercial entities at the corner of Tanner and Eldridge. Now the MUD has 3 residents on the Board out of 5 including the President of the Board and a liaison with the HOA. The relationship has greatly improved and Carlton complimented the new Board members who are residents – Christine Mink, Russell Rush (President) and Bob Wegner (our liaison). The other two positions do not expire until 2018, but the HOA will continue to work with the MUD as positions become available.

Carlton then presented the Financial Report. The 2016 Assessment will remain at the 2013 and 2015 rate of \$1460. In 2015, a \$157,400 Contribution was made to the reserve fund. The collection of assessments exceeds 99%. Specific financials as of September 30, 2015 are:

Operating Fund (Cash Balance)	\$ 543,373.40
Reserve Fund (Cash Balance)	\$ 412,571.15
Total 2015 YTD Income	\$1,032,971.43
Total 2015 YTD Expenses	\$1,056,883.58
Over Budget	\$ 23,912.15

Even though operating expenses are currently over budget, we are projected to complete the year within budget due to lower anticipated expenses in November and December as well as an additional contribution due from the MUD exceeding \$19,000.

Sources of income for LOE are as follows:

- Assessment Income – 81%
- MUD Contribution – 18%
- Other – 1%
- Expenditures are divided into the following categories:
- Landscaping – 27%
- Access Control and Patrols – 22%
- Utilities – 17%
- Reserve Contribution – 13%
- Maintenance and Repairs – 7%
- General – 7% (Catch all of everything from audits, pest control, and community functions- 13 categories of miscellaneous expenses)
- Lake and Pool Management – 5%
- Administrative – 2%

Carlton then thanked and recognized the community volunteers and committees who help make our community great:

- Architectural Control – Gary Fehsenfeld*, Alphine Freeman, Sharon Flynn, Friedel Lipstay, Kim Treas
- Fitness – Jennifer Dawson, Marcia Healy, Doug Ray, Srinivas Rao, Colette Spiers*
- Gate Evaluation –John Bain, Lindsay Buchanan, Carl Chapman, Mark Durka, George Moriarty, Bob Wegner, David Westphal*
- Lakes and Wildlife – Betty Burkett*, Maggie Wegner
- Landscape – Ken Dye, Gary Fehsenfeld, David Holsinger, Carlton

(Continued on Page 3)



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281-858-4868

(Continued from Page 2)

Thorpe*

- Internet – Rafael Garcia
- Mom's Committee – Christine de Ciro, Jennifer Hardin*, Regina Lemons, Radost Mims
- Newsletter – Linda Higdon, Carlon Thorpe*
- Parents/Bus Committee - Erik Roussel*, Judi and Eddie Illavia, Veerle Swinnen, Suresh Rao, Marco Malpelli
- Tennis – Cathy Barrows*, Ann Criswell, Judi Ilavia, Erik Roussel
- Social Events – Phyllis Baker, Cathy Casey (Recycling Day), Patti Coughlin, Cecilia Freeman, Clive Gardner, Gene Giles*, Linda Higdon, Kay Horst, Melissa Hunzeker, Virginia Knox, Regina Lemons, Carrie Loid, Karen Parker, Carol Peters, Georgia Shotwell, Kim Treas
- Welcome – Barb Campbell, Clive Garner, Marian Gleize, Linda Higdon, Kim Treas*
- Yard of the Month – Stephanie Leggett, Maggie Wegner, Linda Higdon, Susan Kjellqvist

After applause for our volunteers, elections were held for the opening on the HOA Board. Douglas Ray's term was completed at this meeting. Doug was recognized and thanked for his service. Erik Roussel was elected by acclamation by the community.

