

Volume 8, Issue 5

May 2009



The new swim season is finally underway for our 220 enthusiastic swimmers age 4 to 18! A very successful Swim Clinic was held the week of April 20 and practices started on 27 April. Start marking your May calendars for the Time Trials on May 2nd, pictures on the 4th, and first pep-rally on the 15th followed by the first meet on the 16th at our home pool in Lakes on Eldridge. Below is a complete calendar of future events, to cut out and tape to your fridge for easy reference! As always you can visit our very informative website www.loedolphins.org for up to date information.

MAY

- 2 Time Trials Concord Bridge 12
- Loe Pool (Finish By 3)
- 4 Pictures No Swim Practice
- 15 Pep-rally (7-9)
- 16 Home Meet Fairfield (Finish By 3 Pm)Pep-rally (7-9)
- 23 Away Meet Deerfield
- 25 No Swim Practice Memorial Day
- 29 Pep-rally (7-9)
- 30 Away Meet Norchester

<u>JUNE</u>

- 5 Pep-rally (7-9)
- 6 Home Meet Concord Bridge (Finish By 3 Pm)

- 2 Pep-rally (7-9)
- 13 Away Meet Jersey Village
- 19 Last Day Of Swim Practice
- 20 Divisionals Fairfield
- 22 Banquet Cy Ridge High School
- 23-25 Swim Practice For Swimmers Qualifying For Rw&b And Ponderosa
- 26-28 Rw& B Cy-springs
- 27,28 Ponderosa Klein High School

(The Board Position for Secretary/ Hospitality is open. If you are interested in that position, please contact Rosa Clay at rosaclay@sbcglobal.net.)



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(non-emergency)281-550-6663	3				
Poison Control1-800-764-766	1				
Texas DPS713-681-1762	1				
Waste Management	5				
(trash collection Mondays & Thursdays)					
Aqua Services713-983-3602	2				
(Service or emergencies 24 hrs) 713-983-3604	4				
Harris County Tax Office	9				
Reliant Energy 713-207-7777	7				
(give pole # of street which is out)					
Entex (gas)713-659-2111	1				
Time Warner Cable713-462-9000	0				
Houston Chronicle713-220-721	1				
Metro Transit Info713-635-4000	0				
Kirk Elementary 713-849-8250	0				
Truitt Middle School281-856-1100	0				
Cy-Falls High School281-856-1000	0				
Newsletter Publisher					
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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

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Please e-mail articles and/or photos to <u>articles@PEELinc.com</u>. Submissions must be received by the 15th of the month for the following month's issue. (Advertising deadline is the 10th of the month.)

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

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Kirk Elementary's Spotlight Teacher is Music to our Ears!

We are pleased to announce that our Spotlight Teacher for 2009 is Mrs. Charlsie Gomez! She is our amazing music teacher and one who exemplifies the traits of an exceptional teacher as defined by the Cy-Fair District as instructional strategist, creates student-centered environment, positive role model, lifelong learner and team player.

Cy-Fair ISD's Spotlight program, now in its 24th year is the district's way of recognizing our classroom teachers who demonstrate these qualities day-in and day-out, making a difference in the lives of our students. Though each campus has a full cast and crew of star-quality performers, the Spotlight program allows each principal to select one teacher to take center stage so that we may honor that individual's performance.

Just some of the areas of music studied by our students are creative expression, performance, historical and cultural heritage, music history and music vocations. Our students perform in various grade level programs and the Kirk Choir can be seen and heard at various local venues throughout the year. Mrs. Gomez also takes music memory teams to district competition at year's end.

According to a Kirk parent, Mrs. Gomez is one of those instructors with the ability to breathe life into the curriculum stimulating excitement and interest among her students. She can boast that her students are walking around with their music lessons of famous composers on their iPods! Congratulations to Mrs. Gomez!!



Attention Rising Kirk Kindergarteners!

Do you have a child who will be a new kindergartener at Kirk Elementary for Fall 2009? If so, please let us know! We will be planning a couple of fun family activities for new Kirk kindergarten families this summer to help ease their transition to a new class, new school, and new friends. To be placed on the distribution list, please send your name and email address to Michol Ecklund (mom to rising kindergarteners Evan & Elliott) at michol@alumni.rice.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Kirk Elementary Hosts Spring Festival

The Spring Festival on May 1st will cap off another fantastic year for the students and staff of Kirk Elementary. The festivals are always a favorite of our students and families. The evening is filled with games, food, inflatables, cake walks, raffles and auctions. There is always something for everyone. This event is a large undertaking by the school PTO and is a testament to the many volunteers that make this and so many events throughout the year a success. These events orchestrated by the dedicated volunteer team truly enhance the educational experience of our Kirk student body.



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Lakes on Eldridge North May Landscaping By Ron Kerwin

May is a great month to get full usage of our outdoor areas. The morning temps are nice and it has not yet become really hot in the afternoons. Continue to freely plant shrubs, trees, flowers and vegetables. Remember to put down a minimum of 2 inches of new mulch in all your beds. A good layer of mulch keeps the plant roots cooler, helps with weed control, and helps slow the water you apply from evaporating from the root zone.

Water your lawns less frequently and more deeply. Frequent short duration watering leads to shallow root systems. Less frequent longer duration watering leads to deeper root systems. Deeper root systems are more healthy and better for your lawns. They will hold up better in the extreme heat. Our lawns need one inch of water per week. Put out a container with straight sides and catch the water as you irrigate, you can easily measure the result. Two watering times at 1/2 inch each are better than 4 times at 1/4 inch, the water penetrates further and this will force the roots down to find it. Regular mowing is critical for good lawn health. Mow only the top 1/3 of the total length. Letting the grass grow long and then cutting off more than the 1/3 is damaging to the grass, and makes the mulching process less efficient and less attractive.

