



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE
NORTH

Volume 4, Issue 11

November 2005
Official Newsletter

2005 Homeowner Meeting

The 2005 HOA meeting went really well, and we thank those homeowners that took the time to come and participate.

A developer's update was given along with a financial summary and the announcement that you are soon to have an all-homeowner board. It is predicted that this may happen as early as the beginning of next year.

Among the items discussed in the open forum was the handling of the potential hurricane in September. The management company and developer shared the steps they had taken to ensure the safety of the neighborhood and revealed why some things, due to reasons beyond anyone's control, could not be taken care of to everyone's satisfaction. A few homeowners had wonderful suggestions for the next time a storm like this threatens, and it was revealed that several homeowners had varying opinions as to what the best precautions would be. Rita proved to be a wonderful learning experience, and the lessons that were gained will be discussed as one of the first orders of business by the new homeowner board. They will review current protocols for hurricanes and other large storms and will post any changes in the newsletter.

Many homeowners submitted questions in writing, and it was promised that they would be addressed via the newsletter. It seems however, that those questions tended to fall along a few categories, so they are addressed all together below.

VanMor has received the observations you submitted regarding the following items and has already begun to take the steps necessary to address them. If you would like a more

specific status report on any of the following items, please call Kate, at VanMor.

Items include the street sign on Terraza Cove and Costa Sienna, the hot tub in the Rec Center, lights and locks in the fitness center bathrooms, peeling paint on the wrought iron fencing, power-washing of brick walls, and the A/C in the fitness center. Please know that your complaints of inconsistent cleaning of the fitness center have been heard, and bids have been requested for a new maintenance company.

A few homeowners complained about neighbors with unruly yards. As discussed in the meeting, VanMor can only do inspections so many times per month, so they rely on your assistance with these issues. If you see an overgrown yard that needs to be mowed, call the management team and let them know. If the yard you report is one that has already received notice from VanMor, and it has been over ten days without action, VanMor can send in a team to 'force-mow' the yard and back-charge the homeowner.

Other items that were reported have been or are being taken care of by VanMor. Such items include excess water on the sidewalk around Diamond Bay Court, street repair on Arroyo Verde, pot-hole repair at front exit and entry, problems with emergency services finding specific addresses, and street lights in newer sections. If you have any questions regarding these matters, or have other concerns you would like addressed, please contact VanMor.

Finally, many of you had suggestions that you would like the board to consider. In

(Continued on Page 2)

LOEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Newsletter Volunteer- One volunteer is needed to coordinate the newsletter for LOEN each month. Responsibilities include collecting articles from those who submit them via email, and forwarding them on to the HOA board for approval and the printer for publishing.

Website Volunteers- One or more volunteers are needed to run and maintain your community website. Responsibilities would include gathering and posting information for the site and possibly redesigning different elements of the site as needed.



Lakes on Eldridge North

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

VanMor Properties, Inc.281-493-0668
 Fax281-493-5654
 Kate Loeffler, Manager
 Dorinda Obsta (Dori), Administrative Assistant
 Gate Attendant 713-856-6127
 Harris Co. 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)
 Aqua Services 713-983-3602
 (Service or emergencies 24 hrs) 713-983-3604
 Harris County Tax Office 713-224-1919
 Reliant Energy 713-207-7777
 (give pole # of street light which is out)
 Entex (gas) 713-659-2111
 Time Warner Cable 713-462-9000
 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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 Newsletter Publisher
 Peel, Inc. advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-989-8905
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Deadline for submitting articles for the Lakes On Eldridge North Newsletter is the 10th of each month.. Submissions are subject to space limitations and editorial approval. Submit at www.peelinc.com.

PERSONAL CLASSIFIED ADS: Deadline for submitting personal classified ads is the 10th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Submit classified ads at www.peelinc.com.

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Please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-989-8905, advertising@PEELinc.com or Donna Sommer at 832-237-4684, dsommer@PEELinc.com for information on advertising.

Vanmor Properties, Inc. Contacts

Manager - Kate Loeffler
 Administrative Assistant - Dorinda Obsta (Dori)
 1505 Highway 6 South, Suite 110; Houston, Texas 77077
 Phone - 281-493-0668 • Facsimile - 281-493-5654

2005 Homeowner Meeting - (Continued from Page 1)

regard to those suggestions please see the following:

The developer has already installed all playground and recreational equipment that was in the plans and nothing new is being considered at this time. However, adding a baby swing in the swing set area is being looked into. Otherwise, the consideration of any new fitness equipment will be done by the new homeowner board that is soon to be voted in.

Also to be considered by the new board are cameras at the back gate, emergency generators, clocks at both pools, and pool/lifeguard schedules. It has been suggested that the pool on Sonora Canyon be open on weekdays instead of the pool at the main Rec Center. However, due to the insurance and liability issues that arise from having play equipment in the pool area, this pool cannot be open without a lifeguard on duty.

One homeowner asked if the lakes need to be dyed, and this is something that can be assessed by the new board periodically. In the past, most homeowners have indicated a desire to keep the lakes dyed. Speed bumps have also been discussed in the past, and, beside many homeowners not being in favor of them, they tend to impede emergency service vehicles as well.

We hope we have answered all your concerns. If we have left anything out or you have any further questions or suggestions, you are encouraged to address them with your management company representative, Kate. She can be reached at (281) 493-0668 or at Kate@VanMor.com.

