

LA VENTANA DEL LAGO

Volume 43 Number 1

A Newspaper for El Lago

February 2024

Luminarias – Thanks!

Jeff Tave

Just wanted to thank all the families who purchased luminarias sets this past season! While it was a bit damp leading up to Xmas Eve set them out, the rain did hold off so many were able to set them out. Sales were a bit slow again this season so we'll likely be doing about the same number of electronic issues as last year for the upcoming year. I want to thank the selling families (McGaha, Robinson, Tave, Toennies, Tully, Vercher) and acknowledge that the Toennies were yet again the selling superstars! For those that were unable to put out luminarias, but gave a donation instead or who purchased a set or sets and contributed extra \$, I do want to acknowledge those special supporting families: McGaha (donated \$ to cover the cost of the sand), Nash, Arbaugh, Harrison, Harms, Ong, Toennies, and Tully. And if you'd like to purchase a set (or 2 or 3), I do have extra — they're great to set out for pool parties or other special events.

City of El Lago General Election Cancelled

Jeff Tave

The City of El Lago Election scheduled for Saturday May 4, 2024 has been cancelled as there have only been single filers for two of the three open positions. No plan to fill the empty position has been announced, but it's possible that the Mayor could appoint a citizen to fill the position until the next scheduled election (May 2025). Look for the Candidate Information Forms for all those who returned them in the March or April issue.

City of El Lago Candidates

Council Position 3 (Darin Clark - incumbent)

Council Position 4 (???)

Council Position 5 (John Streeter IV)

For more City of El Lago election information, see [<http://www.ellago-tx.gov/139/Election-Information>].

Woofstock

A FESTIVAL FOR DOGS!

APRIL 6TH
11AM-3PM

Live Music - Vendors- Contests
Silent Auction - Microchipping
Beer - Wine - and more!

All Benefitting Bay Area Pet Adoptions



Chelsea
Wine Bar

Located in the Boondoggies/ Chelsea Parking lot
4106 E. Nasa Pkwy El Lago, Texas



From the Editor

Dear Readers –

Welcome back from winter break! Just wanted to thank everyone who supported the *La Ventana* by purchasing luminarias and/or making a donation this past holiday season. Unfortunately, the sales drop that happened last year was not a one-off as we did see sales similar to last year. I do hope citizens pay attention the goings on at City Hall ... looks like we'll have a **3rd election in a row** cancelled as only single candidates applied for a City Council position with no opponents so they will win by default. Stay tuned for those names as they've not yet been released by the City Secretary. Come to a City Council meeting, typically on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7 PM. Do check the calendar on the City's website [<http://www.ellago-tx.gov/>] for any last minute changes. You can also get notifications (email and/or text) by creating a website account and setting your notification preferences (see link on website border). Also, if you haven't already signed up for the BlackboardConnect Notification System for pushed out notices (emergency & other city events), do so here [<http://www.ellago-tx.gov/156/Connect-CTY-Emergency-Notification-Syste>]. It's your government, pay attention & hold it accountable!

If you're on NextDoor, be sure to join the *La Ventana del Lago* group as that's where you'll find issue releases and other miscellaneous tidbits. You don't need an invite; you can join on your own. The *La Ventana del Lago Newspaper* FaceBook Group is operational (access via individual request). To join, send a request to the FaceBook Group: *La Ventana del Lago Newspaper*. You will be admitted on a temporary basis, and a request for you to complete the subscription form (on the Group page). Please complete the form (basic contact info and survey) and send it to laventana@earthlink.net within two weeks. Do note that all info collected will be for *La Ventana* use only and not disseminated in any other way. Once your completed subscription form has been received & confirmed, your request to join the Newspaper group on a permanent basis will be approved. Non-submittal of the completed form will lead to the suspension of your temporary access.

The latest issue of the *La Ventana* is available for electronic download at our website <http://lavanadellago.org/lvweb.html>. The file is in pdf format (you will need Acrobat Reader, a free utility already installed on most computers). Just click on the "Current Issue" button and the file will be downloaded (or displayed if you have an Acrobat Reader plug-in installed in your web browser application). A link to the *La Ventana* location has also been provided on the City's website <www.ellago-tx.com>, via a text link at the bottom of the home page in the QuickLinks section.

