



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE
NORTH

Volume 5, Issue 8

August 2006
Official Newsletter

Update on Home Owner's Association activities and community improvements.

- The Board of Directors has ratified 3 committees: Landscape Committee with Lisa Rawls chair, Hurricane Preparedness Committee with Bryan Dotson chair and Newsletter Committee with Charlie Cook chair.
- Proposed Town Hall Meeting - August 5 from 9 - 10:30 am. Hurricane Preparedness Committee would like to discuss hurricane preparedness issues for the community.
- Traffic light at West Little York entrance - HOA has sent request to Commissioner Eversole.
- Display/Bulletin Boards - Currently the boards are self serve. A log book is available at the Tanner gate house for the residents to sign in and out for the key to the boards.
- Wrought Iron Fence painting - Bids are being solicited for the painting. The Board recommended the estimated \$20k expense be budgeted for 2007 since it is not in the 2006 budget.
- Power washing - The Tanner Road entrance brick bollards, monument sign at West Little York entrance and the Sonora Canyon recreation facility have been cleaned. The Catalina Shores monuments will be power washed in the fall. Please continue to e-mail any suggestions, information or community news to Charlie Cook at cookloen@sbcglobal.net

Attention Homeschoolers!

Are you a homeschooling family in the Cypress area? If so we have great news for you! Cypress Homeschool Association is a newly formed organization for the support and encouragement of parents and children in the Cypress area. We offer monthly meetings, field trips, park days, classes and more! We serve homeschoolers of all ages, from infant to high school. Take advantage of the great resources we can pool together right here in Cypress and call or email us today. Everyone is welcome!

Contact Rene at 281-304-9202 or email us at cypresshomeschool@hotmail.com.

Arts & Craft Show Mark Your Calendars

Copperfield Women's Club co-sponsored by Cy-Fair College will be having their Arts & Crafts Show – "Shop 'Til You Drop", Saturday, September 9th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

There will be approximately 85 booth spaces in several areas. Come see Awesome & Unique Homemade items. We will also have quality items from "Around the World".

This event will take place at Cy-Fair College in the College Center at 9191 Barker Cypress Road.

If you have questions, please call Dolores Nevares at (281) 463-3100 or e-mail her at dnevares@houston.rr.com for information.

So, MARK that calendar – September 9th, the BEST CRAFT SHOW. FOLLOW the SIGNS to GREAT GIFTS & shopping bargains!!!



View the Lakes on Eldridge North
Community Newsletter
each month on-line at
www.PEELinc.com

Lakes on Eldridge North

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

VanMor Properties, Inc.281-493-0668
 Fax281-493-5654
 Kate Loeffler, Manager
 Kim Stewart, Administrative Assistant
 Gate Attendant713-856-6127
 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 DPS713-681-1761
 Waste Management713-695-4055
 (trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)
 Aqua Services713-983-3602
 (Service or emergencies 24 hrs)713-983-3604
 Harris County Tax Office713-224-1919
 Reliant Energy..... 713-207-7777
 (give pole # of street which is out)
 Entex (gas)713-659-2111
 Time Warner Cable713-462-9000
 Houston Chronicle713-220-7211
 Metro Transit Info713-635-4000
 Kirk Elementary713-849-8250
 Truitt Middle School281-856-1100
 Cy-Falls High School.....281-856-1000
 Newsletter Publisher
 Peel, Inc..... advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-989-8905

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.

ADS: Deadline for submitting ads is the 10th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

Please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com for information on advertising.

Vanmor Properties, Inc. Contacts

Manager - Kate Loeffler
 Administrative Assistant - Kim Stewart
 1505 Highway 6 South, Suite 110
 Houston, Texas 77077
 Phone - 281-493-0668
 Facsimile - 281-493-5654

LOEN Board Of Directors

Steve WoodallPresident
 Faheem Khawaja.....Vice President
 Victor ElgoharyTreasurer
 Don ByrnesSecretary
 Lisa Carpenter..... Director

Pool Hours

Catalina Shores Pool

Open weekends only in September

June - August 8th

Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 8pm,
 Sunday Noon - 8pm
 (Lifeguards gone during the week days after public school starts)

Sonora Canyon Pool

Open weekends only in May

June - August 8th

Monday, Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 8pm
 Sunday Noon - 8 pm
until August 8th - then pool open week days 4-8pm and full time on Sat. and Sun. through Sept 24th.

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SIX MONTH REVIEW

Price Range	\$600,000+	Under \$600,000
# of Sales	3	25
Avg. List Price	\$934,600	\$370,796
Avg. Sales Price	\$937,933	\$360,668
Avg. Bedrooms	5	4
Avg. Sq. Footage	5,113	3,638
Avg. Lot Size	14,857	10,079
Avg. \$ per Sq. Ft.	\$183.44	\$99.14
Days on Market	374	67



Ann Knoche

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*Based on HAR/MLS Data Jan. 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006.