There is a new soil disease coming into our area that I was made aware of late last year. It reveals itself in St Augustine grasses. It is not cinch bugs, it is not grubs although it does resemble their grass damages. The grass blades die and fall off the runners. The runners remain in place, but somewhat resemble a cobweb. It is NOT a grass disease, it IS a soil disease. The big chemical companies do have chemicals to treat it. This is a Gulf Coast epidemic that is moving North. Homeowners with no foot traffic and do their own yard work still get it. Its origins are a guess at this point. I am trying to be pro-active and let you know your turf may get the problem& to watch out for it.





SWANS CAN BE DANGEROUS



It's springtime again, and you can expect to see some new arrivals of cygnets on our lakes. Mother Nature provides our LOE swans with some common sense. At this time of year they feel the need to protect their territory against predators including humans, dogs, and waterfowl. Our cob (male) will become aggressive and territorial in trying to protect his pen (female) and nest. This is usually temporary until mating season is over. If you are walking past a lake and a swan swims to your side and follows you, **BEWARE!** If you see a swan with his neck back and feathers up, like in this photograph, please stay away, do not attempt to feed him, and walk on the other side of the street as he is in his ATTACK position. **Please warn your nannies and sitters not to stroll babies around the swans.** We must try to remember that the swans are merely protecting their territory and readying the area for their young. We need to be as cautious of them as they are of us. Thank you for your cooperation.

REMINDER Waterfowl Cruelty is a FELONY

Mistreating or injuring the waterfowl is a FELONY according to the Texas Wildlife Department. Children have been seen in the past poking sticks at the swans and throwing objects at them. The police will be called on any person taunting or throwing items at any waterfowl no matter what their age. Remember this is a FELONY, which will remain on one's police record for a long time. Please warn your children to leave the waterfowl alone. They are here to add beauty to our neighborhood, not to be injured. Should any resident see mistreatment of the waterfowl, call the police first, and then call AMI who will give you the number of the people who are caretakers of the waterfowl. All of Your Dental Needs Under One Roof

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290 Cypress Business Networking Group

The 290 Cypress Business Networking Group meets every Thursday morning at 7:30 am at Newk's Express Café located at Hwy 290 and Spring Cypress in the Kroger Shopping Center near the Cinemark Theater. The group is open to all business owners and professionals who want to increase their exposure to the residents of Cypress and the surrounding areas. There is no cost to attend the meeting. If you would like more information, please call Ken Parker at 281-384-1562. Visit our new website at 290Cypress.com



Yorkshire Academy is sending 11 students in 13 contests to the State PSIA Academic Competition held at TCU in Ft. Worth on May 2nd

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Feral Feathers

You may have noticed an emerald green flash go by on a walk around Lakes on Eldridge. If you remove your iPod, you may also hear an unusual call, instantly noticeable and unusual among the familiar calls of Blue Jays and Mockingbirds. You have just seen or heard a Monk Parakeet, Myiopsitta monachus. The Monk Parakeet, also called Quaker Parrot, is not a native to this area or the United States. Wild birds were imported to the U.S. in the late sixties from Argentina, Brazil, and South America as pets. As the birds inevitably were released or escaped, they thrived in their new environment and have formed large colonies in the Southern and Southeastern U.S. These hardy birds have even established colonies as far north as Chicago and Connecticut.

The Monk Parakeet is green with pale grey on the forehead, cheeks, throat and chest. Some blue can be found in the tail and wing feathers. There are several color mutations including blue, albino, and cinnamon, although only the common greens have been spotted in our neighborhood. Monk Parakeets are unusual in that they are the only Parrot that builds a stick nest either in trees or on manmade structures. Other Parrots nest predominantly in hollows in trees. Also unusual is that they often build large nests for multiple pairs with separate entrances for each pair. Nests have been reported as large as small automobiles.

At least one colony has established itself near the main lake by the clubhouse here at Lakes on Eldridge. The birds are often seen near the clubhouse, sometimes carrying small branches that they cut with their beaks from the birch trees along the lake. Monk Parakeets have also been seen at Pecan's Grill on Tanner. The birds are not reported to have a very large range and the sightings at Pecan's beg the question of whether there is more than one colony in the neighborhood.

In pet stores, Monk Parakeets cost between \$50 and \$200 for handfed babies while the rarer blue varieties may cost up to \$400. Although they are cherished as pets and most people enjoy the novelty of seeing them wild in their neighborhood, they are considered a pest to agriculture by many of their native countries. Although it is disputed, they are also considered an agricultural pest in some areas of the U.S. and eradication programs have been implemented in some of these areas.

Keep a look out for these colorful invaders or put out a feeder with sunflower seeds and you may be treated with a visit from one of our colorful and vocal tropical immigrants.



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Lakes on Eldridge North Need More Space? Reclaim the Space You Already Own Submitted by Heather Bland-Ho

Many of us might be feeling the urge for more space. In the current economy, however, moving out or "up" might not be an option. But waiting out the housing downturn doesn't mean you need to put up with spaces that are stressing you out or bringing you down... RECLAIM THE SPACE YOU ALREADY HAVE AND FALL IN LOVE AGAIN with the home you already own!

Follow these simple steps to make your home work harder to meet your needs:

- 1. Prioritize: What areas bug you the most? What are your trouble spots? From that list, which area, when improved, would have the biggest impact on your life?
- 2. Look with an Outsider's Eyes: Pretend you're a stranger coming into the house- what do you notice? You can even ask a friend to help with this part... they will notice piles or unnecessary objects better and faster than you will.
- 3. Systematize: What works and what doesn't work in the space? Create systems to help alleviate problems, such as putting baskets to corral errant shoes near a doorway or designating a home for newspapers and magazines that are always lying around.
- Organize: Get rid of things that you no longer need, are broken 4.

or don't serve a purpose. Keep only what you need, think to be beautiful or love. Sort and purge to lighten up and focus on what's really important in life. Do you want to constantly pick hundreds of toys around the house? Or would you rather spend that time playing with your children?