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LAKEs

ON ELDRIDGE NORTH

The staff of Heritage Texas Properties and I wish you and your family a healthy and happy Thanksgiving. In the spirit of the season we have made a donation to the Star of Hope Mission to support those in need in our community.

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HOMEOWNER REMINDERS

PETS

Several complaints have been received regarding pets in LOEN, so we wanted to remind pet owners that it is necessary for them to keep their dogs on a leash and to clean up after them. Also, please bring barking dogs indoors at night or take whatever steps are necessary to keep them from disturbing your neighbors. Fighting cats must also be reigned in.

Residents who have pet complaints are welcome to let VanMor know about them, but it is important to provide VanMor with a specific address or name of offender for VanMor to be of assistance.

CYCLISTS:

Riding on pedestrian sidewalks is a danger to both those walking and those riding. Please use the streets, and use caution in regards to vehicular traffic.

FLYERS:

Flyers and other solicitations are prohibited in LOEN. VanMor is happy to confront solicitors, but your property manager must receive a mailed copy of the solicitation from a homeowner in order to do that.

HEAR YE-HEAR YE! THE PRINCE IS GIVING A BALL!

The Classic Rodgers & Hammerstein Fairytale,
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Thyme Out for Gardening



I had hoped to continue our discussion on herbs in this month's column but due to our unwelcome visitor, Hurricane Rita, and some newsletter scheduling changes, I didn't have time to prepare a detailed article for you. We'll continue our herb series in the December newsletter. In the meantime, you can still plant some herbs this month. Our cool season herbs like

Cilantro and Dill grow well when planted in November.

November is also a great month to plant other cool season annuals such as Pansies, Johnny Jump-ups, Dianthus, Snapdragons, Sweet Alyssum, Nasturtium, and Flowering Kale. And don't forget about bulbs such as Daffodils and Paper Whites.

Try your hand at growing our state flower and some other wildflowers from seed this year. Bluebonnets, Gaillardia, and Rudbeckias are among the many native wildflower seeds that can be sown in November. Find a sunny, well drained spot, sprinkle the flower seeds around, lightly rake them into the soil, gently water them in place, and let nature take it's course. You'll start to see some green rosettes of leaves form over the winter, and you'll be rewarded with beautiful blooms in the spring.

If you need to add, replace, or move some trees or shrubs in your yard, then November, December, and January are the best months to perform those activities. Remember to dig a wide, "ugly" hole like we've talked about in previous columns and plant the tree or shrub so that the flare (the area where the trunk joins the roots) is at, or slightly above ground level. Fill in around the tree's root ball with the soil that came out of the planting hole (no amendments) and water everything in place. You can mulch over the planting/root ball area, but keep the mulch several inches away from the trunk of the tree or shrub.- a good motto to remember is "No Mulch Volcanos!"

For more information on trees, join the LOEN Gardening and Nature Club on November 9th at 7:00 p.m. at Lisa Carpenter's house as Matt Weaver from Trees For Houston talks to us about tree care.

I enjoy answering your gardening questions, and if you need information about something we've talked about in a column, or something new that's occurred in your garden, please send me an e-mail. Until December, happy gardening!

By Lisa M. Rawl, TMG & TMN; lmrjkk@earthlink.net; All rights reserved.



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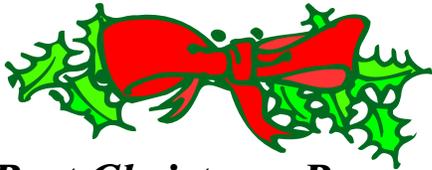


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Lakes on Eldridge North



“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”

The community is invited to Messiah Lutheran Church’s presentation of “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” on Sunday, December 4. There will be two showings, 4 PM and 6 PM. In this hilarious tale, a couple struggling to produce a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman children, “The worst children in the whole history of the world!” You are invited to come along for the chaos and the fun. And look for a miracle as the Herdmans collide head-on with the Christmas story and help everyone else rediscover its true meaning. Admission is free, but reservations are suggested in order to accommodate the crowd. Please call 281-890-3013.

Messiah Lutheran Church is a grace place, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Messiah is located at 11522 Telge Road, ½ mile north of Highway 290. Regular worship times are 6 PM on Saturday evenings (a casual service of song and sacrament), and traditional worship at 8 and 10:30 AM on Sundays. The Education Hour is 9:15-10:15 AM on Sundays. For more information, 281-890-3013 or www.messiahlc.org. All people are welcome at Messiah.

Dental Hygiene

Common oral hygiene problems:

A healthy smile not only looks good, it has a positive effect on the health of your entire body. Poor oral hygiene has been linked to a higher risk of certain diseases, and it can adversely affect the health of both adults and children. So what are some common problems with oral hygiene?

Not brushing and flossing:

Brushing and flossing is your first line of defense against tooth decay and gum disease. Ensure that you brush properly at least twice a day, and don’t forget to floss at least once a day. Flossing removes food and bacteria from between teeth where a toothbrush can’t reach.