Lakes on Eldridge North

Pack More Stuff In Less Space

(NAPSA)-There are two kinds of travelers in the world: those who pack light and those who wish they had. The key is to include everything you need in as little space as possible.

Some of the most travel-savvy people in the world-travel agents-offer some helpful tips and techniques for efficient packing for all types of travel:

- Make a plan and stick to it. As an architect plans a building, so must you plan the contents of your suitcase. A packing list eliminates the panic of last-second packing, serves as a handy guide for repacking at the end of the trip and can be beneficial in the unfortunate event of lost or stolen luggage.

- Check the weather forecast of the destination and plan accordingly. Also, be sure to know the local traditions. Although many places have relaxed their dress codes, a T-shirt for dinner could be a serious blunder, or bare shoulders may bar your entrance into such places as St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. Bare legs for men and women are strongly



Packing efficiently is the first step to truly enjoying a relaxing vacation.

discouraged if not prohibited at holy sites in many religions. For almost all outdoor activities, take pieces that can be layered.

- Lay out the items you intend to take and reexamine your list. If possible, weed out single-use items and extras.
- Travel kits are best for toiletries. Having a travel kit perpetually stocked in a waterproof case will save packing time before the trip

and aggravation after arrival. Most personal toiletry items come in inexpensive travel sizes, so purchase these whenever you see them, so as not to arrive with a half-empty bottle of your favorite hair gel.

- Iron everything before packing. If it goes in crisp and clean, odds are more in its favor of coming out the same. Button all buttons and zip all zippers.
- Know when to fold 'em. Practice folding like it's done in clothing stores-that method is used for a reason. The better the fold, the fewer the creases.
- Try to think chronologically, placing the items to be worn first on the top. This will prevent rooting around the suitcase for a specific item while disrupting the rest.
- Always carry travel documents, medication, jewelry, traveler's checks, keys and other valuables in your carry-on luggage. Items such as these should never be packed in checked luggage. For more packing tips, go to www.travelsense.org.

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Want to know what our real estate market is like now?

Sales for 2nd Quarter
(April-June) in
both LOE/LOEN
totaled 56 sales*

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET: 87
SALES PRICE AVERAGED
97% OF THE LIST PRICE
*per (MLS) Multiple Listing Service

PRICE RANGES

\$202,500-\$295,000	15 SOLD
\$300,000-\$387,500	20 SOLD
\$406,000-\$498,100	10 SOLD
\$520,000-\$553,190	3 SOLD
\$650,000-\$690,000	2 SOLD
\$800,000-\$860,000	3 SOLD
\$975,000.....	1 SOLD
\$1 MILLION + +	2 SOLD



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 Todd Thoman, V.P. Marketing
 713-977-5634
tjt@sparkenergylp.com

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Hurricane Guide for Lakes on Eldridge North

Emergency Contacts:

Vanmor – 281-493-0668

Police – 911 –

if you use a cell phone, 911 will connect you with TX DPS

Sheriff 713-221-6000

Fire – 911, 281-550-6663

Electricity & Gas –

713-207-2222 or 800-332-7143

Local Neighborhood Contacts

1 Southeast	Bryan Dotson	832-467-4372
2 East Central	John McCrary	713-983-0311
3 North	Junius Allen	832-467-4685
4 Northwest	James Tomlinson	713-466-7882
5 Southwest	Mauricio Daguer	713-849-5396
6 South Central	John Sanders	713-466-8713
7 Central	Jim Flanary	713-856-8180

If a hurricane is approaching

Services:

- No Trash Pickup during Emergency
- Guards leave 24 prior to storm
- Guards will return based on City of Houston announcements
- Gates will be locked open
- Pools will be closed
- No maintenance activities