By the way, if you ever have any issues with the delivery of your paper, whether it be late, lost, found in the gutter, etc., please be sure to contact our **Circulation Coordinator, Jeff Tave**. We are only able to correct problems if we are aware of them.

Please support your community newspaper! How? Volunteer some time to write an article or two. **We're in need of general reporters** to cover miscellaneous El Lago and community activities. Another way is to give us some feedback. What do you like? What are some suggestions for improvement? This is your paper; help us satisfy your needs. Thanks for reading ... Jeff Tave



Typically published monthly by the first Saturday

EDITOR & OPS MANAGER: GENERAL REPORTERS:
Jeff Tave (281-326-5098) Jeff Tave, Donna Ward
email: jefftave@earthlink.net

ADVERTISING/FLYERS: LAYOUT & DESIGN:
Jeff Tave (281-326-5098) Laurie Fuller (281-513-4833)
email: llmishome@gmail.com

CIRCULATION:
Jeff Tave (281-326-5098)

CONTRIBUTORS: Missie Adkins, Sabrina Herod, Chris Henrichs, Heather Millar, Roger Nylin, Wendy Perez, Sara Prekosovich, Jean Raffetto.

In this Issue...

Luminarias.....	Page 1
City of El Lago General Elections.....	Page 1
Woofstock.....	Page 1
From the Editor.....	Page 2
Advertising Policies.....	Page 2
Trowels and Tribulations.....	Page 3
WCID No. 50 Minutes December 2023.....	Page 4
WCID No. 50 Minutes January 2024.....	Page 5
Freeman Library Activities 01/2024.....	Page 6
LPD Commission Minutes 12/04/2023.....	Page 7
LPD Commission Minutes 01/08/2024.....	Page 7
ELCC Minutes November 1, 2023.....	Page 8
ELCC Minutes December 6, 2023.....	Page 9
ELCC Minutes January 3, 2024.....	Page 10
Classifieds.....	Page 11
Local Restaurants Takeout and Delivery.....	Page 11
NeighborLine.....	Page 11
Armand Bayou Nature Center News.....	Page 12
LPD Stats and Cases November 2023.....	Page 13
El Lago Moon Tree Program.....	Page 14

Article Deadlines

Issue	To Editor	Earliest La Ventana Delivery
March	February 28	March 9
April	March 31	April 6
May	April 30	May 11

ADVERTISING POLICY

La Ventana will accept personal ads from City teenagers for lost and found items at no charge. Commercial ads must be camera ready or an additional charge will be added to the prices below:

Business card ad (3 1/2" X 2").....\$46
1/8 page (3 1/2 X 2 1/2")\$53
1/4 page (3 1/2" X 5").....\$58
1/2 page (7 1/2" X 5").....\$72
1/2 page (3 1/2" X 10").....\$72
Full page (7 1/2" X 10").....\$116

Classified ad charges are: \$5 for the first three lines; \$1 each additional line. Flyers will be inserted and delivered for \$95. Full year paid in advance discount: 2%.

Deadline for the ads is the 19th of the month. For further information, call: Advertising/Flyers: 281-326-5098. La Ventana is distributed monthly except January, July and August by the first Saturday of the month, with a circulation of 1000.



Trowels & Tribulations In a Suburban Garden: Feb 1 - 29

Donna J. Ward, Certified Texas Master Gardener

Gardeners who attempt to follow the timelines set out in this column are aware that this publication through no fault of the publisher is not distributed in conjunction with those timelines. In that regard, please note that Trowels & Tribulations is published on the El Lago city web site (www.ellago-tx.com) on the first day of each month of publication. Place your cursor on 'Our Community' and on the drop-down menu you will find 'Gardening in El Lago.'

Did you make any New Year Resolutions? How long did it take you to break one or two - or all? I resolved to downgrade my Type 'A' personality down to Type 'a' where gardening bloopers are concerned. Not going to let them bother me any longer; I'll just close my eyes and pretend I didn't see them.

Those volcano mulches created by professional landscapers who know better, but just keep on building them because "the customer asked for it" really bothers me. Why not educate the customer, and tell them what harm they are doing to their landscape trees? Holding too much moisture promotes root rot, inner bark tissue dies, anaerobic conditions are created that produce alcohol and acids toxic to plants, roots circling up into the volcano eventually strangles the tree, insects and diseases admire this formation, and it's dearly loved by rodents as a nice safe nesting place in which to raise their young. If you're a DIY landscaper, keep in mind that mulch must never touch the trunk of a tree. The trunk's flare should always be visible, and two or three inches of mulch is plenty; extend it to the dripline of a young tree.

