



LAKES

ON ELDRIDGE NORTH

www.loenhoa.com

News for the Residents of
Lakes on Eldridge North

Volume 14, Issue 7

July 2015

WELCOME TO LAKES ON ELDRIDGE NORTH HOA NEWS

The Lakes on Eldridge North Newsletter is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Lakes on Eldridge North residents. Each newsletter will be filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information, and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports team, social group, etc., and would like to submit an article for the newsletter, you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com. Personal news (announcements, accolades/honors/celebrations, etc.) are also welcome as long as they are from area residents.

GO GREEN! Subscribe via Peelinc.com to have an email sent to you with a link to a PDF of the newsletter, or have an email sent to you instead of having a newsletter mailed to you!

ANNUAL FORE CY-FAIR GOLF TOURNAMENT SET FOR SEPTEMBER 29

Benefitting the Adam J. Skinner Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce invites the community to its 17th annual FORE Cy-Fair Golf Tournament at Blackhorse Golf Club on Tuesday, September 29.

The tournament benefits the Adam J. Skinner Memorial Scholarship Fund of the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation. A scholarship has been established in his memory and the Chamber has contributed more than \$94,000 to date to the endowment.

Player registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. A putting contest and the opening of the driving range will follow at 10:00 a.m. Shotgun start will be at 11:00 a.m. with the awards, dinner and raffle at 4:00 p.m.

"This tournament continues to grow each year and provides a great networking opportunity for businesses in the Cy-Fair community," Leslie Martone, President of the Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce said. "This event brings those who do business in this community together to raise funds and awareness for a great cause."

The tournament is underwritten for the fifth consecutive year by Texas Emergency Care Center of Cypress. Returning for its second year as the CFISD sponsor, which includes the opportunity to play with the CFISD Superintendent, Dr. Mark Henry, is Bay-IBI Architects.

The True Texan sponsorship is still available and offers the opportunity to play with Larry Dierker and Bill Brown. This \$5,000 sponsorship will receive two team entries,

four hole sponsorships, a tournament trophy, hospitality tent at hole of choice and logo recognition in all promotional material.

Other sponsors to-date include: Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene, Bridgeland, Caldwell Companies, CenterPoint Energy, Community Impact Newspaper, Consolidated Mills, Inc., Cypress Creek Lakes, Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center Hospital, Frost Bank, HEB-Cypress Market, Houston Chronicle, Lone Star College-CyFair, McCall Gibson Swedlund Barfoot PLLC, Members Choice Credit Union, Memorial Hermann, North Cypress Medical Center, PBK, PDQ, Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P. and TurnerDuran Architects, LP.

Sponsorship and marketing opportunities range from \$150 to \$5,000. In addition, the public is invited to purchase a \$25 awards dinner and \$10 raffle tickets. You need not be present to win the raffle.

The event is rain or shine. For more information about the tournament, visit cyfairchamber.com. To become a sponsor, purchase raffle tickets or RSVP for a dinner reservation, call Sara Cantrell at 281-373-1390.

The Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce (www.cyfairchamber.com) has provided leadership and direction to the Cy-Fair area since 1986. Now over 600 members strong, the Board of Directors and numerous committees interact on state and local levels to help build a strong economy and improve the quality of life within the Cy-Fair area.

Lakes on Eldridge North

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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 which is out)	
Entex (gas)	713-659-2111
Comcast Cable.....	713-341-1000
Houston Chronicle	713-220-7211
Metro Transit Info.....	713-635-4000
Kirk Elementary.....	713-849-8250
Truitt Middle School.....	281-856-1100
Cy-Ridge High School	281-807-8000
Newsletter Publisher	
Peel, Inc.	advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

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. Email Articles to loen@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. Email personal classifieds to loen@PEELinc.com.

ADVERTISING: Deadline for submitting ads is the 8th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter. Please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com *for information on advertising.*

LOEN Board Of Directors

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Vice President:	Don Byrnes
Secretary:	Cara Davis
Treasurer:	Rick Hawthorne
Asst Sec/ Treasurer:	Richard Weck

Article Submissions

Please e-mail articles and/or photos to loen@peelinc.com.

Submissions must be received by the
10th of the month for the following month's issue.
(Advertising deadline is the 8th of the month.)