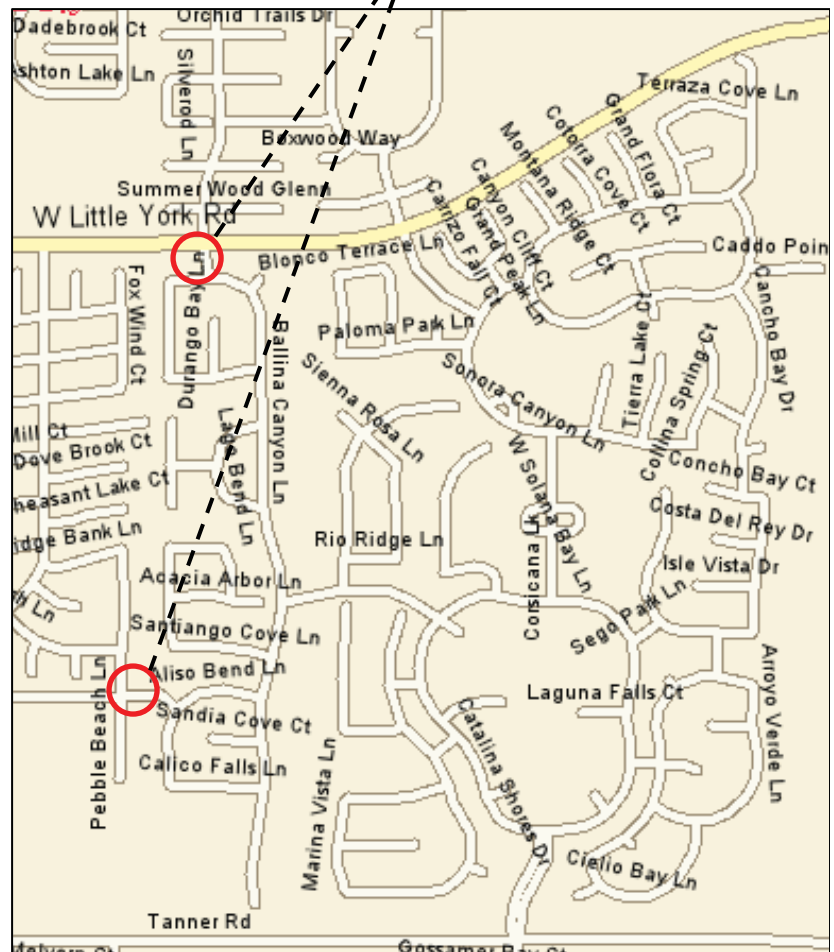
Tips:

- Don't leave anything loose in yard
- If concerns, contact one of the persons above

Links:

- <http://www.redcross.org/news/ds/0305hurricane/>
- <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/hurricanes.shtml>

Emergency Exits



Lake on Eldridge North Emergency Areas

1. Southeast (Monterrey Springs & Southeast Laguna Falls Estates)
2. East Central (Sago Park, Laguna Terrace & Sonora Canyon)
3. North (Arcadia Bend, Ensenada Canyon, The Chateaus & Paloma Park)
4. Northwest (Lago Bend)
5. Southwest (Sandia Cove)
6. South Central (Sierra Brook and Southwest Laguna Falls Estates)
7. Central (Saratoga Springs, Sandia Lake & North Laguna Falls Estates)



Tomatoes-No Refrigeration Required

(NAPSA)-Did you know that one of the most popular vegetables in the United States is actually a fruit? Categorized by botanists as a fruit but eaten by consumers as a vegetable, tomatoes are appreciated for their combination of sweetness and acidity.

Any way you slice it, tomatoes are a delicious way to add nutrients to the diet. They are rich in vitamins A and C and are a good source of potassium. Tomatoes are also naturally low in sodium and contain no cholesterol.

Many people store tomatoes alongside other vegetables in their refrigerator's crisper drawer, but that's not the best place for them. Tomatoes should be stored at room temperature to maintain maximum flavor. Cool temperatures inside your refrigerator will stop the ripening process and begin to decrease the flavor and change the texture. Try storing your tomatoes in a decorative bowl on the counter.

Tomatoes and bananas help each other ripen quicker. Tomatoes and bananas emit a naturally occurring ripening gas called ethylene and when you store the two together they both ripen rapidly. If you need to ripen a tomato quickly, store it in a



closed paper bag on the counter. The ethylene gas speeds up the ripening process when confined around the fruit in a closed bag.

Although tomatoes are native to Central and South America, they are now eaten throughout the world and are an ingredient in countless recipes. Many people consider tomatoes an essential part of their vegetable gardens each summer and they are available at your local market year-round.

For more information about tomatoes online, log on to www.sunripeproduce.com. For more recipes and information on how to incorporate a variety of fruits and vegetables into your diet, visit www.5aday.org.

Pico de Gallo

Pico de Gallo is a fresh tomato salsa often served as a dip for tortilla chips but it's also terrific spooned onto grilled fish, chicken or pork.

Ingredients:

- 8 SUNRIPE Bella Roma (plum) tomatoes, chopped
- 1/4 cup red onion, finely chopped
- 2 jalapenos, minced
- 1/2 cup cilantro, chopped
- Juice of 1/2 a lime
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

Instructions:

Mix all ingredients together and enjoy.

Serves: 8 - 1 1/2 cup of vegetables per serving

Nutrition Information per Serving: calories: 15, total fat: 0.2g, saturated fat: 0.03g, % of calories from fat: 8, % of calories from saturated fat: 1, protein: 1g, carbohydrate: 3g, cholesterol: 0mg, dietary fiber: 1g, sodium 149mg.

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Kylie is six or seven months old and weighs 26 pounds. Kylie is a sweet, bundle of energy.