Eating too many sugary snacks:

Eating a lot of sugary foods and carbohydrates allows the bacteria in plaque to thrive. It uses the sugars in your food as fuel, producing acids that dissolve the hard enamel that covers your teeth. This is how cavities get started. The less sugar you eat, the less damage these bacteria can do. When you do eat sweets, it helps to brush your teeth with fluoride toothpaste afterward. And keep in mind that a balanced, nutritious diet is important for your oral health, as well as the rest of your body.

Missing too many dental checkups:

It is important to get your teeth cleaned and checked on a regular basis, preferably every six months. If you don’t remove all of the plaque from your teeth every day, it hardens and becomes tartar. You can’t remove tartar with a toothbrush. It must be removed professionally.

Brushing improperly:

Many people brush their teeth too hard. This is not only ineffective because it can expose the root surfaces and cause sensitive teeth. When you brush your teeth, ensure that you do it gently, using a soft toothbrush in a regular, circular pattern. Use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste that contains fluoride and brush along the gum line at a 45-degree angle. Vibrate the brush while you move it in short, wiggling motions and in small circular strokes. Brush two or three teeth at a time. Then move to the next teeth, allowing some overlap. Tilt the brush and use the tip to brush the backs of the front teeth. End by gently brushing your tongue and the roof of your mouth. This removes germs and keeps your breath fresh.

Is electric better?

If you’re not using an electric toothbrush, maybe you should consider it. Recent studies have shown that powered toothbrushes with circular bristle heads that rotate in alternating directions are better than ordinary toothbrushes at removing plaque and reducing the risk of gum disease. After more than three months’ use, the powered brushes reduced gingivitis by 17 percent more than regular brushes. In many cases, the powered brushes are also easier to use than manual brushes, and some have timers that can help you remember to brush long enough.

Even if you don’t have a powered toothbrush, you can clean your teeth effectively with a manual brush. Simply brush twice a day, following the guidelines we’ve provided, and you can maintain your smile for many years to come. (And don’t forget to floss!)

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Lakes on Eldridge North

Cy-Fair College Perspective

In an effort to provide you with important information about Cy-Fair College, "Perspective" was developed. This column provides the latest information about news and events. Here is a sampling of what's going on:

Admissions and Financial Aid Sessions Set

Cy-Fair College will hold two high school student and parent information sessions in the College Center Conference Center rooms 152 and 153. A general admissions information session set at 7 p.m. and a general financial aid information session set at 8 p.m. will be presented in English Nov. 9 and again in Spanish Nov. 10. Call 281-290-3200 for details.

Escape to the Movies for Free

Cy-College's Fall Film Series continues in November with "Walkabout" Nov. 2, "Internal Affairs" Nov. 5, "Up and Down" Nov. 8, "Kannathil Muthamittal" Nov. 10, "The Motorcycle Diaries" Nov. 16, "Cinema Paradiso" Nov. 19, "Forbidden Planet" Nov. 22 and "The Story of Us" Nov. 29. A professor or student organization at the college hosts each film and a discussion afterward. The film series, presented at no charge to students and the community, is offered as a free Continuing Education class called Film Appreciation.

Registration is available at all the film events. The Cy-Fair College Fall Film Series is part of Windows On the World, an effort to promote cultural activities on campus. For information, call 281-290-3257, e-mail robert.obrien@nhmccd.edu or visit http://faculty.nhmccd.edu/robobrien/Film_Series.html.

Check out L.I.F.E. at Cy-Fair College

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Cy-Fair College Branch Library (Room 131.) Among the upcoming programs are organizing digital photos, cake decorating tips and tricks, an exploration of one's moral make up and improving memory. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for L.I.F.E. program information or check the library web page online at www.cy-faircollege.com/library.

Thanksgiving Holiday Youth Camp

Discovery College will be held Nov. 21 through Nov. 23 for ages 6 to 8 and 9 to 12 with all-day sessions available at Barker Cypress campus and both all-day and half-day sessions available at the Fairbanks Center. For three-day camp information, call 281-290-5273 or 832-782-5038.

(Continued on Page 9)

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Lakes on Eldridge North

Cy-Fair College - (Continued from Page 8)

Library Offers Something for All Ages

The Harris County Public Library Cy-Fair College Branch offers free computer workshops, including a family-friendly class. Topics range from basic computer functions to introductions to the Internet and various software programs. A variety of monthly book clubs, such as women of the world, history and mystery, are available, including a new Democracy Book Club and The Sports Page Book Club. There are plenty of youth programs with activities and book clubs for teens and storytime for younger children. Go online to <http://www.cy-faircollege.com/Library/index.cfm> for information.

Fall C.A.L.L. Courses for Senior Adults

The Cy-Fair College Academy for Lifelong Learning provides opportunities for adults 50 and better to enjoy intellectual and social enrichment. Annual membership is \$10. Among the upcoming courses are newsletters and clipart, annuities – an objective analysis, Age-ing to Sage-ing, stress management, the process of completing advance medical directives and virtual travel – Galapagos Islands. A book club and a walking club are also available. Call 281-290-5273 for course information or to sign up now.

Do You Have a Green Thumb?

Volunteer to help the Diane K. Troyer Garden at Cy-Fair College grow. Produce is donated to area food pantries. Join this group Saturdays at 9 a.m. or help out Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the garden (west of the library) or in the Cy-ber Café when raining. Contact Charles Beresford at charles.e.beresford@nhmccd.edu or 281-550-7338 or Rob Coyle at robert.a.coyle@nhmccd.edu or visit <http://faculty.nhmccd.edu/rocoyle/Garden.htm> for information.