- 5. Recognize when you need help: Often we need another person to give opinions or to help keep the project moving along; enlist a friend or call a professional organizer. For a fraction of the cost of a new home, a professional organizer can help you transform your space and inspire you to do amazing things. I have worked with families to reclaim toyrooms, gamerooms, bedrooms, garages and many other spaces. Recently, one mom was overjoyed to see that her six-year-old daughter sat for two hours playing happily on her own because now she had the space to set up her Littlest Pet Shop "village." That same sweet girl also told her mom how happy she was to be able to do a cartwheel in her room again without hurting herself!
- Realize the gain: Congratulations- you've just made a major 6. improvement to your home! You've reclaimed space you already own, without the cost and hassle of relocating. You've fallen back in love with your home, saving yourself thousands of dollars.





What to do About My Tired PC? Part I

Submitted by Laurie Scott

Ultimately it gets down to what is probably my most used answer – "it depends".

Can I upgrade inexpensively without having to buy a new computer? Quite possibly. We're fortunate that software hasn't quite kept up with the power of the hardware the last few years. Do you need more storage? Hard drives are very cheap: as low as \$55 for a 500 Gigabyte drive! That's a lot of pictures! Computers in what I call the "sweet spot" (2-5 years old) generally benefit greatly from additional memory. Windows XP today really needs at least 512MB (Megabytes) and Vista needs 1 ¹/₂ GB minimum. The great news is that memory is dirt cheap. Depending on your particular system, a full 1GB of additional memory can be as cheap as \$15. Slow systems often have other problems, but additional memory is an

inexpensive way to eliminate one possibility as the problem.

Computers that are in that sweet spot benefit greatly from what I call a "rebuild". This means first backing up your documents, pictures, etc. and then wiping the hard drive clean and reinstalling Windows and your programs. This will often double your speed and will cost you nothing but time. It will put your computer into a like-new or better condition. Imagine a car in which you never change the oil, just top it off as it gets low. After a few years, it's pretty gunky in there. Well, Windows is very similar after a few years. A fresh start can do wonders. And if you add memory and a larger hard drive – woo hoo!!!

Next month I'll continue with part II, and will talk about whether it's better (and cheaper) to build your own computer rather than buying one in a store, and which is better for you, a PC or a Mac?



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HEALTHIER HOMES

By: Michelle & Charlie Bubnis

WHAT DO LABELS ON PRODUCTS REALLY TELL US?

We are constantly reading labels because we believe that the product information listed will inform us as to whether the product is healthy for our home and family. Listed below are three best selling products. Each product is manufactured by U.S. companies with both domestic and international sales up to one billion dollars annually. One tends to believe that what is printed on the product label is what truly is in the product. However, many times there are toxic chemicals within that are not listed.

PRODUCT #1 – PLUG IN AIR FRESHENER Printed on the label: No ingredients listed

Laboratory testing showed that the product actually contained: d-limonene, alpha-pinene, beta, pinene, ethanol, ethyl butanoate, ethyl acetate, 3-hexen-1-01, 1-butanol, 3 methyl-acetate, betaphellandrene, acetaldehyde, benzaldehy, carene isomer, 1-methyl-3(1-methylethyl-cyclohexane, isopropyl alcohol, 1-butano1, 2methyl-acetate, camphene, acetone, methyl butanoate, dimethyl ethyl cyclohexane, alpha-phellandrene

PRODUCT #2 – DRYER SHEET

Printed on the label: Biodegradable cationic softeners & perfumes

Laboratory testing showed that the product actually contained: linalool, ethanol, loenyl acetate, cls-rose oxide, carene isomer, 2, 4dimethyl-3-cyclohexane, 1-carboxaldehyde, d-limonene, 3-methyl -2-buten-1-ol acetate, 2, 7-dimethyl-2, 7-octanediol, alpha-pinene, trans-rose oxide, eucalyptol, alpha-phenyl ethyl acetate, betapinene

PRODUCT #3 – SCENTED LIQUID DETERGENT ADDED TO THE LAUNDRY

Printed on the label: Ingredients include biodegradable surfactants (anionic and non-ionic) and enzymes.

Laboratory testing showed that the product actually contained: ethanol, d-limonene, 2-methyl-2 propoanol, 1, 4-dioxane, 3, 7-



dimethyl-1, 6-octadiene, ethyl acetate, alpha pinene, beta-pinene, 2butanone, 1- methyl-3(1 methylethyl) – cyclohexene, 2, 4-dimethyl – 3-cyclohexene – 1-carboxaldehyde, undecane, beta-terpinene

There is an obvious difference between the chemicals identified in the laboratory study and the chemicals listed on the product labels. Several of the products emit Hazardous Air Pollutants which are harmful to human health. Currently there is not a United States Law requiring that consumer products or fragrance chemicals be fully disclosed even though they are main sources of toxic volatile organic compounds (VOC's). Regulation of consumer products other than food, drugs, cosmetics, tobacco and pesticides largely fall under the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA). The CPSA does not require disclosure of all ingredients in all products. This is troubling since ninety percent of total human exposure to VOC's come from small sources, close to us and within our control, but they are not listed on the labels. Shouldn't we be concerned?

THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS TAKEN FROM THE FOLLOWING STUDY:

Steinman A.C, Fragranced Consumer Products and Undisclosed Ingredients, Environmental Impact Assessment Review (2008) doi::10.1016/j.eiar.2008.05.002



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Cy-fair Kiwanis Club

The 12th annual city-wide Kiwanis Kids Triathlon Series begins May 30 at Langham Creek YMCA. The Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club sponsors the first Triathlon of the series. Girls and boys from ages 7 through 12 are invited to participate The Triathlon combines three activities that children enjoy –swimming, cycling, and running. Age groups for the events are 7-8 year olds; 9 year olds; 10 year olds; and 11-12 year olds. Boys and girls compete separately in each event. Trophies, prizes, and mementos are awarded. The net proceeds from this event will be used to benefit Kiwanis charitable and service activities; such as sponsoring Key Clubs, Boy and Girl Scout troops, Salvation Army missions, and needy families and individuals in the Cy-Fair area. Entry forms are available at Ault and Keith Elementary Schools or at www.kiwanishoustonsunrise. org. For further information call Peggy or Bob Presnell at 281-304-7127.