She can be a bit shy at first, but once she trusts you, she loves to be around you.

She loves to run and play with other dogs and toys. Kylie does not like cats.

She is crate-trained, newspaper-trained, spayed, and current on shots and deworming.

Adoption fee applies.



For more information about Kylie and other rescue animals, or to make a donation, please contact:

Houston Area Dog and Cat Rescue

E-mail: HoustonAreaDogAndCatRescue@yahoo.com

Website: HoustonAreaDogAndCatRescue.petfinder.com

Phone: 936-441-5503



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Heat Stress Index		Air Temperature (F)					
		70°	80°	90°	100°	110°	120°
Relative Humidity	0%	64°	73°	83°	91°	99°	107°
	10%	65°	75°	85°	95°	105°	116°
	20%	66°	77°	87°	99°	112°	130°
	30%	67°	78°	90°	104°	123°	148°
	40%	68°	79°	93°	110°	137°	
	50%	69°	81°	96°	120°	150°	
	60%	70°	82°	100°	132°		
	70%	70°	85°	106°	144°		
	80%	71°	86°	113°			
	90%	71°	88°	122°			
100%	72°	91°					

Keeping cool when the weather is hot

It's summertime and you head out for a run. Before you even finish the first mile, your body feels as though it might ignite from the heat.

It's not your imagination. Fifteen minutes into your run and your body temperature could be as high as 5° F above normal. If you were to continue at this pace, fatigue and heat illness would no doubt take over.

Strategies to protect yourself from heat illness

The above scenario doesn't have to happen. Drinking enough fluid, whether it be water or a sports drink, is imperative for exercising in hot or humid weather.

Maintenance of body fluids is essential to maintaining proper body temperature. Sweat dispels heat through your skin. If you let your body become dehydrated, you'll find it much more difficult to perform even the lightest of workouts.

But don't wait until you're thirsty to start replenishing those fluids. Chances are, by the time you actually feel thirsty, your body is well on its way to becoming severely dehydrated.

The following strategies will help you protect yourself from the onset of heat illness:

1. Hydration

Fluid replenishment before, during and after exercise is essential to avoid progressive dehydration. Always consume more fluids than you think you need before and after

exercise, and strive to drink six to eight ounces of fluid every 15 to 20 minutes during exercise.

2. Exercise Intensity

You should probably reduce the intensity of your workout, particularly the first few times you are exposed to higher temperatures.

3. Temperature

Use the heat stress index table to determine the risk of exercising at various combinations of temperature and humidity. While a 90° F outdoor temp is relatively safe at 10 percent humidity, the heat stress of 90° F at 50 percent humidity is the equivalent of 96° F. When the heat stress index rises above 90° F, you may want to consider postponing your exercise session until later in the day. Or, plan ahead, and beat the day's heat by working out early in the morning.

4. Fitness

Physical training and heat acclimation can increase your blood volume, helping to regulate body temperature more effectively. Interestingly, the acclimatization process can be completed in 7 to 14 days of repeated heat exposure. However, you must always continue to drink fluids before, during and after exercise.

(Continued on Page 16)