KIWANIS CLUB OF CY-FAIR HOUSTON

YOU

Are cordially invited to attend an introductory meeting of the

Kiwanis Club of Cy-Fair Houston at the Hearthstone Country Club.

Time: Lunch is served at 12:15pm; adjournment at 1:15pm.

Dates: We will meet on July 6, 13, and 20. Join us for lunch, followed by a short, informative program. We welcome your visit and invite you to consider membership in this service oriented organization.

What is Kiwanis? Kiwanis is an international service organization focused on changing the world one child and one community at a time. Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis club, no matter where in the world it's located. Members stage nearly 150,000 service projects and raise nearly US\$100 million every year for communities, families and projects. In addition, Kiwanis members actively participate in many service projects in their home communities.

Why join Kiwanis? The Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club of Houston seeks to serve this community through sponsoring Key Clubs for high school students, Builders Clubs for middle school students, and Aktion clubs for adults with disabilities. Also, we sponsor Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. We provide support to various other organizations in the community that serve children and families. Enjoy the pleasure of being a part of this service.

Kiwanis members don't just do service—they have fun. Members make new friends by being part of a club where they attend meetings and participate in social events. Kiwanis clubs also provide excellent networking opportunities for professionals. Members meet new people from all over their region and the world through service projects, fundraising and attendance at district and international conventions.

Visit the Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club website at www.KIWANISHOUSTONCYFAIR.COM.

For more information, call John Carroll (Copperfield and Hearthstone areas) at 281-463-0373; George Crowl (Jersey Village area) at 832-467-1998; or Peggy Presnell (Fairfield and CyRanch) at 281-304-7127.

Lakes on Eldridge North



CICADAS



(egg laying structure). Eggs hatch after about 6 weeks and small nymphs drop to the ground where they burrow into the soil. Nymphs feed on sap of tree roots with their piercing-sucking mouthparts. After becoming fully developed, nymphs emerge from the ground at night and climb onto nearby objects such as tree trunk, plants, fences, etc. Adult cicadas emerge from the last nymphal stage leaving behind the exuviae (cast skin). Adults can live 5-6 weeks.

Male cicadas are well known for their “song”. They rest on a tree and produce a whining sound to attract females. The sound is produced by two vibrating membranes on the side of the abdomen. Females do not “sing”. Adults feed on juices from tender twigs, but usually do not cause lasting harm to the plant from feeding.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

Cicadas are fairly large insects but can vary in size with some growing over 1 1/2 inches. Color may also vary depending upon species, but many are brown or green. All cicadas have bulging eyes and, on adults, wings that are held roof-like over the body. The wings are semi-transparent with thick wing veins. The majority of their life cycle is spent underground.

Cicadas have 2-5 year life cycles and appear in Texas in mid to late summer. Females insert egg clusters into branches of trees using their saw-like ovipositor

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LIFE, LIBERTY, AND AN ABUNDANCE OF HAPPINESS

IN HOUSTON FAMILY ARTS CENTER'S 1776



A riotous adaptation of one of the most revered moments in the history of the United States of America hits the HFAC Garza Main Stage

Sherman Edwards and Peter Stone's Tony Award-winning musical about the birth of the United States of America is coming to the Houston Family Arts Center's Garza Mainstage, July 24th through August 16th.

"1776 is a brilliantly written show that brings history to life with humor and drama," says director Liz Buras. "Our production digs into how difficult it was to bring 13 very different colonies together— independence was not inevitability. The show will surprise you with unique moments and fresh perspectives, as well as the humor and humanity of our Founding Fathers."

A humorous and musical retelling of America's struggle for independence, 1776 dramatizes the days leading up to the creation and signing of one of America's greatest documents, The Declaration of Independence. John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, lead the charge to convince members of the second Continental Congress to break away from the British Crown, and vote for independence.

Leading the second Continental Congress are Liz Buras (director), Michael Montgomery (executive producer), Elizabeth Wilson (musical director), Brittany Halen (choreographer), Lisa Garza (scenic design), Amber Stepanik (costume design), Ron Putterman (lighting design), and David Dean (sound design).

