



April 2017

Official HOA Newsletter for Lakeshore

Volume 3, Issue 4

How to Donate Used Items Efficiently

Spring cleaning is right around the corner, and for many homeowners that could mean out with the “old” and in with the “new”—but what to do with the “old” when it’s not quite ready for the landfill? Donating used items is a great option as long as you do a little homework to find out which local organizations and donation centers are most appropriate for the items you’d like to give away. Use the following tips as a guideline for determining what goes where and how to get it there.

- Many items are eligible for donation. You might be surprised to learn exactly what items you can donate. In addition to clothing and furniture, cars, cell phones and other electronics, fitness equipment, home appliances—even art supplies and old towels—are widely accepted by specialized organizations. If you’re looking to donate a unique item, or several of the same items in bulk, do some further research about local organizations and donation centers in need of specific things.

- Consider what shape your items are in to determine where you donate. If you’re planning to donate a broken refrigerator, make sure the organization is aware the item is in need of repair. Some donation centers accept broken items for parts; however, most organizations and donation centers prefer to accept gently used items in working condition. Be sure to communicate the item’s condition prior to arranging a donation.

- After choosing where to donate, decide how you’ll get the items to the organization. Oftentimes large organizations and donation centers are able to arrange a day and time to pick up your unwanted items directly from your home or business. Smaller organizations in need might instead have certain days and times available for you to

arrange a drop off at a specified location.

- Make sure to get a donation receipt for tax purposes. Before donating, make a detailed list of the items you’ll be giving away along with the estimated values. Keep in mind that, since the items are used, price points might be lower than expected. When your items are picked up or dropped off, request a receipt from the organization or donation center to keep track of what to count as a tax deduction. Speaking with a tax professional for advice also is a good idea.

Houston Water Works field trip



Greetings, Lakeshore Community! We are Girl Scout Troop 118009 out of Summerwood/Lakeshore. We are working toward earning our WOW (Wonders of Water) badge. As part of this journey, we would like to share some of the things we have learned about water through troop meetings and a field trip to Houston Water Works. We also have some tips on how to conserve water.

While about 70% of the earth’s surface is covered by water, many people don’t have access to clean water. Every minute, a child dies from a disease related to dirty water or poor hygiene. Illness caused by dirty drinking water causes children in some countries to miss school and other opportunities. This is because dirty water can contain bacteria such as E. Coli.

(Continued on Page 2)

THE LAKESHORE REPORT

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

LAKESHORE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS CREST MANAGEMENT CO.

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..... 281-579-0761

Clubhouse Manager

..... lakeshore-ca@sbcglobal.net
..... 281-458-3345

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FIRE, MEDICAL OR LIFE THREATENING

Emergency

..... 9-1-1
Constable Dispatch 281-376-3472
Humble ISD Police (Schools) 281-641-7900
Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
Texas Poison Control Center 800-222-1222

UTILITIES

Electric, (multiple providers) www.powertochoose.org
Power Outages 713-207-7777
Street Light Outages 713-207-2222
U.S. Water Utility Group 832-756-2143
Gas, Centerpoint Energy 713-659-2111

SCHOOLS

..... 281-641-1000
..... www.humble.k12.tx.us
Lakeshore Elementary 281-641-3500
Woodcreek Middle School 281-641-5200
Summer Creek High School 281-641-5400

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Landscape Committee

Rex Spikes: rexspikes@sbcglobal.net

Pool Committee

Rex Spikes: rexspikes@sbcglobal.net

Social Committee

Elna Ermel: ronelna@comcast.net

To volunteer, please email lakeshore-ca@sbcglobal.net

(Continued from Cover)

Water is used to produce everything we make. Water is used to produce energy as well. Because water is so important, we need to conserve it whenever we can. Here are some tips to help you conserve water:

- Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth
- Take short showers instead of baths
- Make sure your toilet isn't leaking; 30% of the water you use at home is from the toilet
- Collect rainwater to use on your landscape

Thank you for doing your part and helping to make the world a better place!



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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

ASSASSIN & AMBUSH BUGS



Assassin and ambush bugs are predators and are considered beneficial insects. They are generalists that attack a variety of caterpillars, flies, and other bugs. These predators either stalk their prey or wait to ambush prey when they come to a plant. Prey is stabbed with tube-like mouthparts, paralyzed with a toxin, and body fluids sucked up.