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Lakes on Eldridge North

Texas Events - August 2006

- 1-24—BEAUMONT: Drawings from the Permanent Collection of Art Museum of Southeast Texas www.amset.org 409/832-3432
- 2-6—SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Texas International Fishing Tournament Features the largest bay and deep-sea fishing tournament in this state. South Padre Island and Port Isabel waters. www.tift.org 956/943-TIFT
- 3-6, 10-13—BAYTOWN: The Music Man Baytown Little Theater. E-mail: ellenbradj@aol.com 281/424-7617
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31—KEMAH: Rock the Dock Concert Series Kemah Boardwalk. www.kemahboardwalk.com 281/334-9880
- 4—TOMBALL: Tomball Night Includes shopping, bands, carnival rides for kids and night parade. E-mail: admin@tomballchamber.org • www.tomballchamber.org
- 4-5—PORT ARANSAS: Hope Devlin Kids Fishing Tournament Held in memory of Captain Hope Devlin. Proceeds benefit the Kiwanis Club Scholarship Program. Robert's Point Park. 361/749-3497
- 4-6—HOUSTON: Houston International Jazz Festival Includes celebration of the summer jazz workshop, smooth jazz concerts and mayor's jazz brunch at the Wortham Theater. Bayou Place. E-mail: jazzed@jazzeducation.org • www.jazzeducation.org 713/839-7000
- 4-20—WHARTON: Disney's Beauty & the Beast 979/282-2970
- 5—ALVIN: BACH FunFest Includes children's activities, food, face painting, games and more. Knights of Columbus Hall. 877/714-1766
- 5—ANGLETON: Kidsfest Brazos River County Park. 979/864-1541
- 5—BEAUMONT: Museum to Blow Gusher In celebration of Beaumont's heritage, the earth will tremble, people will cheer and the Lucas Gusher will blow once again. Begins at 2:30 p.m. Spindletop/Gladys City Boomtown Museum. www.spindletop.org 409/835-0823
- 5—HARLINGEN: Jackson Street Market Days Old-fashioned, open-air street fair includes antiques, crafts, sidewalk sales, produce cart and food vendors. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Downtown. 956/423-4041
- 5—MANVEL: Naked Rib Smokehouse Car Show Hours are 6 to 10 p.m. 19405 Hwy. 6. 281/489-1000
- 5, 12, 18-19, 26—LAKE JACKSON: Story Time Storytellers read books about the sea and nature from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Friday and 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday. Stories are selected for preschool age but entertain all ages. Sea Center Texas. www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/visitorcenters/seacenter 979/292-0100
- 6—KEMAH: 38th Annual Blessing of the Fleet Decorated shrimp boats and pleasure craft file past the Cadillac Authentic Mexican Restaurant where the officiating priest and minister bless each of the boats. Kemah Boardwalk. www.kemah.net 281/334-9880
- 6—PALACIOS: Shrimporee St. Ann's Catholic Church. www.palacioschamber.com 361/972-2615
- 6—SANTA FE: Pet Rooster Hours are 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Haak Winery, 6310 Ave. T. www.haakwine.com 409/925-1401
- 6—VICTORIA: Our Lady of Sorrows Jamaica Victoria Community Center. 361/575-2293
- 9—SAN BENITO: El Second Weensdee Enjoy an oral history series on conjunto music. Begins at 7 p.m. The Narciso Martinez Cultural Art Center, 225 E. Stenger St. 956/361-0110
- 11—ROSENBERG: Hot Summer Concerts San Francisco's ruling blues band, the MOFO Party Band performs. Bring a lawn chair, family and friends to enjoy the free concerts. Downtown Park. www.visitrosenberg.com 832/595-3520
- 11-13—BEAUMONT: "The Beaumont Cruise & Hot Summer Nites" Vintage Car Show & Street Cruise 11th Street. www.beaumontcvb.com 409/769-7599
- 11-13—PALACIOS: Family Fishing Tournament www.palacioschamber.com 361/972-2615
- 11-13—SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Ladies Kingfish Tournament Features bay and offshore divisions. Register Friday at SPI Convention Centre. Weigh-in is Saturday at South Point Marina, Port Isabel. Awards and social occur Sunday at the SPI Convention Centre. www.spichamber.com 956/761-4412
- 12—LOS FRESNOS: Elvis Festival Little Graceland Museum. 956/233-5482

(Continued on Page 14)



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Because every move matters!

Lakes on Eldridge North

Texas Events-(Continued from Page 12)

12—PASADENA: Owl Prowl Enjoy a moonlit walk through the woods while looking for owls and listening for fascinating night sounds. Hours are 8 to 10 p.m. Armand Bayou Nature Center. www.abnc.org 281/474-2551

12, 26—PASADENA: Guided Canoe Trips Meet at Bay Area Park for a morning of wildlife watching, wetland education, relaxation and fun. Travel is about 2-3 miles round trip. Reservations required. Armand Bayou Nature Center. www.abnc.org 281/474-2551

14—FULTON: Music at the Mansion Begins at 7 p.m. Fulton Mansion State Historic Site. 361/729-0386

17-19—PORT ARANSAS: Oh Boy! Oberto Redfish Cup Premier inshore fishing tournament is televised on ESPN2. Includes games, music demonstrations and more. Robert's Point Park. www.redfishcup.com 501/372-6544

17-Sep. 14—NASSAU BAY: Figurative Art Exhibition includes figurate works and portraits. The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, 2000 NASA Parkway. www.taaccl.org 281/335-7777

18—VICTORIA: Country Opry Community Center Annex. 361/552-9347

18-20—HARLINGEN: U.S.S.S.A. Men's Hispanic State Championship Sports Complex, 3139 Wilson Road. 956/245-0264

19—BAY CITY: Market Day More than 100 vendors sell handmade crafts, homemade jellies and more. Courthouse Square. www.visitbaycity.org 800/806-8333

19—BEAUMONT: Free Family Arts Day Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Art Museum of Southeast Texas. www.amset.org 409/832-3432

19—DICKINSON: The Best of Broadway Gala includes dinner, silent auction and more. Bay Area Harbour Playhouse, 3803 Hwy. 3. www.harbourplayhouse.com 281/337-SHOW

19—GALVESTON: Artwalk Commercial galleries, non-profit art spaces, restaurants and retail stores exhibit art and welcome viewers. Historic District. www.galvestonartscenter.org 409/763-2403