After this, the presentation turned toward the plans for 2016. David Westphal shared the work done by the Gate Committee that has been approved by the Board for 2016 installation. As background, he shared that the electronics used at the gates are out of date and the community has struggled with reliability and responsiveness of the gates to current requirements. David explained the following is planned for 2016:

- EZ Tag electronics will replace the current clickers.
- Lighter Steel Gates with faster operators will be installed.
- The Installation will be phased starting with Main Gate in the 1st quarter of 2016.
- A more proactive maintenance agreement has been established.
- The committee decided not to install Barrier Arms due to the LOEN experience of multiple replacements due to homeowners and others breaking the arms.
- New Visitor Identification procedures will be implemented requiring a swipe of a driver's license for entry.

Because of the new EZ tag installation, the HOA will need information on every resident's EZ tag. A data sheet will be included in the HOA Assessment bill. Please return the EZ tag information to First Service Residential and the HOA payment to the processing center.

Carlon Thorpe then shared with the community the two other major plans for 2016 – continued landscaping improvements and the upgrade/renovation of the Auburn Shores playground. Carlon shared that in 2015, the majority of pear tree removals were selected based on the tree's condition and the closeness to existing live oak plantings. In most cases, those removals did not require additional trees planted. In 2016, most of the pear tree removals will be replaced with additional trees. The landscape committee will also continue

to rehabilitate shrub beds around the community. The Auburn Shores Playground will be renovated to include a canvas cover over the playground giving year round shade. Several of the pieces of equipment will be replaced. Other pieces will be cleaned and repainted to extend over all life.

The official meeting ended after the 2016 discussion. However, the Board stayed and answered questions from the community. The majority of the questions were in regard to security and crime within the community which continues to be very low. The majority of issues are crimes of opportunity where people leave valuables in unlocked cars. Other questions included suggestions for dog stations, removal of the ab-coaster from the workout room, status of the repairs to the concrete around retention ponds, concern with rental properties in the community (no known problems now, but we have 90 homes being rented), differences in perennials at some of the monuments, suggested addition of exit signs in the community, and status of swans. Mark Durka also gave an update on the Trail project. The Board thanked the community for their interest and referred a number of the questions to the appropriate committee for further consideration.

EZ Tag Gate Access is coming to Lakes on Eldridge!

As announced at our annual meeting of the residents of Lakes on Eldridge, significant gate improvements are coming for our community. The gates will be completely renovated, one at a time, beginning with the main entrance gate entering from Eldridge Parkway. The new resident gates will be actuated by the RFID chips in our EZ Tags on our cars. So, if you have an EZ tag already installed in or on your car, you do not need to buy anything. If you do not have an EZ Tag on your car, this might be a good time to consider getting an EZ tag. Alternatively, RFID tags will be available to purchase for each car for use at the LOE gates, but they will not work for toll roads and probably would not work for any other purpose. Specific information about those tags is not available yet.

One of the transition efforts for going to EZ Tags will be to build our database of EZ Tag information. Only EZ Tags registered in our database will actuate the new resident gates. Attached is a form that needs to be filled out with information about each resident vehicle. Please fill out and sign the EZ Tag Access form and return it to First Service at the address at the top of the form.

When will the first gate be renovated? That is not known yet. The bid package for vendors to provide detailed design and pricing is currently being finalized. Hopefully, the first gate will be operating before midyear and the remaining two gates will be installed before the 2016 annual meeting. As you might expect, the most important issue for all involved is to get this done right so that we have robust and reliable gate systems. Also, once the first gate is renovated, you will still need your clickers if you want to enter through either of the two Tanner Road gates until those are renovated.

Lakes on Eldridge

**Return to: First Service Residential
5295 Hollister Street
Houston, Texas 77040**

LAKES ON ELDRIDGE - EZ TAG ACCESS

LOE is planning to install new gate operators beginning in 2016 using EZTag RFID signals to open the resident gates. Please provide the EZ Tag No. to permit entry through the updated resident gates once installed.

Date of application:

Name:

Address:

.....