The recent Golf Tournament was a big success. We appreciate the contributions of those who played, those who sponsored players, and those who sponsored holes for the benefit of the organization. Some of the proceeds will be used to fund scholarships for Key Club seniors for their use in college next year. Announcement of the winners of the scholarships will be available next month.

The Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club meets three times a month at the Hearthstone Country Club in Hearthstone from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. for lunch, and programs including guest speakers on subjects of concern to the community and individuals. We invite you to a complimentary lunch, fellowship with our members, an informative program, and an opportunity to learn more about our organization. Reservations are not required. The Club will meet on February 3, 10, and 17.

Membership in Kiwanis is open to persons of good character who adhere to the standards of good conduct in their community and believe in and subscribe to the objects of Kiwanis International. If you would like to know more about Kiwanis and the service programs it promotes, call John Carroll at 281-463-0373; George Crowl at 832-467-1998; or Robert Presnell at 281-304-7127.

<u>Lakes on Eldridge North</u> 2008 Kiwanis Kids Triathlon Series

Sponsored by The Greater North Houston Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis clubs of the Houston area are proud to present the 12th annual Kiwanis Kids Triathlon series. The 2009 Triathlon Series is sponsored by the Greater North Houston Kiwanis Club.

This event allows boys and girls ages 7 to 12 to experience the fun and excitement of triathlon. It's a morning of friendly competition and physical activity that can lead to a lifetime of fitness. The 2009 series will include seven (7) races at various locations all around Houston. The Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club kicks off the first race on Saturday, May 30, at the Langham Creek YMCA in Copperfield. Kids may participate in one race or all three races.

What is a Kids Triathlon? It's a great sport for young children because it combines three activities that every child enjoys - swimming, cycling, and running. All three elements are included in each race. With young athletes in mind, the Kiwanis Kids Triathlon courses are designed to feature comfortable distances for the novice to the experienced athlete. Boys and girls will compete separately in their respective age groups: 7-8 year old; 9year olds; 10 year olds; and 11-12year olds. Boys and girls compete separately in each age group. Distances for the 7-9 years olds are a 50 meter swim, 1 mile bike, and .25 mile run. Distances for the 10-12 years olds are doubled. Every participant receives a triathlon T-shirt, goodie bag, and bracelet. Trophies are awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place boys and girl in each age category. The entry fee is \$20 for pre-event and online registration, and \$25 for race day registration. Net proceeds will benefit Kiwanis charities.

USA Triathlon sanctions this event and requires all participants to be USAT members. Annual youth memberships are available for \$5 at www.usatriathlon.org.

For a complete race schedule, registration materials, or to get "training tips,"

visit the Kiwanis website at www.kiwanishoustonsunrise.org.



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Texas Events - May

- 1-2, 8-10, 15-16—BAYTOWN: The Producers A down-on-his-luck Broadway producer and his accountant come up with a scheme to bilk their backers out of millions of dollars. Only one thing goes awry — the show is a hit. Baytown Little Theater. www.baytown. littlertheater.org 281/424-7617
- 1, 3, 5, 7, 9—HOUSTON: Brief Encounter Opera is based on a classic film adaptation of Noel Coward's Still Life. Brown Theater. www.houstongrandopera.org
- 1-24—DICKINSON: No Sex Please, We're British A young bride, who lives above a bank with her husband, the bank's assistant manager, orders some Scandinavian glassware by mail and instead receives Scandinavian pornography. Presented by Bay Area Harbour Playhouse. 3803 Hwy. 3. www.bayareaharbourplayhouse. com 281/337-7469
- 2—BEAUMONT: Free Family Arts Day Combines an exploration of the exhibits with hands-on activities and storytelling. Art Museum of Southeast Texas. www.amset.org 409/832-3432
- 2—GALVESTON: The Drowsy Chaperone Spoofs Broadway musicals of the 1920s and '30s. The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894 or 409/765-1894
- **2—HOUSTON:** Rigoletto Houston Grand Opera co-production with The Dallas Opera. Brown Theater. www.houstongrandopera. org 713/228-6737
- **2-3, 9-10—GALVESTON:** Historic Homes Tour Magnificent architecture, creative home decor and intriguing history stories await through the doors of Galveston Island's oldest homes. Ten houses dating from 1839 to 1912 are on view for special tours. www.galvestonhistory.org 409/765-7834
- **3—GALVESTON:** Galveston Symphony Orchestra The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894
- **3—HOUSTON:** Cinco de Mayo Celebrate with live music, food, community service exhibits, games and activities for kids, fresh fajitas, turkey legs, margaritas and more. Traders Village. www. tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500
- **3-9—WHARTON:** Wharton County Youth Fair Enjoy agricultural exhibits, animal competitions, barbecue competitions, live entertainment, talent contests, kids activities and more. Crescent Fairgrounds. www.whartoncountyyouthfair.org 979/677-3350
- 5—BEAUMONT: Cinco de Mayo Celebration Downtown will be alive with performers, art activities, food vendors, and a classic car