One of my favorite home improvement shows does a fantastic job of renovating deteriorating houses, thereby revitalizing the neighborhood. They disregard the fact that Mother Nature never planted her offerings in rows like toy soldiers. That shrub or tree has been in its pot for quite a while, and when its trunk is pulled forcefully to lift it from the pot, some of the roots break. Afterwards the poor abused plant is plopped into a hole no bigger than the root ball - never mind loosening what's left of the root ball to encourage the poor victimized plant to send out new roots. I'd like to see the landscaping a year later.

Driving around the neighborhood, I'll occasionally spot a tree growing under another tree. That crape myrtle, although a dwarf variety, isn't going to produce many blooms in the shade of that mature oak, and who didn't realize that the southern magnolia they were planting would eventually grow tall enough to touch the lower branches of that red maple?

Many years ago I spotted wooden forms and steel rebars strategically placed in a local front yard. It was unmistakable that a concrete driveway was going to be poured around a tall, mature loblolly pine. A diamond shaped area was framed off around the trunk leaving about 1-1/2 ft. of uncovered soil in each direction. I finally summoned up enough courage to knock on the front door of the residence, and attempted to briefly explain that a tree's roots need to breathe. I gave reasons that although plant roots are underground, root cells require oxygen for respiration. A plant's roots absorb air from the gaps between soil particles. The oxygen in soil particles diffuses into root hairs and reaches all of the root's cells. Covering the surface of the soil with concrete will eventually suffocate the tree. My well-intended information resulted in a request to leave the property and not too kindly, I might add. The last time I saw the victim was about 3 years later as it was being taken down by a local tree removal company.

Enough of my complaints - I'm stepping down from my soap box. February is the pruning month, especially roses - the 14th being the traditional day to do so. Feed them at the month's end, and each 30 days through June. Don't touch the climbers, prune after they have finished blooming. Camellias should be pruned after they have completed their bloom time also. The beauty of the spring garden depends on the work done in February. This is also the time to take cuttings of shrubs and vines.

Guess you've noticed that spring is knocking at our door, so maybe it's time again to review those numbers listed on the bags of fertilizers stacked waist-high at the local nurseries. You'll see three symbols printed on each bag - NPK followed by a percentage (%) number. The first number represents nitrogen. Nitrogen is essential for top green growth, i.e. leaves and stems. The second number represents Phosphorus which promotes flowers, fruit and a strong healthy root system. The third number is for Potassium which ensures all around general good health and hardiness through stressful hot summers and cold winters - and we have just had both!!! The past few years I've become enamored with an organic fertilizer whose NPK is 6-2-4. I'm using it on the lawn, veggies, landscape specimens and even container grown plants.

If you're planning on a veggie garden, now is the time to plant seeds of lettuce, mustard, peas, radish, spinach, and beets. If you plant corn as soon as you finish pruning those roses, you'll be harvesting plump, succulent ears before the corn worm finds them. There's plenty to do this month - now all we have to do is find that spading fork.

**IF JANUARY IS THE MONTH OF
CHANGE, FEBRUARY IS THE
MONTH OF LASTING CHANGE.
JANUARY IS FOR DREAMERS...
FEBRUARY IS FOR DOERS.**

- MARC PARENT

El Lago City Celebration
April 20, 2024. Look for more
details on www.ellago-tx.gov

WCID No. 50 Minutes for the December 2023 Board Meeting

Sabrina Herod

The following are highlights of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors that took place on December 8, 2023. Complete minutes are available at the District office at 1122 Cedar Lane, and on the WCID No. 50 website at www.wcid50.org.

Citizen Comments – None.