Assassin and ambush bugs have 3 segmented piercing-sucking mouthparts. These bugs come in a variety of colors with assassin bugs usually being darker in color than ambush bugs. Assassin bugs also have a more elongated head compared to ambush bugs. Ambush bugs have thickened front legs used to capture and hold prey. Immatures, or nymphs, look similar to the adults but do not have fully developed wings. Eggs are usually deposited in masses and are cylindrical in shape.

While most assassin bugs are beneficial, the kissing bug or cone-nose bug is considered a pest. Kissing bugs feed on blood of mammals, including humans.

For assassin bugs that are feeding on insects, control is not required. For more information on kissing bugs see this site <https://kissingbug.tamu.edu/>

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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Itch, Ouch, Scratch, It's Bug Season!

Whether you're attacked while working in the garden, enjoying a picnic in the park or lounging by the pool, bug bites and stings are an inevitable annoyance. At best, bites and stings can be uncomfortable for a few days; at worst, they can be a serious, life-threatening hazard.

Here are some tips on how to relieve the itch or sting and when to know if you should seek medical attention:

If the bite or sting is mildly painful or itchy, apply over-the-counter medication that contains Benadryl or cortisone for topical relief. Other home remedies, like applying a paste made from baking soda and water, dabbing on ammonia with a cotton ball, soaking in oatmeal baths or even applying toothpaste to the site may also provide relief.

Whatever you do, don't scratch. This can cause an infection and leave a scar. And it won't relieve the itch or sting.

If you feel faint, nauseous, dizzy or disoriented, or if you experience rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing or your lips, tongue or throat swell, call 911 immediately. These symptoms indicate a severe allergy to the insect's venom. Administer an Epi-pen (injectable epinephrine) if one is available and administer CPR if symptoms worsen before emergency personnel arrive. After the episode, follow up with a physician who can determine an allergy prevention treatment.

Stay alert for delayed symptoms around the bite or sting, like redness or swelling, which could indicate an infection or other condition. And see a doctor right away if you have a headache, fever or joint pain within a few days of being bitten. Some insects, like ticks and mosquitoes, can infect their victims with serious, flu-like illnesses, such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Lyme disease and West Nile virus, which only a physician can diagnose and treat.



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STS Foundation Seeks U.S. Families in Houston area to Host High School International Exchange Students for the 2017-2018 School Year

STS Foundation a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to intercultural student exchange is looking for American families in the Houston area interested in sharing their America with international high school students for the 2017-2018 school year. Applications for interested Houston area host families are currently being accepted.

STS Foundation was founded on the belief that international student exchange promotes understanding, respect, and goodwill among people of all nations. Opportunities to increase intercultural awareness are offered to students, parents, host families, and communities who are all involved in the exchange experience.

STS Foundation foreign exchange students come from around the globe, are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English. Whether from New Zealand or Brazil, India or Sweden, Ukraine or Italy, France or Lebanon, foreign exchange students are a window into another culture and a great way to travel the world without leaving your home.

"I have been involved in foreign exchange for eight years now and have hosted twelve students so far." said Vicki Odom, Local

Coordinator for STS Foundation, and the local contact for Houston area. "Our city is such a great place to host a student, it offers a great deal of attractions for both the student and the families. Families that have hosted students over the years have been changed by the experience and have gained new family members in their lives."

STS Foundation welcomes all interested families, with or without children, from both urban and rural communities, single parents or same-sex couples. Host families provide three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared). Each student is supported by a professionally trained STS Foundation Local Coordinator who works with the family and student for the entire program. All host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an STS Foundation representative.

STS Foundation is a 501(c)3, and an official U.S. Department of State designated Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor. Families interested in learning more about hosting an exchange student can visit <http://www.stsfoundation.org> or contact Vicki Odom at 832-455-7881 or at vicki.stsfoundation@gmail.com.



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What to Look for in Home Warranties

You probably received a new home warranty when you purchased your home. If you haven't had any problems with your home, then you probably haven't read the warranty. But you should.

While most builders are reputable and provide legal and fair warranties, some do not. And too often, home warranties can be complex, ponderous documents that are difficult to decipher. Some warranties waive the homeowner's right to a jury trial if he or she files a construction defect claim. Others may include liability disclaimers and waivers for some builders' construction defects. And occasionally, a warranty may include terms that are not enforceable under state law, although you or other homeowners may not realize it.