and hot rod exhibit. Riverfront Park 409/728-0625

- 7-9—BEAUMONT: 64th Annual YMBL Championship Chute Out Rodeo Some of the highest paid cowboys in the country compete. The event also includes spicy southern food, live Texas country entertainment and a Texas-sized dance floor. www.ymbl. org/rodeo 409/832-9991
- **8—HOUSTON:** Aspen Santa Fe Ballet The company will perform a sophisticated repertory featuring some of the world's foremost choreographers. Begins at 8 p.m. Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. www.spahouston.org 713/227-4SPA
- 8-9—GALVESTON: Annual Yaga's World Wild Game Championship & BBQ Cook-Off Backyard chefs, sports people and outdoor enthusiasts show off their culinary skills. Features entertainment, silent auction, fireworks and children's activity area. Pier 21. www. yagaschildrensfund.org 832/247-1311 or 713/818-5507
- **8-9—LA PORTE:** Porte of Call Music & Art, the Universal Language Includes fine dining, music, arts and more. Enjoy live music from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday. 215 W. Main. Arts Market is from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at South 2nd and Main Street. www. laportetx.gov 281/741-5020
- 8-10—CRYSTAL BEACH: Texas Crab Festival Enjoy some of the tastiest crab and seafood dishes on the Texas . Includes food and craft booths, crab legs contest, Texas Crab Fest Weiner Dog Nationals, crab races, carnival/rides/games, and a kids stage. www. bolivarchamber.org/crabfestival.aspx
- **9—EDNA:** Take Mom Fishing Fishing is from 9 a.m. to noon. Fish printing is from 2 to 3 p.m. Lake Texana State Park. 361/782-5718
- **9—GALVESTON:** Chubby Checker & the Wildcats The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894
- **9—HOUSTON:** Hot Peas 'N Butter This unique children's musical group performs. Begins at 2 p.m. Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. www.spahouston.org 713/227-4SPA
- **9—LA PORTE:** Hard Hat Tour Take a guided tour of Battleship Texas and see areas rarely seen by the public. Bring a flashlight or headlamp, wear comfortable clothes and rubber sole deck shoes. Reservations required. 3523 Battleground Road. www. usstexasbb35.com 281/479-2431 ext. 236
- **11-16—BAYTOWN:** Baytown Youth Fair & Rodeo Gates open at 6 p.m. Baytown Fairgrounds. www.baytownyouthfair.org

(Continued on Page 20)



18 Lakes on Eldridge North - May 2009

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Want to know what is happening on the market around your home?

I have been receiving daily calls regarding the market in Lakes On Eldridge communities...

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Because every move matters!

Texas Events - (Continued from Page 18)

- 12-24—HOUSTON: Happy Days A Musical Theatre Under the Stars. www.tuts.com 713/558-TUTS or 888/558-3882
- 13—SAN BENITO: El Second Weensdee Enjoy an oral history series on conjunto music. Begins at 7 p.m. Narciso Martinez Cultural Art Center. 956/399-0110
- **15-16—ROCKPORT:** 10th Annual Babes on the Bay Fishing Tournament This is an all-women fishing tournament. ACND Festival Grounds, Rockport Harbor. www.babesonthebay.com 361/729-5353
- 16—GALVESTON: Capitol Steps Provides up-to-the-instant political satire with side-splitting musical parody. The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894
- **16—HOUSTON:** Birding Walk & Talk Stroll around the park's many trails seeking spring neotropic migrants and nesting birds. Sheldon Lake State Park. 281/456-2800
- 16—PORT ARTHUR: Cajun Celebration Includes bands and dancing. Jefferson County Singles Club. 409/983-5118
- **16-17—HOUSTON:** Eighth Annual Country Roots Music Festival Takes the audience back to the roots of "real" country, with two afternoons of juke box covers and original tunes. Hours are noon to 4 p.m. Traders Village. www.tradersvillage.com 281/890-5500

- 17—LA PORTE: Monumental Bug Bash The Bay Area Volkswagen Club hosts this annual car picnic. All makes and models of VWs are welcome. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. San Jacinto State Park. www.bayareavwclub.com 832/205-2300 or 281/479-2431
- **23—EDNA:** Memorial Day Fun & Games Includes dunking booth, sack races, horseshoes, volleyball and other games from 2 to 4 p.m. Lake Texana State Park. 361/782-5718
- 23-24—PORT ARTHUR: S.A.L.T. Fishing Rodeo Tournament includes a children's category. Pleasure Island. 409/963-0433
- 24—SANTA FE: Pee Wee Bowen Band www.haakwine.com 409/925-1401
- **29-Jun. 14—NASSAU BAY:** Moonlight & Magnolias Presented by Clear Creek Country Theatre. 18091 Upper Bay Road. www. clearcreekcountrytheatre.org 281/335-5228
- **30—GALVESTON:** Steve Tyrell Begins at 8 p.m. The Grand 1894 Opera House. www.thegrand.com 800/821-1894
- **30—PORT ARTHUR:** Children's Miracle Network Telethon Parkdale Mall. 409/983-5065

Texas Events has been published with the permission of the Texas Department of Transportation. All events are taken in part from the Texas Events Calendar. All dates for events were correct at the time of publication and are subject to change.

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Cy-Fair Community Emergency Response Team

Cy-Fair CERT now has over 200 team members in your neigh-borhood. The team members are not only from Fairfield/ Cypress area, but Alief, Katy, Bear Creek, Copperfield, Tomball, and Sugarland. More trained CERT members will be needed in each of these areas to form neighborhood teams.

CERT training is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Because emergency services personnel will not be able to help every-one immediately, you can make a difference by using this training to save lives and protect property. For example, during and after Hurricane Ike members of the Cy-Fair CERT volunteered at the phone bank of the Harris County Office of Emergency Management, manned the federal PODs all over the county, distributed Meals on Wheels food, cleared debris in their communities, etc.

The 8-week course (24 hours of training) covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster when emergency services are not available. You are taught skills about disaster preparedness, small fire suppression, urban search & rescue, medical operations and more. With training, practice and working as a team you will be able to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people after a disaster, while protecting yourself from becoming a victim.

In 2003, President Bush asked Americans to volunteer to serve oth¬ers. The Harris County Citizen Corps www. harriscountycitizencorps.com was created to help our citizens find volunteer and training opportunities. CERT training is just one of the programs created.