Audit Report – Josh Rambo of McCall Gibson Swedlund Barfoot, PLLC presented the draft report. Mr. Rambo stated that the 2023 Audit showed the District remains fiscally sound and that the Auditing Firm is issuing a clean opinion. M. B. Eisenbarth made a motion to approve the audit as presented pending modification for additional editing. George Shea, Jr. seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Annexation Agreement – Mr. Bonham presented the proposed annexation agreement for the property south of NASA Road 1 and just east of Gabacho's Mexican Grill. A discussion was held with respect to the pros and cons of the potential annexation. Upon conclusion of the discussion, President Runco made a motion to approve the proposed annexation agreement. M. B. Eisenbarth seconded the motion and a vote of 3 yes and 1 no (Brown) was made and the motion passed.

Resolution Requesting Preparation of Estimate of Total Appraised Value of Taxable Property within the District – Mr. Bonham addressed the meeting with regard to the request from the District's financial advisors for a Resolution Requesting Preparation of Estimate of Total Appraised Value of Taxable Property within the District. A discussion was held. M. B. Eisenbarth made a motion to approve the presented Resolution. George Shea, Jr. seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Engineer's Report – Jonathan Liu presented the report and some of the items discussed were: a) Capital Improvements to Drainage System - The Drainage Improvement Project is now complete save for a few minor clean up and punch list items. b) Taylor Lake Place - working with PALT, Inc. to complete the punch list. A feasibility study for the proposed development south of NASA Pkwy is presented for review. c) Water Line Across Taylor Lake - Contract documents have been received but still awaiting a payment bond from the contractor. d) A job assignment proposal is presented to start work on the Series 2024 Bond Application for additional infrastructure modernization and other improvements. Sheila Brown made a motion to approve the job assignment proposal for engineering work to begin on the Series 2024 Bond. M. B. Eisenbarth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – John Riley presented the report and some of the items discussed were: a) Lowered the manhole and repoured a sidewalk at 1602 W. Chelsea Place. b) Repaired a leaking storm drain at the intersection of Creek Hollow and Pebble Lake Drive. c) Repoured a sidewalk at 523 Whitecap Dr. d) Repoured a section of the road at the intersection of Creek Hollow Drive and Pebble Lake Drive necessary for Drainage Improvement Project activity and repairs for a water main break repair. e) Dressed-up/completed repairs at four previous repair sites. f) Bulkhead & Pier replaced the bulkhead around the outfall on the drainage line in the utility easement between 303 and 305 Lakeshore Drive. g) Waste Management hauled 40 yards of sludge from the sewer plant. h) Raised the sunken manhole at 531 Seaway Dr. i) Continued working with the Harris County Engineering Department and Conrad Construction for the final clean-up and punch list items for Drainage Improvement project. j) Need to install the Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) anti-backflow devices on the District side of the supply lines from Clear Lake City Water Authority (CLCWA) at Taylor Lake Place per their request.

Office Manager's Report – Sabrina Herod presented the report and some of the items discussed were: a.) Financials are tabled. b.) Contacted the Subsidence District regarding the purchase of groundwater credits relative to the late summer drought.

Purchase of Groundwater Credits – Sabrina Herod addressed the meeting. The annual well permit renewal for the upcoming year has just been submitted. Well permit allotments in general continue to decrease each year including that for WCID 50. With permit renewal, the District could possibly raise its allotment with the purchase of ground water credits from the Harris County Subsidence District via entering into an Interlocal Agreement to sponsor water conservation for kits and promote water conservation education at local school allowing the District to receive allotment credits commensurate with the number of kits sponsored. The credit would be valid for a period up to 20 years from date of receipt and allow for the drawing of additional well water during emergencies or other conditions where surface water supply may not be readily available. Note: The drawing of water from water wells increases the likelihood of land subsidence, the loss of elevation of property above mean sea level, and increases the likelihood of flooding during tidal and storm surge events (coastal flooding as opposed to riverine and inland flooding due to rainfall events). The land elevation within the District has fallen 4-6 feet since the 1950's and 1960's due to area wide use of wells. High water events from strong tides and storm surges decrease the efficacy of local drainage systems including the District's. Accordingly, the use of wells by the District even with the additional credits will remain measured. Sheila Brown made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement and sponsor one hundred kits for a local elementary school. George Shea, Jr. seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Authorize Eminent Domain Report – Mr. Bonham addressed the meeting regarding the annual filing requirement of this report. M. B. Eisenbarth made a motion to approve the filing of a negative report. George Shea, Jr. seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Mr. Bonham will complete, and file the report as required.

Rate Order, Fee Schedule – This item was tabled.