19—HARLINGEN: Blues on the Hill Features blues music with several bands participating. Lawn chairs and beach towels are welcome. Hours are 6 to 10 p.m. McKelvey Park, 1325 S. 77 Sunshine Strip. 956/216-5950

19-20—ROSENBERG: 32nd Annual Festival of Glass & Antique Show & Sale Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. www.houstonglassclub.org 281/342-4876 713/729-4267

19-Sep. 24—GALVESTON: Al Souza — Addenda Features a survey exhibition of this Houston artist's work with puzzle parts and cut paper pieces. Galveston Arts Center. www.galvestonartscenter.org 409/763-2403

20—SANTA FE: Hanna's Reef Hours are 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Haak Winery, 6310 Ave. T. www.haakwine.com 409/925-1401

25-27—CLEAR LAKE AREA: Ballunar Lifftoff Festival Involves
(Continued on Page 15)

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Texas Events- (Continued from page 14)

a weekend of hot air ballooning, arts & crafts, live entertainment, sky-diving exhibitions and food. NASA/Johnson Space Center. www.ballunarfestival.com 281/488-7676

25-27—PORT ARANSAS: Texas Women Anglers Tournament Features a fishing tournament for women. Robert's Point Park. 361/882-6000

26—CLUTE: Brazosport Art League Gallery Opening: Open-Juried Show Center for the Arts & Sciences. 979/265-7971

26—TEXAS CITY: Shrimp Boil & Dance Enjoy a shrimp dinner and a dance with a live band. Nessler Park/Rotary Pavilion. E-mail: lorrie@texascitychamber.com • www.texascitychamber.com 409/935-1408

27—SANTA FE: Steel Vibrations Enjoy great Jamaican/Calypso music from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Haak Winery, 6310 Ave. T. 409/925-1401

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Lakes on Eldridge North

Fit Facts- (Continued from page 11)

5. Clothing

Wear minimal clothing to provide greater skin surface area for heat dissipation. Your clothing should be lightweight, loose fitting, light colored to reflect the sun's rays, and of a material that absorbs water, such as cotton.

6. Rest

Know when to say 'no' to exercise. Using common sense is your best bet for preventing heat stress when Mother Nature turns up the heat.

Heat sensation risk of heat injury

- 90° - 105° Possibility of heat cramps
- 105° - 130° Heat cramps or heat exhaustion likely. Heat stroke possible.
- 130°+ Heat stroke a definite risk.



Sudoku

The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

		7	1					
		6			3			2
	4					8		1
		8		2				
	6	1						7
3	7			9			6	8
			3				2	
6						5		3
	1				2			6

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Van Arsdale Presents Overview Of Special Session, School Finance Reform

HOUSTON (June 23, 2006) – Texas House District 130 Representative Corbin Van Arsdale can finally get back to his routine at home – at least until early next year when the 80th Legislature convenes.

Van Arsdale, who spoke at the June 20 general membership luncheon of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce at Raveneaux Country Club, joked that when people ask the two-term legislator how long he has served in the House, he tells them nine sessions – two regular sessions and seven called sessions.

At the Chamber luncheon, he presented an overview on the recently concluded special session at which legislators finally hammered out school funding laws to replace the so-called “Robin Hood” plan.

“The problem with Robin Hood is that over the years more and more of the burden of financing schools has fallen to the local level,” Van Arsdale said. “As long as the local portion is going up and up, you’re going to have more redistribution. The only way to fix this is to push more from the local level to the state level. When you start pushing things to the state level, the state can’t tax property or income.”

Van Arsdale noted that the governor’s school finance panel, headed by former state comptroller John Sharp, did in-depth studies and hired economists to examine the issue. The final result, adopted by the House and Senate and signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry on May 31, was a mixture of consumption taxes, revamping of the franchise tax and use of budget surplus to reduce school property taxes for

property owners.

The consumption tax increases affect cigarettes and smokeless tobacco but not cigars, Van Arsdale said. Because private-party automobile transaction prices are virtually impossible to document, all used car sales taxes will now be based on a vehicle’s so-called “blue book” value.

The franchise tax, which only about 6 percent of Texas businesses paid because they found loopholes, was scrapped in favor of a “margin” tax. However, the margin tax will not apply to sole proprietorships, charities, general partnerships or companies that earn less than \$300,000 in gross revenue, Van Arsdale said. The tax will not be payable until 2008.

According to Van Arsdale, all the new revenue will be channeled into a special fund that is separate from the regular budget. The school finance fund will reduce property taxes 11 percent this year and another 22 percent by 2007. The bill signed by Perry also included a \$2,000 raise for teachers.

The legislation also included incentive pay for teachers, a mandatory four years of math and science courses for high school students, a mandatory late-August start date for schools, sanctions for low-performing charter schools, a provision that school elections must be held on the same day as city or county elections, and a requirement that districts post their financial information on their Web sites.