To make sure your home warranty protects you, have an attorney review it and check for the following provisions:

- Can you engage an engineer to represent you to determine the nature, cause and extent of the construction problems?
- Can you pursue a mediation conference with the builder to resolve disputes?
- If the builder expects binding arbitration, who selects the arbiter—you or the builder?

- Can the warranty period be reset when repairs are completed?

If you believe you're bound by an unfair warranty—or even if you aren't sure you understand your home warranty, consult an attorney who specializes in association law or construction defect law.



Volunteers Needed

Do you have an interest in improving our Lakeshore Newsletter? We are looking for volunteers to collect and write articles highlighting the wonderful people and activities right here in our community and surrounding areas. If interested please send email to lakeshore-ca@sbcglobal.net.

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How to Make the Most of Story Time for Children

By: Brandi Muse

Franchise Owner, Primrose School at Lakeshore

The value of reading with young children is well documented. Beyond developing early language and literacy skills, reading increases children's ability to understand the emotions of others – a critical life skill that leads to empathy and compassion. Parents can help support the development of these skills by being intentional with story time. In addition to making reading together a regular routine in your household, consider these age-specific tips and book recommendations to make the most of story time during the first five years of your child's life.

Before Birth: During pregnancy, reading establishes voice recognition and promotes cognitive development in babies. The rhythm and melody of voices serve as the prenatal foundation for language. Choose rhythmic stories with cadence, warm tones or repetition – repetition leads to recognition! Primrose suggests: "How Do I Love You?" by Marion Dane Bauer or "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" by Bill Martin Jr.

Birth – Age 1: Reading books should be a favorite bedtime activity at this age. With daily "tuck-in" stories and snuggling together at bedtime, infants begin to associate reading with comfort, warmth and security. Sturdy board books with bright illustrations are easiest to handle and invite participation. Books with familiar subjects, such as babies and animals, resonate since babies respond to faces and eyes before other stimuli. Primrose suggests: "Peek-a Who?" by Nina Laden or "Counting Kisses" by Karen Katz.

Ages 1 – 3: Reading a wide variety of stories helps toddlers build vocabulary and understand story sequencing. A sequence of events that is both interesting and understandable helps children identify with a book. Ask lots of questions, act silly and try out different character voices to make reading dramatic and engaging. Vivid illustrations, along with rhyming and repetitive text, will encourage lively dialogue. Primrose suggests: "Book!" by Kristine O'Connell George or "From Head to Toe" by Eric Carle.

Ages 4 – 5: Preschoolers should be encouraged to discover the magic of books for themselves. Books can help young children understand their own feelings when characters face similar life events, so pick topics they may be curious about. Also introduce new genres and topics, and more complex story structures for them to explore. Primrose suggests: "The Red Book" by Barbara Lehman or "A Splendid Friend, Indeed" by Suzanne Bloom.

Parents also can help extend children's learning during story time by following the READ acronym, which was developed by the teacher training arm of the Atlanta Speech School – the nation's most comprehensive center for language and literacy:

- Repeat books three to five times.
- Discuss the story, characters and new vocabulary in each book.
- Engage in and enjoy reading, using different voices for the characters to bring each story to life.
 - Ask "why" questions, letting your child share his ideas about the story.
 - Do more with the book. Reinforce the story through related activities.

TALKING TRASH

Paper or Plastic?

The single-use plastic bag was invented in Sweden in 1962. The first application was the shopping bag. Over 1/3 of all plastic production is for packaging designed for short-term use. Plastic bags are made from natural gas or petroleum that formed over millions of years, yet they are often used for mere minutes before being discarded to make their way to dumps or incinerators, if they don't blow away and end up as litter first. In landfills and waterways, plastic is persistent, lasting for hundreds of years, breaking into smaller pieces and leaching out chemical components as it ages, but never fully disappearing. Animals confuse the bags with food and they can end up entangled, injured or dead. Studies have shown that plastic from discarded bags actually soak up additional pollutants like pesticides and industrial waste that are in the ocean and delivers it to sea life. The harmful substance can then move up the food chain to the food people eat. Plastics and the various additives that they contain have been tied to a number of human health concerns, including disruption of the endocrine and reproductive systems, infertility and a possible link to some cancers.