Drought Contingency Plan - This item was tabled.

Executive session (closed meeting) to consider pending or threatened litigation in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.071, the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.072 and personnel matters in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.074 – An executive session was not held.

Items for Inclusion on Board's Next Agenda – Order Adopting Residence Homestead Exemption and Exemption for Over 65 of Disabled, Order Levying Additional Penalty for Delinquent Taxes [annual review requirement], Annual review of FTC Identity Theft Red Flag Policy, Annual Report to Texas Comptroller pursuant to Senate Bill 625 (Texas Local Government Code; Chapter 203, Subchapter D); Tax Code Section 26.18 Compliance.

Pending Business – Next Board Meeting will be held January 12, 2024, at noon.

WCID No. 50 Minutes for the January 2024 Board Meeting

Sabrina Herod

The following are highlights of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors that took place on January 26, 2024. Complete minutes are available at the District office at 1122 Cedar Lane, and on the WCID No. 50 website at www.wcid50.org.

Citizen Comments – Robert Kosar requested: (1) That the Board increase the amount of the Over 65/Disabled property tax exemption to be considered under item 8 below and (2) An update on the adjustments to be applied in connection with some previous billing errors. Sabrina Herod responded that the corrections are in work.

Engineer's Report – Jonathan Liu presented the report and some of the items discussed were: a) Capital Improvements to Drainage System - This item is complete. b) Taylor Lake Place (TLP) - Continue to work with PALT to complete the punch list. Feasibility study for proposed development south of Nasa Pkwy. c) Water Line Across Taylor Lake Place - Payment bond from the contractor has not been received. d) Future District Projects - Job Assignment Proposal to start work on the Nasa Road 1 Lift Station Replacement. A discussion was held. A motion to execute the Job Assignment Proposal for A & S Engineers, Inc. to start work on the Nasa Road 1 Lift Station replacement was made by M. B. Eisenbarth. The motion was seconded by Sheila Brown and approved by a unanimous vote. e) Series 2024 Bond Application has commenced.

Developer Deposit – Jonathan Liu addressed the meeting with regard to the original deposit placed with the District to cover costs associated with the Engineering at TLP. This amount has been depleted and a request for additional funds was made. A discussion was held. Mr. Leppard agreed to bring the deficit current and include an additional \$10,000 for future billings..

Superintendent's Report – John Riley presented the report and some of the items discussed were: a) Repaired leak on the 12" water main at the water plant. b) Repaired leaking sewer stack at 514 Bayview. c) Rebuilt the fire hydrant at 503 Bayview Dr. d) Replaced the motherboard for the main drive on the filter press. e) Dressed up yards and laid sod at three previous work sites. f) Repaired a leaking water tap for 430 Pebblebrook Dr. g) Freeze protection installed for all district facilities. Taylor Lake Place: (1) Installed a water sampling site at Kingston Harbor. (2) Installed a new 8" valve and moved a 2" water tap in preparation for the RPZ installation. (3) Repaired a broken 3" force main break caused by Frontier Communication contractor at 4527 Beacon Hill. (4) Repaired a broken service line caused by Frontier Communication contractor at 4523 Kingston Harbor. (5) Took lead and copper samples.

Office Manager's Report – Sabrina Herod presented the report and some of the items discussed were: a) Workman's Comp Payroll audit has been completed. Results show all records are in order and reports were filed with appropriate reporting agencies. A refund has been issued to the District. b) Prepared an accounting breakdown per the Engineer's request of the invoices applied to the initial developer's deposit. c) Met with Frost Bank Treasury Management representatives regarding additional steps to be added in fraud prevention with District accounts. d) Met with contractor to have some improvements done to the front office to meet "Red Flag" and Insurance requirements for security purposes. A discussion was held. A motion to approve the bid with Mann's Construction in the amount of \$4,843 was made by Sheila Brown. The motion was seconded by M. B. Eisenbarth and approved by a unanimous vote.