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- Clean, disinfect toilets, tubs, showers
- Hand wash, disinfect floors

All Rooms

- Pick up and straighten
- Dust sills, ledges, wall hangings
- Remove cobwebs
- Dust/vacuum furniture
- Vacuum floors, carpets
- Vacuum stairs
- Vacuum under beds
- Change linens, make beds
- Empty trash

Windows

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- Clean window over kitchen sink

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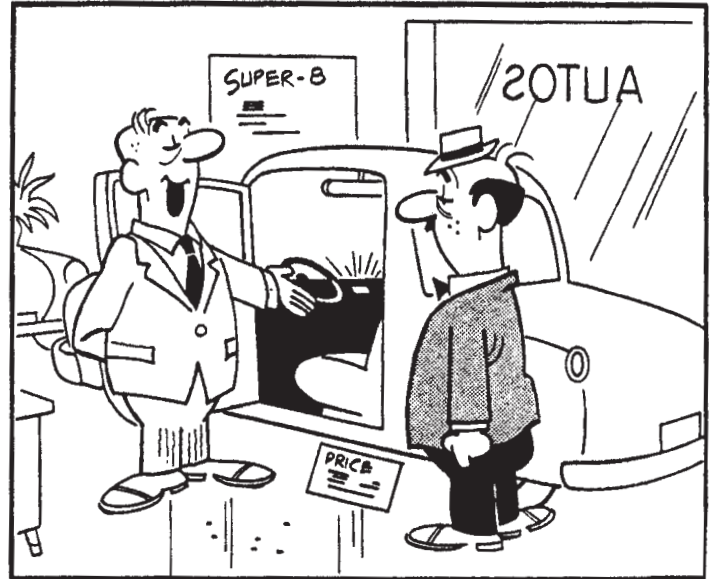
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The prison known as the Bastille, which figured so prominently in the French Revolution, was originally built as a home for the king.



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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:

Registration under way - classes start Aug. 28

Cy-Fair College is the place to be! Continuing education, Weekend College and fall registration are under way at Cy-Fair College and at the Fairbanks Center. With courses designed to transfer to four-year institutions, two-year associate degrees and career programs developed to meet the needs of tomorrow, Cy-Fair College has everything to meet your interests as well as academic and workforce needs. Convenient payment plans as well as weekend, evening and distance learning classes are available. For the best selection on the courses and times that will fit your schedule, register now! Call 281-290-3200 or 832-782-5000 for information; go online; or visit one of our conveniently located campuses at 9191 Barker Cypress or 14955 Northwest Freeway.

Library Hosts MFA-Houston "Modern Designs" Traveling Exhibit

The Cy-Fair College Branch Library has been selected to host the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's latest traveling exhibition "Playful, Sleek, and Bold: Modern Designs for the Home" from Aug. 21 through Oct. 23. The exhibition features 20 decorative arts objects made by seven designers from the 1930s to 2001.

Free Summer Film Series Ends Aug. 16

The Cy-Fair College Summer Film Series is a continuing education course called Film Appreciation. The series is presented at no charge. A professor at the college hosts each film and an in-depth discussion after the movie. August shows include "History of the World: Part 1" at 7 p.m. Aug. 3, "Step Into Liquid" at 1 p.m. Aug. 8, "Riding Giants" at 7 p.m. also Aug. 8 and "Crimes and Misdemeanors" at 7 p.m. Aug. 16. Registration is available at all the film events. All films are shown at the Barker Cypress campus in ART 102. For information, call 281-290-3257, e-mail robert.obrien@nhmccd.edu or visit http://faculty.nhmccd.edu/robobrien/Film_Series.html.

Enhance Your Summer With a Little L.I.F.E.

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.) August programs include "From Memory to Memoir" Aug. 2, "Weatherman Anthony Yanez is Back" Aug. 9, "Wetlands in Texas" Aug. 16, "Mosaics with Melissa" Aug. 23 and "Taxonomies of Knowledge from L'Encyclopedie to Wikipedia" Aug. 30. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for monthly L.I.F.E. program information or check the library web page online at <http://cfclibrary.nhmccd.edu>.

Library Offers Free Computer Classes and Book Clubs

The Harris County Public Library Cy-Fair College Branch offers
(Continued on Page 20)

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Cy-Fair College- (Continued from page 20)

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 are also available including, history, women of the world, democracy, and sports page. There are plenty of youth programs with activities and book clubs for teens and story time for younger children. Go online to <http://cfclibrary.nhmccd.edu> for information.

Check Out the Art Gallery

Come see the work of Cy-Fair College art faculty Hazel Bartram-Birchough, who is a 2006 Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award winner, on display Aug. 1 through Aug. 31. This solo show explores the beauty and infinite subtlety of the body and mind. A reception to meet the artist is set for 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 31 in the Center for the Arts Gallery, located at 9191 Barker Cypress. Call 832-482-1038 for gallery hours and information.