Members of the second Continental Congress include: Taylor Fisher (John Adams), Sean Thompson (Benjamin Franklin), Justin Finch (Thomas Jefferson), Taylor Fischer (Richard Henry Lee), Zachary Salcich (Edward Rutledge), Patrick Barton (John Dickinson), Paul Wilkinson (John Hancock), Brandon Hobratchk

(Continued on Page 9)

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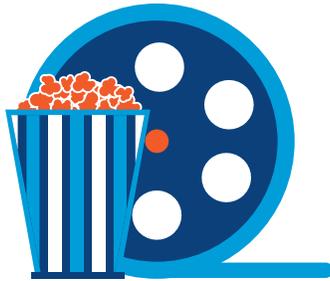


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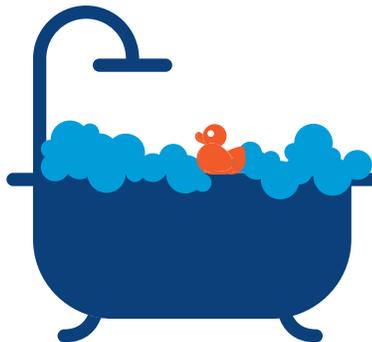


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SPA DAY

Use that master suite and take a load off. Check out your local health store for relaxing essential oils to add to that luxurious bubble bath.



UNPLUG. UNWIND.

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Aggie Mom's Club

Are you a New Aggie Mom? Are you an Aggie Mom that wants to join other Aggie Moms in supporting our students? Find out how we can help your student succeed during those college years at one of our informal Summer Mixers. The Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club, as an organization, encourages parents to become familiar with A&M during their student's freshman year. The path to graduation can be a challenging journey; don't go it alone. The Northwest Harris County Aggie Moms has been here for 25 years and we're committed to helping your student and YOU enjoy the TAMU experience. Please join us at one of our Summer Mixers. Summer Mixer locations can be found on our website at www.nwhcaggiemoms.org. Please RSVP to pechacek8722@sbcglobal.net or 713-907-2277 so our hostesses will know how many guests to expect. We look forward to meeting you. **SAVE THE DATE!**

We are looking forward to kicking off the 2015-2016 school

year at our "HOWDY PARTY" on August 11th! Please join us for this fun-filled Aggie evening. It is a great way to meet other Aggie Moms, find out about upcoming events and Aggieland trips, buy care packages for your student and win door prizes! Enjoy light refreshments while you shop our Boutique for that one-of-a-kind Aggie treasure. Our hand-crafted items celebrate the heart-warming TAMU traditions.

The Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club meets August thru May on the second Tuesday of every month with social beginning at 6:30 pm at the Houston Distributing Center, 7100 High Life Drive, conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall. For more information on monthly speakers or upcoming events visit our website at www.nwhcaggiemoms.org or contact President Patty Rabel @ rabelpp@aol.com



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CYPRESS TEXAS TEA PARTY

The next meetings of the Cypress Texas Tea Party will be on:
Saturday, July 25, 2015 NOON - 2:00 PM
 - Kyle Workman, *Texans Against High Speed Rail, Inc.*

Saturday, August 15, 2015 NOON - 2:00 PM
 - Allan Fletcher, *Texas House District 130 Representative*
 - Roger Bridgwater, *Former 178th Criminal District Court of Harris County*

The Cypress Texas Tea Party meets every three weeks on Saturday
 Noon until 2:00 PM at:
 Spring Creek BBQ
 25831 Northwest Freeway
 Cypress, Texas 77429

Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/OoNjY>

A schedule of our meetings and confirmed speakers can be found at our website, www.cypresstexasteaparty.org

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(Continued from Page 4)

(Charles Thomson), Jennifer Stewart (Abigail Adams), Laura Renfroe (Martha Jefferson)).

Performances of 1776 are Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 3 p.m., July 24th through August 16th on the HFAC Garza Mainstage. Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased online at www.houstonfac.com, or by phone at (281) 587-6100. Special pricing is available for groups of 10 or more.

Performance Location:

Houston Family Arts Center Garza Mainstage
10760 Grant Road, Houston, TX 77070

(Located in NW Houston, easily accessible from SH 249 and SH 290)

Performances:

- Friday, July 24th at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, August 7th at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, July 25th at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, August 8th at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, July 26th at 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 9th at 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, July 31st at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, August 14th at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, August 1st at 7:30 p.m.

- Saturday, August 15th at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, August 2nd at 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, August 16th at 3:00 p.m.