Order Adopting Residence Homestead Exemption [annual requirement]; Order Adopting Residence Homestead Exemption and for Persons 65 or Older or Disabled [annual requirement] – Davis Bonham presented the orders Adopting the Residence Homestead Exemption for property owner's residing within the District, as well as an order for readopting the exemptions for property owner's 65 or Older or Disabled residing within the District. A discussion was held as to the requirements for establishing the amount of the exemption and possibly increasing it after which the Board decided to review the appraised value to determine what amount if any could be increased without a significant impact on the operating budget. In an effort to keep it uniform for all properties and avoid providing a disparate advantage for higher valued properties, the exemptions were set to their present values. This item will be discussed at a future meeting. (Note: Veterans' exemptions are processed by individual owner request directly with Harris County Appraisal District).

Order for Election of Directors – Mr. Bonham presented the Order calling for Election of Directors to be held May 4, 2024. A motion to approve the order was made by M. B. Eisenbarth. The motion was seconded by George Shea and approved by all.

Rate Order and Fee Schedule – Mr. Runco reported that he had completed his review and editing of the rate order and that it was/is available for review; however, Mr. Bonham had recommended some additional changes, which were not included in the present draft. Mr. Runco then proposed that the Board take some additional time to review a draft, which included the suggested changes provided by Mr. Bonham. The matter would be discussed after such a review.

Drought Contingency Plan - This item was tabled.

Executive session (closed meeting) to consider pending or threatened litigation in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.071, the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.072 and personnel matters in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.074 – At approximately 2:06 PM, the Board of Directors of Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 50 went into closed executive session. At 3:14 PM, the Board came out of Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting.

Items for Inclusion on Board's Next Agenda – Order Levying Additional Penalty for Delinquent Taxes [annual review requirement], Annual review of Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Identity Theft Red Flag Policy; Annual Report to Texas Comptroller pursuant to Senate Bill 625 (Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 203, Subchapter D); Tax Code Section 26.18 Compliance; Water Smart Application.

Pending Business – Director Brown noted that there would be a Water Smart workday held March 9, 2024. Director Brown addressed the Board regarding the scout project to replace storm drain plaques intended to prevent dumping into the storm drains. Director Brown made a motion to purchase native seeds, not to exceed an amount of \$100, to fulfill one of the requirements for maintaining the District's Water Smart status and attract butterflies in addition to the Monarch. The motion was seconded by M. B. Eisenbarth and approved by a unanimous vote. The next board regular meeting will be February 16, 2024, at 11 AM. At 3:15 PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sheila Brown. George Shea seconded the motion, and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

Freeman Library Activities for February/March 2024

Sara Prekosovic

Craft-To-Go: Available Beginning Friday, March 1, 2nd Floor Reference Desk

Adults – Starting Friday, March 1, you can pick up your Craft-To-Go kit at the 2nd Floor Reference Desk. This project will be available to adult patrons while supplies last. Please visit the Harris County Public Library - Freeman Branch at 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062 or call 832-927-5420 for more information. The Friends of Freeman Library supplies the materials for this Maker program.

Adult LEGO®: Saturday, March 2 Beginning @ 10 AM, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Adults deserve to play too! Join us all day in the second floor Conference Room from creativity and construction. Any attendant under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Preschool Storytime: Monday, March 4, 11, 18, & 25 at 10:15 AM, 1st Floor Children's Activity Space

Recommended for **children 3 to 5 years old**. This program is designed for children who are ready to calmly listen to stories in addition to enjoying songs, fingerplays and action rhymes. **Tickets are required for all programs**, unless otherwise noted. They are **free** and available 15 minutes before this program begins in the Children's Department. Tickets are limited and offered on a first come first served basis. Lines for the tickets sometimes form before the tickets are distributed. Tickets can run out very quickly so please plan accordingly. Due to space limitations, each child may be accompanied by **only one adult**.

Toddler Story Time: Tuesday, March 5, 12, 19, & 26 @ 10:15 AM, 1st Floor Children's Activity Space

Recommended for **children 18 months to 3 years old** and their parent or caregiver. This program features books, songs, finger plays, music and movement. **Tickets are required for all programs**, unless otherwise noted. They are **free** and available 15 minutes before this program begins in the Children's Department. Tickets are limited and offered on a first come first served basis. Lines for the tickets sometimes form before the tickets are distributed. Tickets can run out very quickly so please plan accordingly. Due to space limitations, each child may be accompanied by **only one adult**.