For up-to-date announcements and information check our neighborhood website:
WWW.LOENHOA.COM

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Fit Facts™

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Exercising In The Cold

The biggest concern for exercising in the cold is hypothermia, or too much heat loss. When you exercise in a cold environment you must consider one primary factor: how much heat will your body lose during exercise?

Heat loss is controlled in two ways:

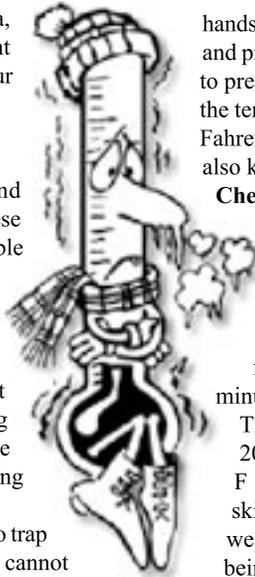
1. Insulation, consisting of body fat plus clothing.
2. Environmental factors, including temperature, wind and whether you're exercising in the air or in the water. Each of these factors plays a role in the body's ability to maintain a comfortable temperature during exercise.

Insulation

Although many people aspire to have a lean figure, people with a little more body fat are better insulated and will lose less heat. Clothing adds to the insulation barrier and is clearly the most important element in performance and comfort while exercising in the cold. One study showed that heat loss from the head alone was about 50 percent at the freezing mark, and by simply wearing a helmet, subjects were able to stay outside indefinitely. Clothing is generally a good insulator because it has the ability to trap air, a poor conductor of heat. If the air trapped by the clothing cannot conduct the heat away from the body, temperature will be maintained. Unlike air, however, water is a rapid conductor of heat and even in the coldest of temperatures, people will sweat and risk significant heat loss. With this in mind, you want to choose clothing that can trap air but allow sweat to pass through, away from the body.

By wearing clothing in layers, you have the ability to change the amount of insulation that is needed while many new products can provide such a layered barrier, it is important to avoid heavy cotton sweats or tightly woven material that will absorb and retain water. Because these materials cannot provide a layer of dry air near the skin, they can increase the amount of heat your body loses as you exercise.

Keeping the hands and feet warm is a common concern when exercising in the cold. Lower temperatures cause blood to be shunted away from the



hands and feet to the center of the body to keep the internal organs warm and protected. Superficial warming of the hands will return blood flow to prevent tissue damage. Blood flow will not return to the feet unless the temperature of the torso is normal or slightly higher (.5-1.0 degree Fahrenheit (F) above normal). So, to keep your feet warm you must also keep the rest of your body warm at all times.

Check with the weatherman

Always check the air temperature and wind chill factor before exercising in the cold. Data from the National Safety Council suggest little danger to individuals with properly clothed skin exposed at 20° F, even with a 30 mph wind. A danger does exist for individuals with exposed skin when the wind chill factor (combined effect of temperature and wind) falls below minus 20° F.

That can be achieved by any combination of temperatures below 20° F with a wind of 40 mph and temperatures below minus 20° F with no wind. If you are exercising near the danger zone for skin exposure, it also is advisable to warm the air being inhaled by wearing a scarf or mask over your nose and mouth to warm the air being inhaled.

Rules for exercising in the cold

- Check the temperature and wind conditions before you go out and do not exercise if conditions are dangerous.
- Keep your head, hands and feet warm.
- Dress in layers that can provide a trapped layer of dry air near the skin (avoid cotton sweats and other similar materials).
- Warm the air you are breathing if temperatures are below your comfort level (usually around 0° F).



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2nd quarter	44	29	66%	52	38	73%	23	11	48%
3rd quarter	38	17	45%	52	33	65%	16	6	37%
4th quarter	29	19	65%	26	16	61%	4	3	75%
Total	144	91	64%	171	120	70%	51	24	47%

Notice that the 4th quarter is still in progress. Computations took in consideration Oct 1st-oct13th 2004.



Danielle Gebara

Cell: 832-788-6002

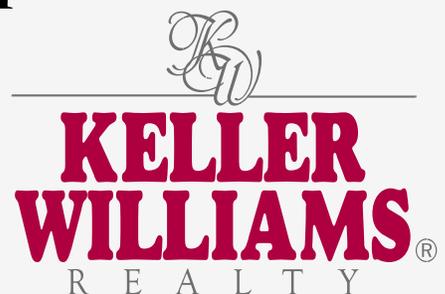
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Lakes on Eldridge North

Teenage Jobseekers

The following young people are interested in making a little extra money. If you would like to be included, removed, or updated in the next issue, please submit at www.peelinc.com. All information must be received by the 10th of the month.

Teenage Job Seekers
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Gene Therapy to Lower Blood Pressure Just Enough

Baylor College of Medicine

HOUSTON -- (Sept. 27, 2005) --- A newly developed virus that introduces a blood pressure-lowering gene into cells and enables that gene to maintain blood pressure at healthy levels for four months promises to take gene therapy for the disorder a step closer to reality, said researchers at Baylor College of Medicine in a report release online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"High blood pressure is one of the leading causes of death and disability in adults worldwide," said Dr. Bert O'Malley, chair of the BCM department of molecular and cellular biology. "A therapy that could control blood pressure could have important benefits for individuals and for the health of the world's population as well."