CERT training courses are provided throughout Harris County. There is no cost for this course. A backpack of emergency/medical supplies is provided to all CERT team members during training. This program is brought to you by Harris County Judge Emmett. The next CERT training class for the Cy-Fair area will begin on April 1, 2009 at the Lone Star College (Barker-Cypress campus).

For more information on how you can become involved in CERT contact Patrick Wong (Fairfield/Cypress Team Lead) at pcwong1@ earthlink.net. For more information on how you can register for the next training class contact Terri Pope-Mobley at tpopemobley@ yahoo.com.



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Lakes on Eldridge North More HELP for PETS ...

When a pet is lost, finding the pet means that time is of the essence. It takes time to create, print and distribute flyers. The flyers are many times illegible because of wind or rain. I certainly do not fault the pet owner because I have done this myself.

Frustrated, I thought there has to be a better way. So that is why we created Cypress Lost Pet Alert.com. The idea is to very quickly get the word out through an e-mail alert to as many neighbors as possible plus post the picture and information about the pet on the website under the specific neighborhood.

Once the email alert goes out to the specific neighborhood, many, many neighbors are now aware. If they happen to forward the email to their friends who have not signed up, it could mean hundreds of your neighbors are already alerted and are keeping their eyes open for your lost pet.

Cypress Lost Pet Alert.com is on-call 7 days a week from sun up to sun down and is FREE. We are glad to work with any informal email chains. The whole idea is to find lost pets quick for the good neighbors in Fairfield and surrounding areas.

Regards,

RB Cox

alert@CypressLostPetAlert.com www.CypressLostPetAlert.com



FROM THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EXERCISE®

The Top Ten Fun Fitness Summer Activities for Kids

SUMMER IS HERE AND CHILDREN

need to stay active, healthy and busy during their break from school. Parents need to encourage their children to warm up properly and stretch before each activity and teach them never to play through any type of pain or make winning the reason for playing any sport. Let them choose the activity and keep the focus on having fun. To keep kids moving, the American Council on Exercise suggests ten, fun fitness summer activities.

- 1. Soccer: This highly active game involving both agility and teamwork has grown increasingly popular in the U.S. in recent years. To keep kids injury free, be sure they are geared up in appropriate protective equipment, such as shin guards. Soccer players should also wear shoes with cleats or ribbed soles to prevent slipping.
- 2. Martial Arts: With a variety of forms to choose from, martial arts are a great way to get kids involved in a sport that involves strength, coordination and mental discipline. Proper training and equipment to prevent injury are a must.
- 3. Bike Riding: Bicycle riding is a fun activity for the whole family. Experts suggest children ride on sidewalks and paths until they are at least 10 years old, show good riding skills and are able to follow the rules of the road. Helmets, of course, are a necessity for both children and adults.
- 4. Swimming: Nothing beats splashing around a pool with friends, and swimming offers the benefits of a full-

body workout for both young and old. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends swimming lessons for children ages 4 and up, although classes are available for babies and toddlers as well.



- 5. **Basketball:** Whether it's a round of HORSE, a game of one on one, or a full-court competition, basketball is ideal for developing hand/eye coordination and teamwork. Encourage children under the age of seven to use a smaller foam or rubber ball, and lower the height of the basket if possible.
- 6. Obstacle courses: Challenge kids to use a variety of different skills by setting up an obstacle course at the park using playground equipment or other items, such as jump ropes, balls and cones.
- 7. **Dancing:** Whether your kids like ballet or hip-hop, dancing encourages them to

be creative and move their bodies freely. For video arcade fans, an innovative new game challenges opponents to follow a dance routine while watching the video. Kids can spend time learning new moves while also getting a great workout.

- 8. Board Sports: Whether snowboarding in the winter, surfing in the summer, or skateboarding year-round, kids love to be on the board. Injury risk, however, is higher for these sports. For both snowboarding and skateboarding, kids should wear helmets to prevent head injuries, and surfers or boogie boarders should always be accompanied by an adult.
- **9.** Jumping rope: Jumping rope is still a favorite on most playgrounds. Whether alone or in a group, jumping rope challenges both coordination and stamina.
- **10. Ice-skating / Inline-skating:** Iceskating, inline-skating and hockey can be both fun and safe as long as appropriate protective gear such as a helmet, wrist guards and kneepads are worn. Hockey players should wear a helmet with foam lining and a full-face mask, a mouth guard, pads for shoulders, knees, elbows and shins, as well as gloves.



Beat Back Pain Without Surgery

"A Whole new Approach to Back Pain that leaves the problems with traditional treatments behind."

Have you ever bent over and had to freeze, afraid to straighten back up? Do you have to worry about the pain that comes from picking up your children, cleaning the house, or even just taking those first 2 or 3 steps in the morning? Have you been through the "cycle" of traditional back pain treatments (medication, physical therapy and steroid injections) only to end up in the same pain as when you started? Have you received the news that surgery is your last remaining option? Are you frustrated, feeling like there must be something else, something that carries less risk than surgery? If this story sounds familiar, then we have good news for you!

Latest FDA Approved Solution is Drug-Free and Non-Surgical

If you have serious back pain, we have a serious new alternative treatment option that carries a higher success rate than traditional treatments alone. This treatment is called Intervertebral Disc Decompression (IDD therapy). Good candidates for this procedure are people who may suffer from:

- Lower Back Pain
- Herniated Discs
- Neck Pain
- Degenerative disc disease

Facet Syndrome

Sciatic Leg Pain

- Bulging Discs
- Failed Back Surgery

Pain Free in 4-6 weeks If you know what it's like to have serious back pain, this type of relief may seem miraculous. Our clinical experience tells us that relief is possible even for those patients that have failed with medication, physical therapy, injections and/or surgery.

How Does IDD Therapy Work?

To understand why this therapy succeeds where others fail, you first must understand why your back is not capable of healing on it's own. Muscles, bones and internal organs get a fresh supply of blood, oxygen and nutrients with each beat of the heart. However, spinal discs have no blood supply of their own and absorb what they need very slowly. If the discs have been compressed by injury, the effects of age or a sedentary lifestyle, they will remain compressed and will not have the ability to absorb the nutrition required for healing.