Ticket Prices:

- Adults: \$26
- Seniors (65+): \$22
- Students (3-18): \$15

About Houston Family Arts Center

Houston Family Arts Center (HFAC), founded in 2005, is a not-for-profit performing arts and educational organization, with a passion for entertaining, enlightening and engaging audiences in Texas. Recent winner in seven categories for the Broadway World Houston Awards, HFAC has also been named Houston's "Best Gem of a Theater" by the Houston Press and "Best Arts and Entertainment" by the "Best of the Northwest" Readers' Choice awards. HFAC is a proud winner of the prestigious national American Association of Community Theatre Twink Lynch Organizational Award. HFAC produces a broad mix of classics, comedies, dramas, musicals and new works. Through its award-winning Actors Academy, HFAC offers acting, singing and dance classes, and performance opportunities for all ages. To purchase tickets, sign up for auditions or classes, or for more information, please visit www.houstonfac.com or call HFAC at (281) 587-6100.

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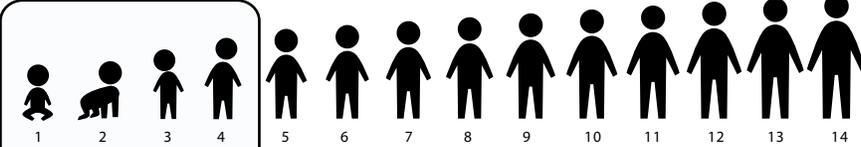

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Children under the age of five are often at highest risk.

24 Texas children have already lost their lives to drowning in 2015

DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

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HEALTH AND AGING TIPS

DO:

- Stay physically active. Being able to complete Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) can reduce your dependence on others.
- Eat a balanced diet. Focus on fiber-rich, low-fat, and low-cholesterol foods.
- Stay hydrated. As we get older, our thirst response mechanism diminishes and we may be dehydrated without feeling thirsty.
- Take steps to lower stress. Stress results in our bodies releasing hormones that have a multitude of negative health impacts.
- Get a good night's sleep. Although changes to sleep patterns are a normal part of aging, it is a common misconception that sleep needs decline with age.
- Moderate alcohol intake. As you age, you can become more sensitive to the effect of alcohol, and alcohol exacerbates many health conditions.
- Avoid tobacco and second-hand smoke. The numerous negative impacts of tobacco are well-documented. Just quit!
- See your doctor, dentist, optometrist, and other necessary

specialists regularly. These visits are especially important for early detection as we age.

- Take all medications as directed by your doctor. Have someone assist you with remembering, or sort your medications in a pill organizer if need be.

DON'T:

- Think that aging means you can't do new things. Try a new class or hobby, or go travel!
- Assume that memory loss is inevitable. Try fun brain training games to keep your mind sharp! (Check your smart phone or other device for free apps.)
- Think that aging means you're destined for poor health. You likely have more time now than ever before to focus on YOU!
- Neglect emotional health. Your mind has powerful effects on your body!

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DANIELLE GEBARA

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Lakes on Eldridge North

CY-FAIR WOMEN'S EXPO FOR CYFEN Scholarship Endowment

Popular Kendra Scott Boutique helps raise funds for CYFEN Scholarship Endowment at 7th Annual Cy-Fair Women's Expo

The 7th Annual Cy-Fair Women's Expo sponsored by Three20Three and Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center Hospital, once again proves that a woman's best friend is jewelry; Kendra Scott Jewelry, of course! Purchases of Kendra Scott Jewelry at the Cy-Fair Women's Expo allowed a portion of the proceeds to go right back into the community by helping to fund the CYFEN Scholarship Endowment through the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation.

Over 180 guests had a great day shopping and networking with the attendees and over 50 vendor booths. Attendees definitely found something they needed to buy and someone they wanted to meet. Just to mention a few vendors in addition to the Kendra Scott Boutique; Three 20 Three, ReMax Realty Center, Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center, ProLine Supply, Mary Kay Skin Care, Shots for Holly, Anytime Fitness, Wildtree, Plexus Slim, CFISD Community Programs, Any Lab Test Now, Lone Star College Summer Programs, Jolie Salon, Rockwell Grill, Lantern Power, Hilbun Law Firm and many more.