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Cypress Assistance Ministries - Volunteers Needed

A heartfelt "thank you" to all the wonderful people who donated school supplies and volunteered time to make this year's school supplies drive one of the most successful ever. Volunteers and staff passed out school supplies to hundreds of children.

The services provided at Cypress Assistance Ministries, CAM, are made possible by many dedicated volunteers. If you enjoy working with the public, decorating or merchandising, then serving in our busy resale shop, Angels' Attic, is the place for you. Want to help fulfill a family's most basic needs? Come serve in the Food Pantry by restocking shelves, packing groceries, or picking up donations from local grocery stores or restaurants. Our busy community donation area, the Cellar, is looking for people willing to serve by processing donations and restocking Angels' Attic. Do your skills include math and teaching? Our Operation Jobs Program has a need for that certain person that would consider "one-on-one" math tutoring for GED students that are having difficulty.

Stop by and see the newly remodeled Angels' Attic Resale Shop. Angels' Attic is stocked with quality merchandise at resale prices. Our racks are full of children's back-to-school clothing and shoes in all sizes. New costume jewelry and sterling silver, fill the jewelry cases for any special occasion. You will also find household items and furniture to redecorate your home for fall. Ask for a calendar of the upcoming sales next time you visit the store. Services at Cypress

Assistance Ministries are funded from the proceeds of Angels' Attic along with contributions from local churches, businesses and individuals.

Cypress Assistance Ministries, located at 11202 Huffmeister, exists to provide a safe place for individuals or families to tell their story and be offered some measure of hope during difficult times. For a description of all our services as well as volunteer opportunities and Food Pantry requests please see our Web site, www.cypressassistanceministries.com

Donations can be made Monday through Wednesday from 10AM – 6PM and Thursday through Saturday from 10AM – 3PM.

If you need further information or would like to volunteer, please give us a call at 281-955-7684 and ask for Kelly or Lisa.

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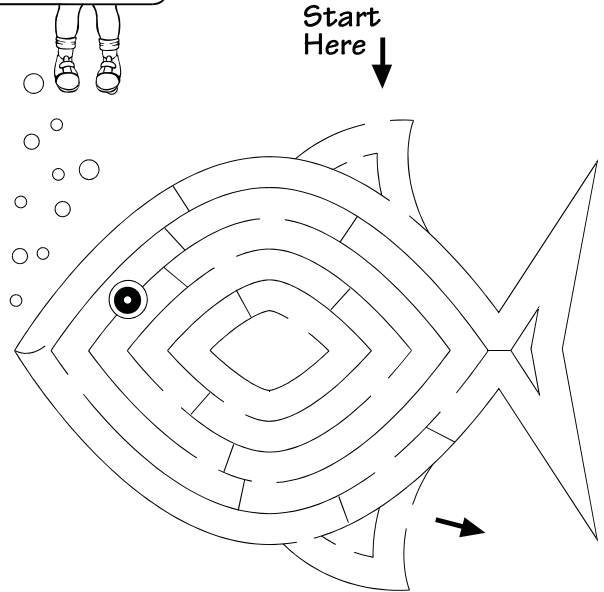
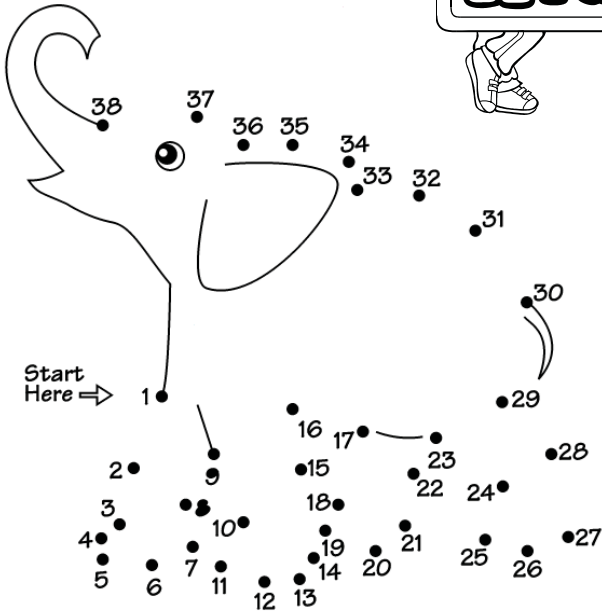
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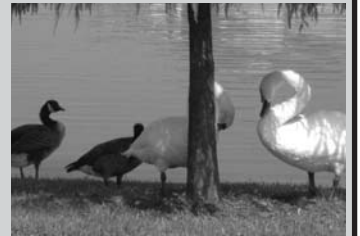
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