This revolutionary technology allows us to provide patients with computer monitored expansion of the discs through a slow and painless separation of the spinal vertebrae. This expansion improves the absorption of blood and nutrients which improves the healing response and patients may experience healing in their back, naturally.

> For a limited time only, Parkway Family Chiropractic is offering a No Cost, No Obligation Consultation for IDD therapy. If you think IDD therapy may be right for you, or would like more information, call Parkway Family Chiropractic today!



Compressed discs put pressure on nerves, causing pain



IDD therapy lifts pressure from nerves, relieving pain naturally

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Because sickness doesn't revolve around a Monday-Friday 8-5 schedule, we are offer Urgent Care for your convenience. Our 1960 location has extended hours with evenings and weekends available. The 290 location offers Saturday hours from 9am-12pm.

Call today to schedule your appointment. 281-586-3888

Flu





Dishin' with... Molly Fowler



Easy-to-grow herb ~ Mexican Mint Marigold !

Think you don't have a green thumb? Mexican Mint Marigold (or Texas tarragon) is an easy-to-grow, beautiful, and tasty, perennial that is perfect for Texas gardens! The gentle anise flavor of the leaves and edible yellow flowers delight the eye and the palate. Use it as you would tarragon in any of your existing recipes, or try it in my Chicken Waldorf Salad. This makes the perfect summer salad – enjoy!

Chicken Waldorf Salad with Mexican Mint Marigold Dressing

Serves 6

CF	H	[(CKI	ΕN	SALAD:	

4 (4-oz)	Boneless, skinless chicken breasts,
	cooked and diced
2 Medium	Granny Smith apples, cored and diced
4	Green onions, sliced, including tops
½ Cup	Dried cranberries or cherries
1⁄2 Cup	Chopped celery
1⁄2 Cup	Chopped pecans
DRESSING:	
½ Cup	Mayonnaise
1⁄2 Cup	Sour cream
3 Tbsp	Chopped Mexican mint marigold
	(or 3 Tbsp fresh tarragon or 1 tsp dried)
1 Tbsp	Tarragon wine vinegar
2 tsp	Dijon mustard
1 tsp	Beau Monde seasoning (by Spice Island)
Dash	Tabasco

Salt and pepper to taste

Mix chicken salad ingredients in a bowl; toss gently to combine. In a separate bowl, stir dressing ingredients together. Combine dressing with salad, adding enough dressing to bind salad. Chill and serve on leaf lettuce.

Нарру Мау!

Molly, www.thediningdiva.com

Lone Star College-CyFair Perspective

GRADUATION ORIENTATION SET MAY 6

All LSC-CyFair graduates planning on participating in the commencement ceremony May 9 at the Berry Center should attend the May 6 orientation at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Center for all ceremony information. For graduation information, call 281-290-3200, e-mail jose.d.deleon@lonestar.edu, or go to cyfair.lonestar.edu/graduation.

REGISTRATION UNDER WAY FOR SUMMER AND FALL

Summer and fall registration are under way at Lone Star College-CyFair and Lone Star College-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, LSC-CyFair has everything to meet your interests as well as academic and workforce needs. Financial aid, scholarships and payment plan 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 to CyFair. LoneStar.edu; or visit one of our conveniently located campuses at 9191 Barker Cypress or 14955 Northwest Freeway.

WHAT'S ON STAGE IN THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS?

In the Main Stage Theatre, enjoy the lyric opera "The Medium" through May 3; "Music of the Court," String Orchestra concert May 4 and "Jazz Jam" a jazz band concert May 6. Save the date June 8 – June 20 for the summer children's show "Aladdin." For information, call 281-290-5201 or go to CyFair.LoneStar. edu/boxoffice.

L.I.F.E. LESSONS IN MAY

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library (Room 131.) Programs in May include: an international summer buffet May 6, cultural talk on Japanese Americans May 13, opera scenes from Romeo and Juliet May 20 and networking Facebook style May 27. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for L.I.F.E. program information or go online to CyFair.LoneStar.edu/library.

ADVISING AND REGISTRATION FAIR FOR BACHELOR'S OR MASTER'S DEGREE SEEKERS SET MAY 14

Lone Star College-University Center, located at 3232 College Park Drive, The Woodlands, will have an Advising & Registration Fair, 4 p.m. –7 p.m. Thursday, May 14. The partner universities advisors and faculty will be available to answer questions regarding registration for the Summer 2009 semester. Earn a Bachelor's or Master's Degree from Prairie View A&M University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Southern University, University of Houston or University of UH-Downtown, close to home! For information, call the Student Services Office at 936.273.7510 or 281.618.7140.

NEW POSTAGE RATES Effective May 11th

On May 11 the price for a 1-ounce First-Class Mail stamp will increase from 42¢ to 44¢. Prices for other mailing services will also change. The average increase by class of mail is at or below the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

Customers can use their Forever Stamps after the price change, without the need for additional postage. Forever Stamps are widely available through Post Offices, grocery stores, and online.

Prices for mailing services will continue to adjust each May. Prices for most shipping services, including Express Mail and Priority Mail, were adjusted in January and will not change in May.

Visit www.usps.com for complete details.

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Lakes on Eldridge North Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Lakes on Eldridge North residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our Sales Office at 888-687-6444 or e-mail advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.



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I'm Texas Energy Analyst Alan Lammey. Maybe you've heard me on the radio talking about the market forces that drive energy prices. I'm here to tell you that you're not stuck paying those high prices to big electric companies anymore! **Stop it.**

Why pay more than you have to? Those days are over!

Why would you want to go with an electric provider that charges you more, when you can go to www.sparkpowerbank.com and pay far less for the same electricity?

Make sense?

Please choose "Newsletter Ad" as your referral on the SparkPowerBank.com website.