Presentations by Carole Little of Northwest Assistance Ministries and Leslie Martone of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce, as well as free workshops from Get Your Sexy Back Coaching, Enabled Marketing, weMED Wellness Center, and Shield Bearer Counseling Centers were an added feature this year.

This event is hosted by the Cy-Fair Express Network (CYFEN), a local network of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA). Now over 70 members strong, Cy-Fair Express Network funds numerous local scholarships and provides a nurturing environment for business development, networking, education, and mentoring in Northwest Houston. For information on the 2016 expo and to be put on the event mailing list send an email to president@cyfen.org or visit www.cyfen.org.

About American Business Women's Association (ABWA)

Founded in 1949, ABWA provides business training and networking opportunities for women of diverse occupations and backgrounds. ABWA has dedicated 60 years to women's education, workplace skills and career development training. For more information, visit, www.abwa.org.



Crimson Cadette Drill Team DANCE CLINIC

The Cy-Woods Crimson Cadettes Drill Team will host their 10th annual dance clinic for K – 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on August 11 – 13. This is a major fund-raiser for the Cadettes and enables them to participate in activities throughout the 2015-2016 school year. Please register by July 31, 2015 to get the Pre- Registration price of \$60 which includes dance technique, specially choreographed routines for each age group, a t-shirt, drinks and snacks each day and a picture for each participant. Showoffs will be held the last day at 11:30 a.m. For more information email mrfaulk@msn.com or check out our website at www.crimsoncadettes.com.

On the website, you will find a sign-up form and a link to PayPal for easy payment.

WHEN: August 11-13, 8:30 – 11:30
WHERE: Cypress Woods High School

Summer Cross Country Training for Kids

The Northwest Flyers Youth Cross Country Team is now registering for summer training in preparation for the fall cross country season. Boys and girls ages 6 – 18 may participate. For information contact: Coach Eric Wentworth at emw1105@gmail.com or 281-961-6603; Coach Scott Basinger at sjbasinger@gmail.com or 713-855-8555. Website is www.northwestflyers.org.



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In the hallways and classrooms of Yorkshire Academy, these words are brought to brilliant life through the actions and achievements of our staff, students and parents. As a result, the students of Yorkshire are filled with a passion for learning and a spirit that embraces the world around them. We invite you to share in their ongoing story by visiting Yorkshire yourself.

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CHOOSING A CAREGIVER FOR AN ELDERLY PERSON

The task of choosing a caregiver for an elderly person can seem intimidating, and often falls to a close friend or relative. Questions arise from how to vet the right person for the job, to choosing the best professional agency.

The first thing to consider is the type of services needed: whether the elderly person needs a companion type service, assistance with activities of daily living, or more skilled nursing needs. If the needs are for a companion, there might be a neighborhood friend available to fill the position. It's important to meet with the applicant to make sure there is a clear understanding of the job description, rate of pay and that there is an employment contract in place. This avoids any misunderstandings in the future.

If more assistance is needed with activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, eating and so on, it may be advisable to choose an agency that can provide trained personal. Make sure these employees are insured and bonded through the agency. These caregivers also engage in light housework activities, and it's also important to know if they will provide transportation for the client to doctor and other medical appointments if needed. Some agencies will provide transportation with a waiver, but if the caregiver is to use a family vehicle make sure that correct vehicle insurance is in place.

A trusted person representing the client should be present at the interview with the agency, and with the proposed caregiver to make sure that the person is a good fit. Make sure that the agency has performed a background check and that the caregiver has provided good references.

Cost is usually a key factor when choosing caregiver services, but the lowest priced services may not always be the best fit. It's always a good idea to shop around and compare agencies in your area.

Lastly it's very important that an outside person keep a watchful eye on the situation with a caregiver and elderly person, for possible abuse and neglect. The agency should be notified immediately of any problems. Unfortunately our seniors are vulnerable in our society and need help to stay safe.



ARE YOU READY TO ESCAPE?

Messiah Lutheran Church is
AT THE MOVIES!!!

It's coming THIS JULY—

A FREE Movie Night for the family!!

Bring your families to a FREE movie night in July! We will be taking a look at some popular movies and how they intersect God's truth for your life. Every Friday we will feature a FREE showing of the entire movie at Messiah Lutheran church. Then on Sundays, we will show clips that pertain to the message for the day. Invite your friends and family. Please bring your own chair.