Steam Squad: Tuesday, March 5, 19, & 26 at 4:30 PM, 1st Floor Children's Activity Space

Recommended for **children in 1st - 6th grade**. These programs are designed to engage children in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) activities and change on a monthly basis. **Tickets are required for all programs** unless otherwise noted. They are free and available starting 30 minutes before the program begins at the Children's Information Desk. Tickets are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Baby Storytime: Wednesday, March 6, 13, 20, & 27 at 10:15 AM, 1st Floor Children's Activity Space

Recommended for **newborns, crawlers and those walking with assistance** along with a caregiver. This class includes age appropriate stories, rhymes, bounces and songs that are a foundation for reading. Children will also develop sensory, fine motor, and social skills through playtime. **Tickets are required for all programs**, unless otherwise noted. They are **free** and available 15 minutes before this program begins in the Children's Department. Tickets are limited and offered on a first come first served basis. Lines for the tickets sometimes form before the tickets are distributed. Tickets can run out very quickly so please plan accordingly. Due to space limitations, each child may be accompanied by **only one adult**.

Pajama Story Time: Wednesday, March 6 & 20 @ 6 PM, 1st Floor Children's Activity Space

Recommended for **children of all ages** and their families. This story time includes stories, songs, and activities. Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring a favorite blanket or stuffed animal! **Tickets are required for this program**. They are **free** and available 30 minutes before the program begins in the Children's Department.

The Next Chapter – Thursday Morning Events Especially for Adults

The Next Chapter is a morning event for adults of all ages that offers informative and entertaining presentations by staff, the Friends of Freeman Library, and local partners. All events are free to attend and open to the public. Any refreshments served at our events are provided by the Friends of Freeman Library. Please contact us at 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, TX 77062 or at 832-927-5420 for more information.

- February 29 at 10:15 AM – Feature Film Series – Harriet (2019)
- March 7 @ 10:15 AM – Cinema Sequels – Event #3 – Back to the Future III (1990)
- March 14 @ 10:15 AM – Hour of Tech
- March 21 @ 10:15 AM – Craft Time – Fuzzy Bunny! (Registration Required, Opens March 04)
- March 28 @ 10:15 AM – Feature Film Series – Asteroid City (2023)

Afternoon Chill Zone: Thursday, Feb 29, March 7 & 21 @ 4:30 PM, 1st Floor Children's Activity Space

Recommended for **school-age children ages 5-12**, this after-school program provides a relaxing space for children to unwind, explore, and craft in the afternoons. Come make some new friends and chill out! **Tickets are required for all programs** unless otherwise noted. They are free and available starting 30 minutes before the program begins at the Children's Information Desk. Tickets are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Spring Break: Puzzletopia: Monday, March 11 from 2:30 - 4 PM

Recommended for **children 3-12 years old**. Join us for a puzzle party! Explore different types of puzzles and have fun stretching your brain! There are no tickets required for this program.

Freeman Needlecrafters: Tuesday, March 12 & 26 @ 10 AM, 2nd Floor Conference Room

If you knit, crochet or do any other form of needlecraft please join us for the Freeman Needlecrafters. While attendees are happy to help others through the difficult parts of a project, this club is not intended as a class for instruction.



continued on page 7

Spring Break: Faithful Friends Therapy Dogs, Tuesday, March 12 from 2:30 - 3:30 PM, Diana Side Parking Lot

Recommended for **children of all ages**. Join us for this chance to meet the friendly dogs from the Faithful Friends Animal-Assisted Therapy Ministry. These well-trained therapy pets are here to help you feel happier and healthier. Children can read stories to the dogs or just visit! In case of rain, this program will move to the Children's Activity Space. There are no tickets required for this program.

Spring Break: Craftchella, Wednesday, March 13 from 2:30 - 4 PM

Recommended for **children 3-12 years old**. Join us for an afternoon of groovy crafts! We will have four different craft projects for children to showcase their inner creativity. These crafts are an exciting and engaging way for your little artist to create something they are proud of and can't wait to take home! We can't wait to see you! There are no tickets required for this program.

Watercolor Relaxation Hour: Wednesday, March 13 @ 6:30 PM, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Join us to relax at the end of the day and create watercolor art. This program is not a painting class. Attendees under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Spring Break: Fire Truck Visit, Thursday, March 14 @ 10:30 AM, Diana Side Parking Lot

Our local heroes will be visiting the library on Thursday, March 14th at 10:30am. Our local Houston Fire Department will visit Freeman and bring their fire truck! While supplies last, each child will be given a firefighter themed activity pack. It will be in the parking lot on the Diana Lane side. No tickets are required for this program.