The gene in question -- atrial natriuretic peptide or ANP -- promises to control blood pressure through a variety of effects on key areas involved in the problem of hypertension, including the relaxation of smooth muscle cells in blood vessels, increasing the vessels' diameters, and reducing the manner in which the vessels react to agents that can constrict those vessels. ANP also improves the manner in which the kidney eliminates sodium or salt from the body and inhibits other systems, such as the sympathetic nervous system, believed linked to development of high blood pressure.

"This makes ANP an attractive agent for use in treating blood pressure," said O'Malley. "However, its use is limited by the fact that it has such short-lived activity in the blood system."

Its activity is halved 30 seconds after it enters the blood stream. Gene therapy can make cells generate more ANP. In previous studies, however, this kind of gene reduced blood pressure to dangerously low levels, said O'Malley. Obviously, a method of controlling the gene and the amount of ANP a cell makes was needed.

The special viral vector developed by O'Malley and his colleagues combines a special kind of adenovirus altered so it does not produce disease connected to a gene regulatory system turned on by the drug mifepristone,

Using this vector, O'Malley and his colleagues were able to introduce the ANP gene into the cells of mice. Then tiny doses of drug turned on the regulatory system, which controlled the amount of ANP made so that blood pressure remained at healthy levels for 125 days -- 74 days longer than in any previous gene therapy study. Other studies indicate that the therapy could reduce the heart-weight/body-weight ratio. For this reason it has promise in reducing some of the organ damage that occurs as a result of high blood pressure.

One question that remains is whether the body will accept repeated injections of the viral vector or whether its immune system eventually react against it, said O'Malley.

Others who participated in this research include Drs. Kurt J. Schillinger, Sophia Y. Tsai, George E. Taffet, Anilkumar K. Reddy, Ali J. Marian, Mark L. Entman, Kazuhiro Oka, and Lawrence Chan, all of Baylor College of Medicine. This research was funded by the National Institutes of Health.

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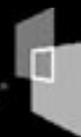


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Texas Events - November

November

1, 4, 6, 10, 12—HOUSTON: Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro Houston Grand Opera. Wortham Theater Center. 713/228-6737 or 800/626-7372 Gulf Coast

3—HARLINGEN: Dinning by Design More than 40 table settings are designed by talented individuals from across the Rio Grande Valley. Harlingen Country Club. 956/793-8050 Gulf Coast

3—PASADENA: Taste of the Town Local restaurant owners fill the Pasadena Convention Center with food booths ranging from hors d'oeuvres and soups to Tex-Mex and ethnic cuisine. www.pasadenachamber.org 281/487-7871 Gulf Coast

4-5—BAYTOWN: Arts & Crafts Show Baytown Community Center. E-mail: pard@baytown.org 281/420-6597 Gulf Coast

4-5—HARLINGEN: Annual School Festival/St. Anthony Includes kiddie rides and children's games, raffle tickets and more. St. Anthony Church & School Grounds. 956/428-6111 Gulf Coast

4-5—LAKE JACKSON: St. Michael's Craft Show 979/297-4139 Gulf Coast

4-6—CORPUS CHRISTI: The Peddler Show AmericanBank Center. www.peddlershow.com 800/775-2774 Gulf Coast

4-6, 11-13—BROWNSVILLE: Arsenic & Old Lace Camille Lightner Playhouse. www.camilleplayers.cjb.net 956/542-8900 Gulf Coast

4, 11, 18, 25—HARLINGEN: Country Western Dance with Texas Country Band Fun N Sun RV Resort. 956/399-5800 Gulf Coast

5—HARLINGEN: Chili for Children Chili Cook-Off Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jackson Street, Downtown Harlingen. 956/428-9900 Gulf Coast

5—HARLINGEN: Jackson Street Market Day Offers antiques, crafts, sidewalk sales, produce cart and food vendors. Jackson Street, Downtown Harlingen. 956/423-4933 Gulf Coast

5—HARLINGEN: Marine Military Academy Birthday Parade 956/423-6006 Gulf Coast

5—HOUSTON: Fall Repertory: Mussorgsky's Boris Godunov Wortham Theater Center. 713/228-6737 or 800/626-7372 Gulf Coast

5—LAKE JACKSON: BASF/Wholesale Electric Walk for Habitat Hours are 8 to 10 a.m. MacLean Park. 979/415-6273 Gulf Coast

5—LAKE JACKSON: Family Day Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. 979/849-7771 Gulf Coast

5—PORT ARTHUR: Garage Sale Port Arthur Civic Center. 409/985-8801 Gulf Coast

5-6—KEMAH: Symphonies by the Sea Presents a classical concert. Kemah Boardwalk. www.kemahboardwalk.com 281/334-9880 Gulf Coast

5-6—ROSENBERG: Fort Bend County Antique & Collectible Fair Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. www.cwgs.com 512/441-2828 Gulf Coast

6—GALVESTON: Lily Tomlin Come prepared for an evening of giggles with this "Laugh-In" favorite. Begins at 7 p.m. The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894 Gulf Coast

6—PORT ISABEL: Annual World's Championship Shrimp Cook-Off

(Continued on Page15)