Here's the line up:

Friday July 3, 2015: Little Boy

Friday July 10, 2015: Frozen Sing Along Edition (FREE Ice Cream Night!!)

Friday July 17, 2015: Saving Mr. Banks

Friday July 24, 2015: The Avengers

All Showtimes are at 6:30 p.m.

www.messiahlc.org/movies

Parents: please check ratings and do a little homework to see if you are comfortable as a family in bringing your children to see the movie. All children should be accompanied by an adult.

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 Sunday worship times are: 8 am—Traditions; 9:30 am—The Gathering; and 10:45 am—The Crossing. The Discovery (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.



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Lakes on Eldridge North

IN THE BLINK
OF AN EYE

NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

For many of us, the outdoor magic and mystery of summer nights was best embodied by the blink of fireflies or 'lightning bugs', which are neither flies nor bugs, but beetles. With over 170 species of fireflies in North America, and about 36 of those species in Texas, fireflies fall into three main genera: the Photuris, Photinus, and the Pyractomena. The most common species in Texas is the Pennsylvania Firefly (*Photuris pennsylvanicus*), which ranges from the eastern U.S. to Kansas and into Texas.

Most likely to be spotted at night in fields and near wooded areas, the adult Pennsylvania Firefly's elytra (hardened forewings that form a protective covering over flight wings) are dark brown with yellowish margins and slanted stripes. The head is yellow around the sides and red in the middle, and their overall length is about half an inch. After mating, the female lays tiny, spherical eggs singly or in small groups in damp soil, around grass or moss, and they hatch in about 4 weeks. The larvae feed in the grass on slugs, snails, earthworms, and cutworms, and in this immature phase their light isn't visible unless they are turned over. They overwinter as larvae in small chambers within the ground, waiting for the spring months when they pupate and emerge in early summer as adult fireflies, giving them an average lifespan of approximately two years.

Firefly mating is dependent on the female seeing the distinct flashes of a mate-seeking male, and each must find the exact right blinking pattern in order to mate successfully. Males begin flying after dark, emitting yellow or yellow-green flashes, some flying above the tree canopy. Interestingly, ambient light

around a firefly's natural habitat decreases the chance it will find a mate. In order to rise to the challenge of producing offspring with artificial light around, fireflies must increase the intensity of the flashes they produce in order to be seen. This increased light emission decreases the stored energy supply in the firefly that would normally be used directly for reproduction. Artificial light also exposes the fireflies to nighttime predators, even when they are not blinking. This combination of effects from artificial light directly decreases the chance that fireflies will survive and mate.

Flashes of light can be emitted by both male and female fireflies, and can also be used for purposes other than mating. One additional use is to lure prey to them; in fact, females from the *Photuris* genus will often mimic the flashes of a female *Photinus* firefly, and a male *Photinus* that falls for it will quickly be devoured! Not all female fireflies are capable of flight, however, as some species are wingless and bear a strong resemblance to larvae rather than to adult males of the same species. Often, these types of fireflies are



referred to as 'glowworms'.

The abundance of fireflies has been decreasing over the years, greatly challenged by both the increasing presence of artificial light and the rapid development of our open fields and forests. As human light pollution and development continues to spread, fireflies just might disappear altogether, in a blink of an eye!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com if you enjoy reading these articles!

Hosting an Exchange Student

Did you ever wonder what hosting a foreign exchange student is about? Well here it is in a nutshell....

Hosting an exchange student is a great way to learn about another country and culture without leaving your home town. It provides a cultural exchange experience for the entire family while providing a student from another country with a slice of American life.

Hosting an exchange student is like adding an international branch to your family tree. Many host families develop lifelong friendships with their exchange students and keep in regular touch with them. Some even visit them in their home countries, or invite them back for weddings and graduations

Hosting an exchange student provides your family, your high school and your community with a direct window into another country and culture, providing an opportunity for

life-long learning.

Families of all shapes and sizes can host an international exchange student. We've had host families with young children, no children, high school aged children – as well as empty nesters and single parent households.

Ayusa is a non-profit based in San Francisco that promotes global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad programs for high school students from around the world.

For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact your local representative Vicki Odom at 832.455.7881 or vodom@ayusa.org or Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.

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