Phone Number:

	Vehicle License (State and No.)	Vehicle Make/Year	Vehicle Model	Vehicle Color	Vehicle EZ Tag No.
I Add <input type="checkbox"/> Delete	TX- XXX-XXX	Toyota/09	Supra	Black	123456789012
<input type="checkbox"/> Add <input type="checkbox"/> Delete					
<input type="checkbox"/> Add <input type="checkbox"/> Delete					
<input type="checkbox"/> Add <input type="checkbox"/> Delete					
<input type="checkbox"/> Add <input type="checkbox"/> Delete					
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I certify that all the vehicles listed above belong to residents at the above address and we all understand that the speed limit within Lakes on Eldridge is **25 mph** and we undertake to obey that limit. We further understand that the Lakes on Eldridge community is patrolled by personnel employed to monitor vehicle speed and behavior.

Applicant's signature:

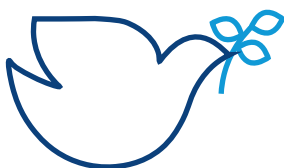
Applicant's name (printed):

FirstService – approval by:

Approval date:

LOE EZ Tag application – Nov-2015

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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 completed a survey open to all residents to determine the actual preference of the community. The results showed a decisive split. Approximately 33% of those voting are strongly opposed to fireworks and 30% are strongly in favor. A slight majority prefer any fireworks to be completed by 10 pm. The primary objections to fireworks are safety and noise. Based on this information, the Board determined the following rules for the July 4th celebration.

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

At that time, the Board said we would make a decision for New Year's Eve based on compliance with July 4th and any directives from the county. We thank the residents for adhering to the requirements we established for July 4th. For the New Year's Eve celebration, the following rules apply:

- Fireworks will be permitted on December 31st only until 12:30 am on January 1.
- Any aerial fireworks must be pointed away from any homes, the 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.

As always, we again caution residents who use fireworks to be very careful. Every year reports of serious injury are associated with fireworks. Please also be courteous of your neighbors who may not enjoy the noise of the celebration. Let's work together to have an enjoyable 2016.

Ocktoberfest: Big Success

On Friday, October 16th the Beach Club came alive with over 160 residents participating in the LOE Oktoberfest event. St Arnold Brewery provided four different ales for tasting. Oktoberfest was a huge success this year as we had perfect weather, good food, great volunteers, and so many wonderful neighbors coming out and getting involved.

The Social Committee has hosted this as an annual event in the past, but this was the first time since 2012 due to the clubhouse fire. It was our largest attended Oktoberfest ever, and many residents asked to have more adult socials in the future. The Social Committee hopes to provide more events since this was such a hit.

A very special thank you to Gene Giles, Karen Parker, Cecilia Freeman, Celeste and Dan Fritz, Debi and Wayne Gan, Marce Luper, Veerle and Kurt Swinnen, Carrie and Kirby Loid, Anke Arnold, and Soza Gretskeya for their support and help. We had many neighbors pitch in and help that night which gave our volunteers a nice break. Also, thank you to St. Arnolds Brewery for providing the tasting glasses, beer and Ryan, a representative from the brewery, to answer questions.

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Raymond Keller



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Lakes on Eldridge

1st LOE Holiday Market a Big Success!

Despite the threat of rain, the Holiday Market held on November 7th was a big success. Over 200 people shopped from the 22 vendors who offered a variety of Christmas gifts including food, decorations, jewelry and personal items. We want to give a big THANK YOU to Karen Parker who created and coordinated this event. Assisting Karen, we also thank Perapon Fakcharoenphol, Gary Fehsenfeld, Cecelia Freeman, Debbie Gan, Clive and Nancy Gardiner, Zoya Gretskeya, Linda Higdon, Carrie and Kirby Loid, Carol Peters, Harold Peters, Veele Swinnen, Carlon Thorpe and Kim Treas. We hope to make this an annual holiday event!



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BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE FOR ALL AGES AND PROGRAMS

Title: Addicks-Tanner Trails Progress Report

Community access to Addicks Reservoir and points south is getting closer! The overall project, sponsored by Harris County Precinct 4 Parks and MUDs 341 and 370, will connect the crosswalks at Ginger Ponds and Tanner to the top of Addicks Dam.