In 2014 it was said that 100 billion plastic bags pass through the hands of consumers every year, almost 1 bag per person, each day, laid end-to-end they could circle the equator 1,330 times. Many cities are looking for ways to reduce the plastic litter that blights landscapes and clogs sewers and streams. Single use plastics (bags, soda/water/juice bottles, etc.) are damaging our environment and threatening the value of our communities. To discourage use, some larger cities have instituted a bag charge to discourage single use plastics. Some are even discouraging the use of paper bags and rewarding customers that bring their own reusable bags. We can save taxpayer dollars by committing to using reusable bags at grocery stores and even when shopping in the mall.

Several Texas cities have either instituted a charge/reward system or declined to not "ban the bag" and instead create recycling programs. Of note, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Freer, Fort Stockton, Kermit, Laguna Vista, Laredo, Midland, Odessa, Port Aransas, South Padre Island and Waco. Galveston has postponed a vote to sometime this year. Governor Greg Abbott has ruled against some of the miscellaneous ordinances, but it appears to affect those passed for solid waste management purposes only. Most cities have passed ordinances for other purposes, such as Ft. Stockton...to protect cattle and horses (they eat then die) and coastal wildlife. San Antonio District Council member, Chris Medina, said it best, "If we could just stop using them, we could clean up our environment, protect waterways and wildlife, reduce maintenance costs and reserve our taxpayer dollars for better uses like street improvements or education".

FAVORITE BANANA CREAM PIE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 small package (8 oz.) sugar-free vanilla pudding (cook type - it has better flavor/texture)
- 1 3/4 cups nonfat milk
- 4 oz. nonfat vanilla yogurt (sweetened with artificial sweetener)
- 26 vanilla wafers
- 2 bananas, about 7" each, sliced (about 2 cups)
- 1 cup light whipped topping

DIRECTIONS

Prepare pudding according to package directions, except use only 1 2/3 cups of milk. Cool slightly before adding the yogurt. Line the bottom of an 8" pie pan with 12 vanilla wafers (not crushed). Arrange banana slices over the vanilla wafers. Place remaining 14 vanilla wafers standing up around the rim of the pan. Pour in cooled pudding. Top with light whipped topping. Refrigerate for two hours before serving so pudding will be firm. When serving, cut each piece to include two of the standup vanilla wafers.



FACT:

Social and emotional intelligence may be the most important determinant of a child's future success.

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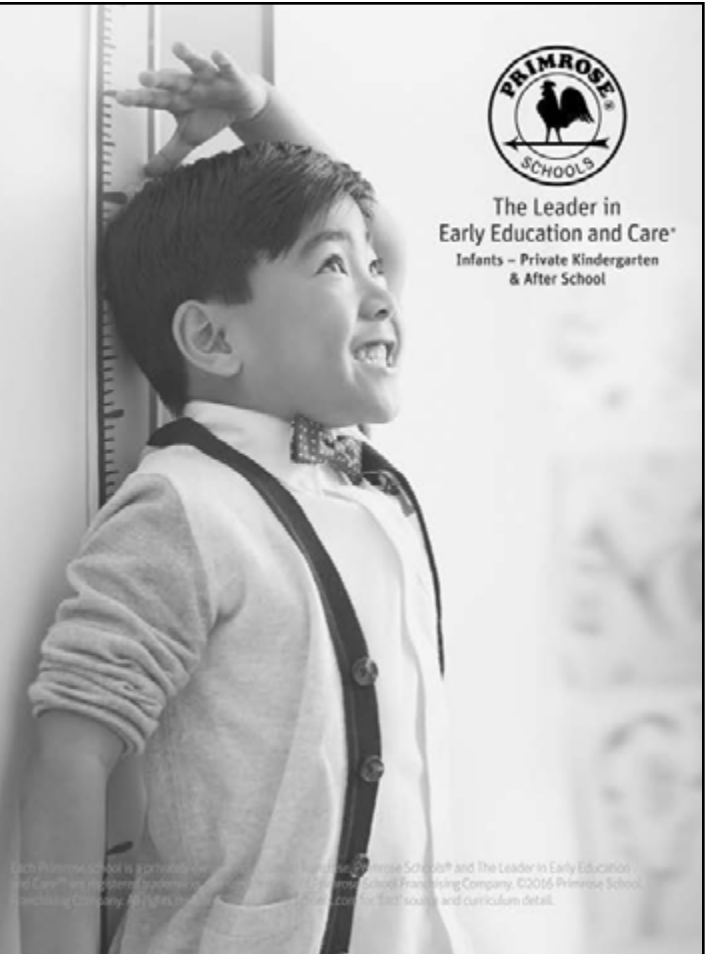
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THE LAKESHORE REPORT