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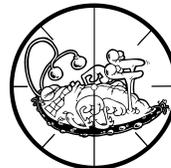
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Texas Events - (Continued from Page 14)

Local teams cook. Wal-Mart Parking Lot. www.portisabel.org 956/943-2262 Gulf Coast

8—CORPUS CHRISTI: Sensational Seafood Taste mouth-watering Gulf of Mexico delicacies prepared by local chefs. Aquarium lobby. www.texasstateaquarium.org 361/881-1341 Gulf Coast

8—SAN BENITO: El Second Weensdee Presents an oral history series on conjunto music. Begins at 7 p.m. The Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center, 225 E. Stenger St. 956/361-0110 Gulf Coast

9-13—HARLINGEN: Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival Includes a Birder's Bazaar with vendors, seminars, keynote presentations, birding workshops, youth activities, guided field trips, special birding activities and more. Harlingen Municipal Auditorium and Casa de Amistad. www.rgvbirdfest.com 800/531-7346 Gulf Coast

10-13—HOUSTON: Nutcracker Market Features holiday decorations, food, clothing, jewelry and furniture. Reliant Park. www.nutcrackermarket.com 713/535-3231 Gulf Coast

11—HARLINGEN: Veterans Day Parade Begins at 4 p.m. Marine Military Academy. www.mma-tx.org 956/423-6006 ext. 252 Gulf Coast

11—WEST COLUMBIA: Veterans Day Open House Patriotic display includes honors, medals, uniforms and more. Columbia Historical Museum. 979/345-6125 Gulf Coast

11-12—GALVESTON: Oklahoma! The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894 Gulf Coast

11-12—HOUSTON: Minus One The Cullen Series features Les Grands Ballets Canadiens performing. Wortham Theater Center. www.houstonballet.org 713/227-2787 Gulf Coast

12—ARANSAS PASS: May Be Hot Maybe Not Bike Ride Includes a barbecue and live entertainment afterwards. Starts at the Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce. www.aransaspass.org 361/758-2750 Gulf Coast

12—BROWNSVILLE: Wild Stories Listen to a story and meet some of the zoo's animal ambassadors. Enjoy storytelling stations, face painting and crafts for kids. Gladys Porter Zoo. E-mail: info@gpz.org • www.gpz.org 956/546-2177 Gulf Coast

12—EDNA: Christmas in the Outback Craft show includes holiday decor, toys, collectibles and more. Brackenridge Plantation Park. www.jacksoncountytexas.com 361/782-7146 Gulf Coast

12—EDNA: Flag Retirement Ceremony Commemorates Veterans Day. Begins at 1 p.m. Lake Texana State Park. 361/782-5718 Gulf Coast

12—EDNA: Texana Chili Spill Features a CASI cook-off, chili, beans, jackpot chicken, live music, games, dance, craft show and Veterans Day Ceremony. Brackenridge Plantation Park. E-mail: mprice@inra.com 361/782-5456 Gulf Coast

12—GALVESTON: Seventh Annual Texas Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Gala Honors Texans who have contributed to the advancement of aviation. Texas Aviation Hall of Fame. www.lsfm.org 409/740-7722 Gulf Coast

12—HARLINGEN: Giant Yard Sale Begins at 8 a.m. Valley Race Park. 956/430-6273 Gulf Coast

12—KEMAH: Classic Car Show Kemah Boardwalk. www.kemahboardwalk.com 281/334-9880 or 877/285-3624 Gulf Coast

12—LA PORTE: Hard Hat Tour Participants see areas of the ship rarely seen by the public. Battleship Texas State Historic Site. 281/479-2431 ext. 234 Gulf Coast




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Texas Events - (Continued from Page 15)

12—PORT ARTHUR: St. Catherine of Siena "Taste of Culture" Includes food booths, door prizes and a silent auction. Port Arthur Civic Center. 409/983-4006 Gulf Coast

12—SPRING: Christmas Parade Begins at 9 a.m. www.oldtownspringtx.com 800/653-8696 or 281/353-9310 Gulf Coast

12—WEST COLUMBIA: Brazoria County Bluegrass Concert American Legion. www.westcolumbia.org 979/265-4757 Gulf Coast

12-13—HOUSTON: 16th Annual Texas Championship Powwow Includes traditional singing and dancing, food, tipi villages, demonstrations, storytelling, educational exhibits and authentic Native American arts & crafts. Traders Village. www.tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500 Gulf Coast

12-13—KINGSLAND: Craft Show Kingsland House of Arts & Crafts. www.kingslandcrafts.com 325/388-6159 or 830/598-6213 Hill Country

12-13—PASADENA: Fall Festival Re-creates 1890s farm life on the Texas Gulf Coast. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Armand Bayou Nature Center. www.abnc.org 281/474-2551 Gulf Coast

12-Dec. 24—SPRING: Home for the Holidays www.oldtownspringtx.com 800/653-8696 or 281/353-9310 Gulf Coast

13—GALVESTON: 15th Annual End of Season Fly Day Informal flying event features aircraft of the Lone Star Flight Museum and other fly-in guests. Doors open at 9 a.m. Texas Aviation Hall of Fame. www.lsfm.org 409/740-7722 Gulf Coast

15—GALVESTON: The Little Engine that Could Earns Her Whistle Watty Piper's timeless tale comes to life. The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.