The project schedule hinges on a permit from the Corps of Engineers. The County has begun working on the environmental and archeological studies necessary to

obtain the permit. It is possible construction could begin in 2016 if no obstacles emerge and the Corps' permit process runs smoothly.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact your LOE neighbor Mark Durka at mdurka@aol.com.

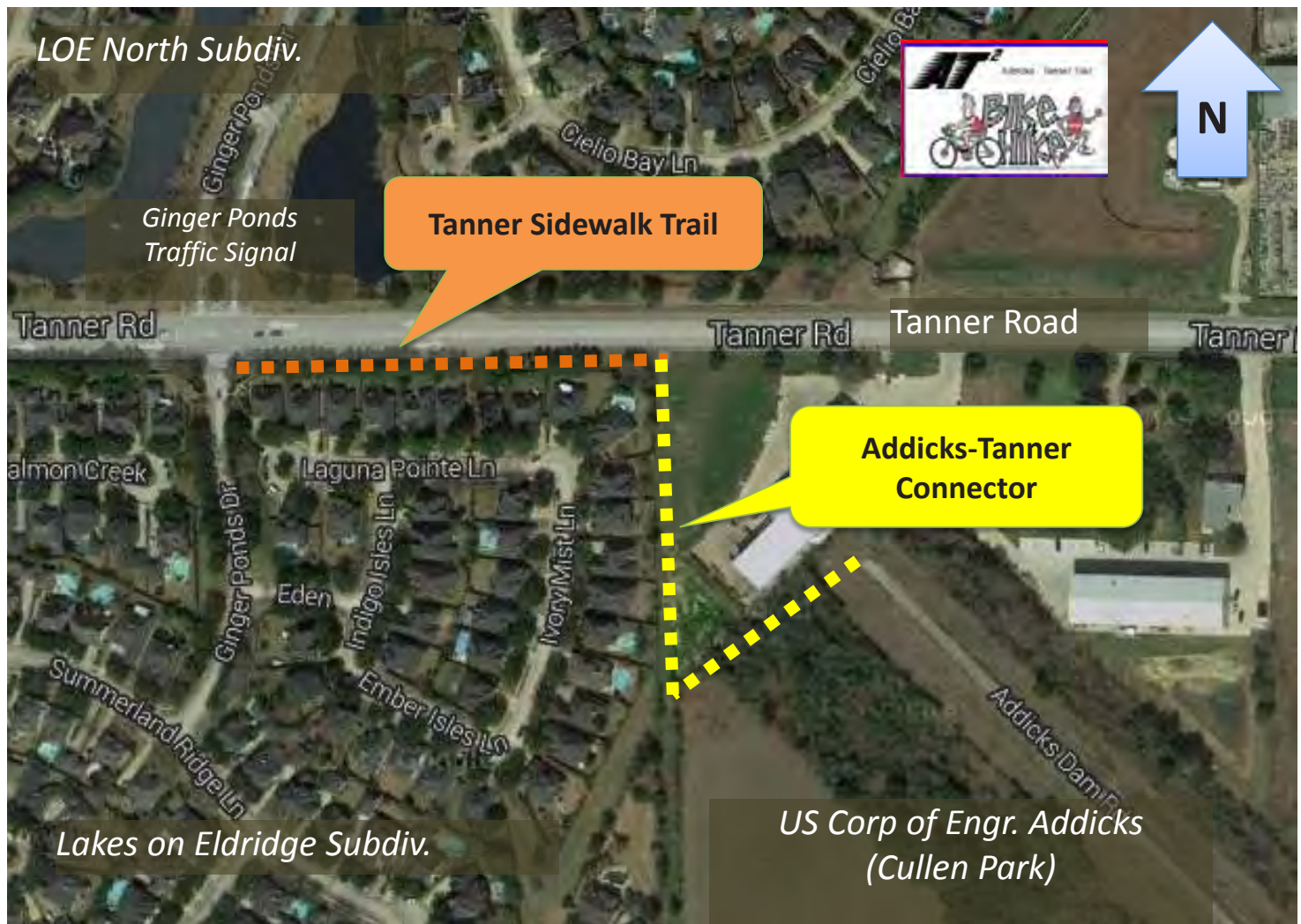
Tanner Sidewalk Trail

700' overall length; funded by the local community

Addicks-Tanner Trails

Addicks-Tanner Connector

1000' overall length; funded by Harris County Precinct 4 Parks.