Harris County HazMobile Neighborhood Collection Event Saturday, May 30, 2009 Paul D. Rushing Park 9114 Katy Hockley Road, Katy TX 77493 9 AM to 12 PM only



This event is open to all Harris County residents

The HazMobile is a mobile collection system that can accommodate Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) from approximately 125 households. HHW will be collected on a first come, first served basis until the unit reaches full capacity. The containers must be 5 gallon or less in size.



<u>Items accepted include:</u> Pesticides & Fertilizers Fuels & Antifreeze

Paint related materials Pool Chemicals Household Cleaners Glues & Solvents Used Oil & Filters Batteries Thermometers



Use lawn chemicals sparingly—Bring us your extras for proper disposal!

Tips on transporting HHW materials:

- Containers should be sealed and in their original packing
- Pack leaking containers in a larger non-leaking container
- Place containers upright in a box or plastic bin and pack newspaper around the containers to prevent breakage
- Place materials in your trunk where you will not breathe the fumes during transport

Electronics and Tires will NOT be accepted at Mobile Collection events!

Other items not accepted include: Business, Medical or Radioactive Waste, Dioxins, Ammunition, Explosives, Compressed Gas Cylinders, Smoke Detectors, Appliances or Household Trash

For more information, please call (713) 290-3000 or visit <u>www.CleanWaterways.org</u>



This HHW Collection Event funded by Harris County and is sponsored by Precinct 3.

28 Lakes on Eldridge North - May 2009

Located at FM 1960 & Hwy 290 (next to 1960 Family Practice) · 20320 Northwest Freeway # 550, Houston, TX 77065

Come Visit Us This Month for Our Rejuvenating Spa Experiences!

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*Per RE/MAX June '08



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**Per RE/MAX Jan '09

SUDOKU

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.



Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Lakes on Eldridge North Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Lakes on Eldridge North residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our Sales Office at 888-687-6444 or e-mail <u>advertising@PEELinc.</u> <u>com</u>. The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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Children are our greatest treasures, and we're creating a threat to their safety by parking on the streets and by speeding through Lakes on Eldridge North.

SPEEDING IN LOEN PARKING ON THE STREET

Most homeowners have some space in their garage reserved for storage – in some cases most of the garage, thereby not leaving enough room for their vehicles. Consequently, many owners park their vehicles on the street making it difficult for others to pass and creating hazardous conditions for the children.

Although we're all anxious to get home to be with our families, speeding and reckless driving is against the law and endangers everyone. Lakes on Eldridge North is a family oriented community with many children; for that reason before you speed or park on the street, please consider their well-being. Also, children playing in the street can unknowingly create a dangerous situation, especially on heavily traveled streets; the driver may not see the child, especially in the evening or after dark.

We all know that children have a tendency to move about impulsively and may inadvertently run into the street. Please don't let a tragedy happen before parking your vehicle off the street or obeying the speed limit. For the benefit of all the residents and children, and the overall appearance of your neighborhood, please do not park on the street. Make accommodations in your garage or driveway for your vehicles and keep your streets clear and safe for all and please, DO NOT SPEED IN LAKES ON ELDRIDGE NORTH.







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This information was provided by KidsHealth, one of the largest resources online for medically reviewed health information written for parents, kids, and teens. For more articles like this one, visit www.KidsHealth.org or www.TeensHealth.org. ©1995-2006.The Nemours Foundation

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Tim Ziifle

BROKER ASSOCIATE, CRS (*held by only 4% of ALL Realtors*), ASR, SRES, ABR, ALHS, AHSS, MIRM, RCC, CSP, CNHS, RECS, E-PRO & RELOCATION SPECIALIST

KNOWLEDGE + EXPERIENCE (27+ YRS.) = RESULTS! N. Eldridge Specialist & Lakes On Eldridge Homeowner

If you are seeking a proven, real estate EXPERT to...

♦ FIND A <u>QUALIFIED BUYER</u> FOR YOUR HOME WITHIN YOUR REQUIRED TIME FRAME

♦ PROVIDE A DETAILED <u>ACCURATE ASSESSMENT</u> OF YOUR HOME'S CURRENT MARKET VALUE

♦ HELP YOU TO <u>STAGE YOUR HOME</u> TO ENSURE MAXIMUM APPEAL AND <u>OBTAIN TOP DOLLAR</u>

♦ PROVIDE YOU WITH <u>EXPERT ADVICE</u> AND GUIDANCE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PROCESS

WHO WILL WORK DIRECTLY WITH YOU AND NOT THROUGH TRAINEES OR ASSISTANTS

♦ AND WHO WILL <u>\$AVE YOU A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF DOLLAR</u>\$

And Whose Previous Clients Say This About My Service...

"I am writing to thank you for all your help in successfully marketing & selling our US home as part of my transfer from Houston to Stavanger, Norway. Your professional, no-nonsense approach and sound pre-sale preparatory advice was much appreciated. Your knowledge and ability to navigate the intricate processes of international oil company sale procedures was also very helpful. Your experience and understanding of the north-west Houston market proved valuable in pitching our house appropriately."

lan W.

"So let me just say that if you want the hardest working, most straightforward, most thorough, friendliest real estate agent you could ever hope for, call Tim."

Dave & Elaine R.

"We really appreciated the direct one-on-one contact you were able to provide to us, along with your outstanding knowledge of the market, how to present the home and your negotiating skills"

Paul & Alinta S.

"It was very important to my wife and I that our agent was available when needed. Tim proved readily available when contacted via telephone and email. Tim also followed up with every agent that showed the house to obtain feedback on a potential sale as well as to obtain advice on how to improve showings."

Christopher & Jenny H.

"I have bought and sold two other homes and Tim is the best realtor I ever had. He is smart and knowledgeable, professional and friendly, and helpful, looks after your interests, is always on time and available by phone or email."

Karl B.

Please consider giving me a call at: (832) 457-1989



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