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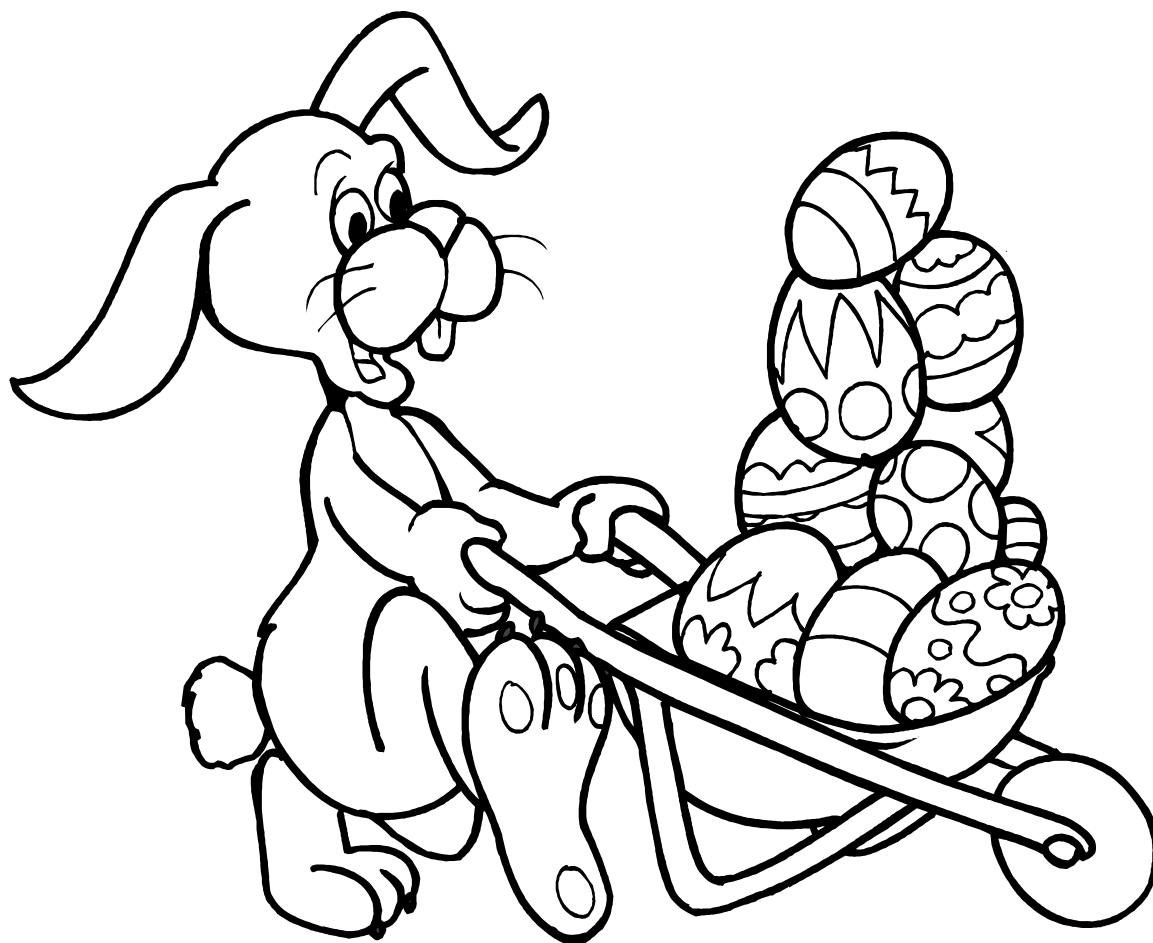
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Spring is in the air and home buyers are coming out of hibernation.

With winter over and the weather warming up, it's the time of year that's typically considered a hot period for the housing market. Spring is the undisputed champion of seasons for selling a home. The grass is green, flowers are in bloom and the sky is blue. This makes for some great marketing photos to help get the buyers into your house. Buyers are chomping at the bit to get the closing process started so they can get moved in and settled over the summer.

Just as seasons change, so might your real estate needs. Give the Tracy Montgomery Team a call today. We are happy to help you get your home listed and sold!



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