Ladies Bible Study

The LOE Ladies Study will begin a study of Kathy Howard's book, *Embraced By Holiness – the Path to God's Daily Presence* on December 1 at 9:30 am. Books are available for \$10. We will do the first two lessons before we break for Christmas and then return January 12, 2016 to complete the remaining lessons. If you'd like to make a life changing New Year's resolution, come join a wonderful group of women as we learn more about God and draw nearer to Him. No prior Bible study experience is needed.



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We also need parent & student volunteers!! To volunteer or more info, please contact Meya Edwards meya1@comcast.net or Tina Critendon at tcritendon@sbcglobal.net.

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this holiday season and
throughout the coming year.



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MEMBER

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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.

December 7 – Christmas meeting/party at the Club House. For a light read, we've chosen *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. Imagine a year without Christmas. No crowded malls, no corny office parties, no fruitcakes, no unwanted presents. That's just what Luther and Nora Krank have in mind when they decide that, just this once, they'll skip the holiday altogether. We'll have a light discussion followed by snacks and a book gift exchange.

January 25 – *The Secret Wisdom of the Earth* by Christopher Scotton. After seeing the death of his younger brother in a terrible home accident, fourteen-year-old Kevin and his grieving mother are sent for the summer to live with Kevin's grandfather. In this peeled-paint coal town deep in Appalachia, Kevin quickly falls in with a half-wild hollow kid named Buzzy Fink who schools

him in the mysteries and magnificence of the woods. The events of this fateful summer will affect the entire town of Medgar, Kentucky. Redemptive and emotionally resonant, *THE SECRET WISDOM OF THE EARTH* is narrated by an adult Kevin looking back on the summer when he sloughed the coverings of a boy and took his first faltering steps as a man. His story is one with a rich cast of characters and an ambitious effort to reclaim a once great community.

So many books, so little time!.....



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TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4

HOW TO EXECUTE THE FOREHAND VOLLEY

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand and a one-handed backhand. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a forehand volley for a right hander. This stroke is used whenever the player is forced to hit a ball in the air. In these pictures Grey Rock Tennis Club player, Camille Palafox, demonstrates the proper form and technique. Photos by her husband Charlie Palafox.

Step 1: Ready Position: The body is facing the net. The right hand is holding the end of the racket in a forehand grip position and the left hand is next to the right hand. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are a shoulder width apart and the body is in equal balance. For beginners it is okay to use the forehand and backhand grips for the forehand and backhand volleys. As the player gets stronger and the balls come at a faster speed, it will be best to use the continental grip for both volleys.

Step 2: Back Swing: Since the volley is usually executed when a player is close to the net and there is very little time to react to the incoming ball, the back swing is very short. The right arm should take a short turn and the head of the racket should align to the flight of the ball. The right wrist should be “cocked” back slightly and the head of the racket should be above the wrist. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball. Here I am helping Camille to feel the hand on the racket to tilt back and still keep the head of the racket above her wrist.

Step 3: Point of Contact: The right foot is now taking a step forward and the racket is making contact with the ball. It is important to keep the left shoulder closed and not rotate the right hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility to find the proper point of contact and give power to the ball.

Step 4: Follow Through: Once the racket has made contact with the ball, the follow through is very short to allow the player to immediately get back to the ready position. The left arm should be close to the body.

Look for in the next Newsletter: The Two-Handed Backhand Volley





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