thegrand.com 800/821-1894 Gulf Coast

18—HARLINGEN: Feast of Sharing Celebrates Thanksgiving Day. Begins at 11 a.m. Harlingen Community Center. 956/423-5440 Gulf Coast

18—VICTORIA: Country Opry Hours are 7:30 to 10 p.m. 361/552-9347 Gulf Coast

18-19—LAKE JACKSON: Festival of Lights Civic Center and Plaza. 979/297-4533 Gulf Coast

18-Jan. 8—VICTORIA: Exhibit: Victoria's Early Painters Nave Museum. www.viptx.net/museum 361/575-8227 Gulf Coast

19—BRIDGE CITY: Holiday Parade & Festival Parade is followed by a softball tournament, barbecue cook-off and vendor booths. B.C. Intermediate School. E-mail: chamber@exp.net • www.cityofbridgecity.org 409/735-5671 Gulf Coast

19—KEMAH: Fifth Annual Beat the Heat See police dragsters and high-power racecars. Kemah Boardwalk. www.kemahboardwalk.com 281/334-9880 or 877/285-3624 Gulf Coast

19—KEMAH: Tree Lighting Ceremony Includes Harbor Lights Choir, entertainment and more at 7 p.m. Corner of 6th Street and Bradford. 281/538-4632 or 281/538-4165 Gulf Coast

19—SANTA FE: Zydeco Music at Haak Winery Haak Winery. 409/925-1401 Gulf Coast

19—TOMBALL: Holiday Parade Features more than 175 entries. FM 2920. Miss Tomball Pageant is held at the Tomball Intermediate School. www.tomballchamber.org 281/351-7222 Gulf Coast

19—VICTORIA: Market Days Features more than 100 vendors and entertainment. Special Events Area in Riverside Park. www.victoriatx.org

(Continued on Page 18)

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Texas Events - (Continued from Page 17)

361/485-3200 Gulf Coast
 19-20—HOUSTON: The 11th Annual Houston Chronicle Snowfest George R. Brown Convention Center. www.texas-snowfest.com 800/831-3976 Gulf Coast
 19-20—PORT ARTHUR: Quota Arts & Crafts Show Port Arthur Civic Center. 409/962-4978 Gulf Coast
 1919-20—TEXAS CITY: Model Railroad Festival The Texas City Museum and Showboat Pavilion is filled with model train layouts and vendors. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 400 block of 6th St. www.texas-city-tx.org 409/643-5799 Gulf Coast
 20—ALVIN: Victorian Holiday Includes Victorian sandwich plate desert and cider, entertainment by elementary students singing Christmas carols, auctions and craft booths. Hours are 2 to 6 p.m. National Oak Park. 281/331-2934 Gulf Coast
 20—EL CAMPO: Polka Expo Features various polka bands, along with trade show booths. www.kulpradio.com 979/543-3303 Gulf Coast
 24—HOUSTON: Washington Mutual Thanksgiving Day Parade Features floats, marching bands and Santa Claus. www.wamuparade.com 713/654-8808 Gulf Coast
 25—SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Lighting of the Island Join Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus for the lighting of the island and caroling at 6 p.m. South Padre Island Visitors Center. 800/767-2373 Gulf Coast
 25-27—HOUSTON: The Nutcracker This ballet is a holiday treat. Wortham Theater Center. www.houstonballet.org 713/227-2787 Gulf Coast
 25-27—KEMAH: Christmas in Kemah Includes local bands and

entertainment, Santa, and more. "Blizzard on the Bay," with 30,000 pounds of snow on the ground is Saturday. www.kemah.net 281/538-4632 or 281/538-4165 Gulf Coast
 26—GALVESTON: ArtWalk Historic Downtown Galveston. www.galvestonartscenter.org 409/763-2403 Gulf Coast
 26—KEMAH: Nutcracker Vignette Kemah Boardwalk. www.kemahboardwalk.com 281/334-9880 or 877/285-3624 Gulf Coast
 26—SAN BENITO: Arts & Crafts and Pancake Sale Fun N Sun RV Resort, 1400 Zillock Road. 956/399-5800 Gulf Coast
 26-27—CORPUS CHRISTI: Seashore Marketplace Includes marketplace and live music. Balli Park Pavilion on North Padre Island. www.seashoremarketplace.com 361/332-9978 Gulf Coast
 26-Dec. 31—VICTORIA: Christmas Bazaar Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Community Art Center. 361/575-8968 Gulf Coast
 26-Jan. 8—GALVESTON: Twenty to Watch Exhibits works of emerging artists from the Austin area. Galveston Arts Center. www.galvestonartscenter.org 409/763-2403 Gulf Coast
 29—HARLINGEN: 14th Annual Lights for Life Ceremony Features a tree lighting, caroling, refreshments and a "special guest." Begins at 6:30 p.m. Valley Baptist Medical Center. www.valleybaptist.net 956/389-1024 Gulf Coast

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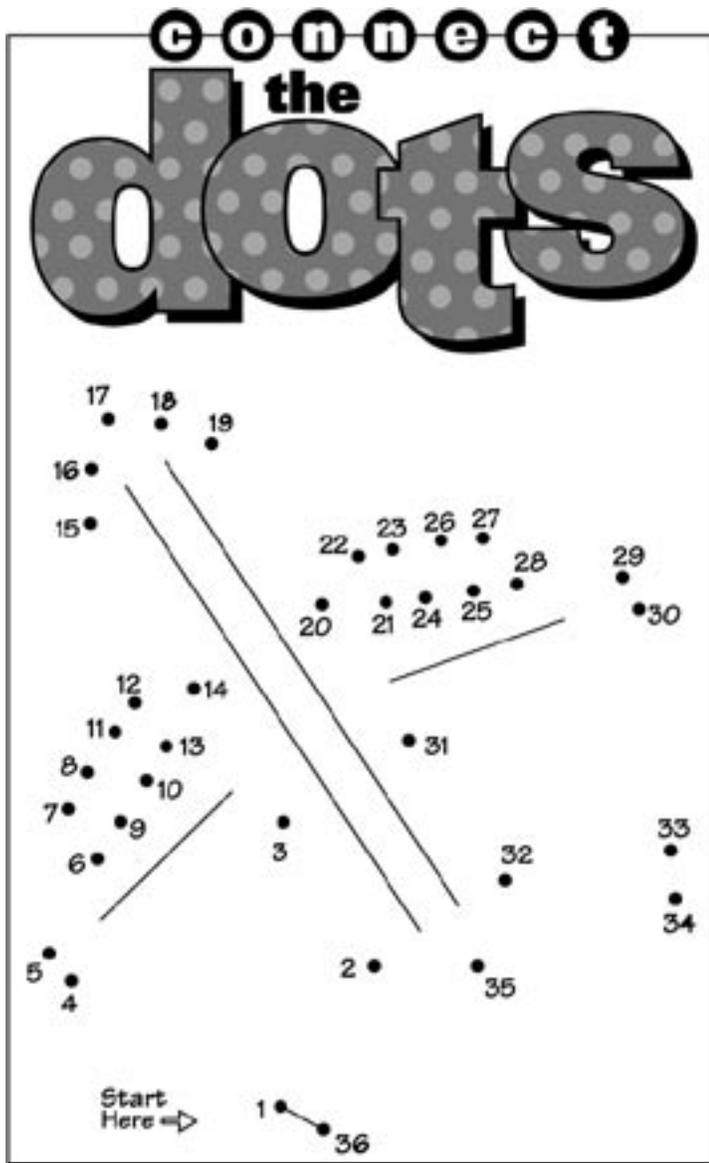
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Almost as important as the goods, each box contains letters of encouragement from children and adults. Many soldiers receive little mail and have written heartwarming letters saying how much it means to receive a child's drawing or just a note from people back home. Operation Till It Ends makes multiple copies of each letter / drawing to ensure a wide distribution.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Your contributions of toiletries, non-perishable food items and small luxury items will ensure the supply lines continue to operate. If you would like to send money so that Till It Ends can buy more items that would be greatly appreciated as well too. And, of course, your encouraging letters will keep morale high.

For more information on the organization or to donate goods or letters using several drop-off locations, please contact Cynda Williams at 281-507-8805, Rebecca Popp at 281-438-3868, or email us at tilitends@aol.com. This dedicated group also gladly welcomes a few hours of your time if you would like to volunteer.

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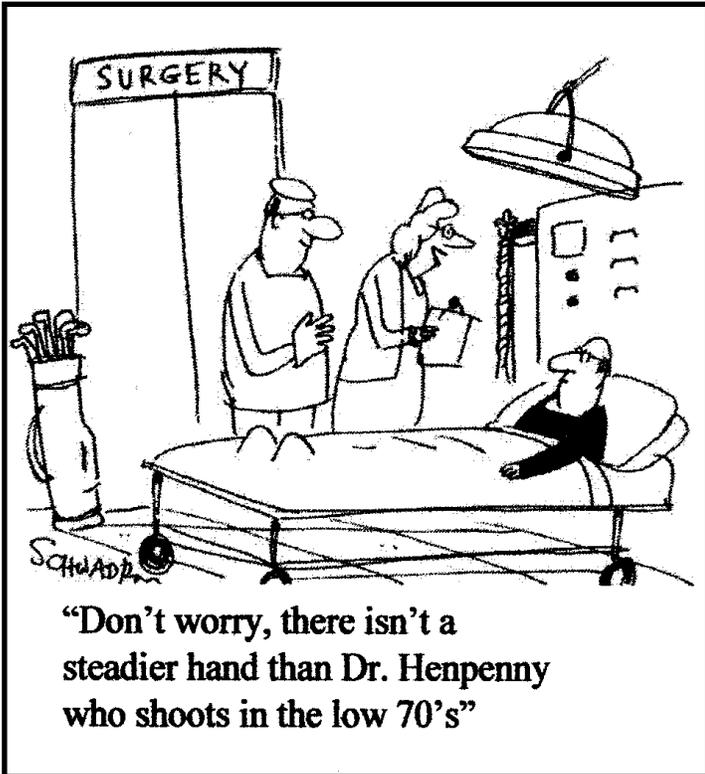
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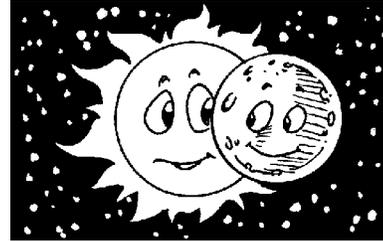
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