Toddlers in Motion: Thursday, Feb 29, March 21 @ 10:15 AM, 1st Floor Children's Activity Space

Join us for a fun program **especially for toddlers!** Toddlers will learn as **they dance and move and play with developmentally appropriate toys!** This program is for children 18 months to three years old. **Tickets are required for all programs**, unless otherwise noted. They are **free** and available 15 minutes before this program begins in the Children's Department. Tickets are limited and offered on a first come first served basis. Lines for the tickets sometimes form before the tickets are distributed. Tickets can run out very quickly so please plan accordingly. Due to space limitations, each child may be accompanied by **only one adult**.

Lakeview Police Department Commission Meeting Minutes - December 4, 2023

Wendy Perez

Direct excerpts from the official minutes deemed to be of interest and edited for space.

Police Chief's Report:

- **Case Summary Reports** - Light month of case reports for November 2023.
- **Personnel** - Chief Nunn advised with the widespread threat of Fentanyl exposure; Narcan nasal spray was obtained from Texas Department of Emergency Management and distributed to Officers who took the Red Cross training course. Chief Nunn informed Commissioners he joined Lexipol as part of Best Practices for Police One training and policy implementing resources.
- **Monthly Activity Report for November 2023**
 - **Traffic Enforcement**
 - **Calls for Service and Cases** - 439 calls for service which includes 302 traffic stops. Burglary of a habitation, Case #23-0382 discussed. Two suspects still on the scene were arrested. Six Mental Health Intervention calls, three were Emergency Detention Orders from September - November 2023. Recent hit and run on a golf cart discussed.
- **Budget & Financial Report through November 2023** - Chief Nunn advised El Lago City Secretary helped him with QuickBooks journal entries for items in last year's budget. After this week's payroll and bills, the budget will be sitting just under seventeen percent.
- **Discussion and Possible Action on Implementation of adjusted STEP Pay Structure and Certification Pay** - Commissioner O'Donel and Chief Nunn created a five-year payroll budget plan. Commissioner O'Donel noted projected increases and decreases relating to future personnel, the pay scale and certificate pay will be less than three percent. Commissioners reviewed the prepared spreadsheet for FY '24 - '25 projections and agreed it will safely carry forward. Motion made by Commissioner Corbin to except the proposed salary structure and increase certification pay for FY '24 - '25. A second was made by Commissioner Boyd. Motion passed with all in favor.



Lakeview Police Department Commission Meeting Minutes - January 8, 2024

Wendy Perez

Direct excerpts from the official minutes deemed to be of interest and edited for space.

Police Chief's Report: Chief Nunn asked if anyone had questions. Commissioner Corbin asked about the PD's involvement with abandoned homes. Chief Nunn advised that the Police Department would inform the city if notified

- **Case Summary Reports** - Stolen luminaria signs, Case 23-0418, and disturbance Case 23-0409 discussed.
- **Personnel** - New Officer to be hired in January was hired by another agency. Health and fitness testing begins this month. Wearing Body Armor Vests becomes mandatory on the 15th of January.
- **Monthly Activity Report for December 2023**
 - **Traffic Enforcement** - Chief Nunn advised a couple of the officers were paid overtime for working STEP, specifically for speeding and running stop signs on Lakeshore Dr., Cedar Ln., and Honey Oaks Dr.
 - **Calls for Service and Cases** - 453 Calls for the Month of December.
- **Budget & Financial Report through December 2023** - Budget showing slightly over after paying insurance in full and Motorola invoices from last FY. Journal entries will reflect. Sick pay discussed. Chief Nunn advised Commissioners about a Pension correction and Fringe Benefits update. Commissioner Hall inquired about Jail status, line item 14240. Chief Nunn advised prisoners are still jailed at Harris County without a contract. Chief Nunn advised a new vehicle was located for near future purchase.

Significant Items from the Minutes of the El Lago City Council Meeting on November 1, 2023

Missie Adkins

Direct excerpts from the official minutes deemed to be of interest and edited for space. Full minutes available on the city website <www.ellago-tx.gov>.

Citizens' Forum

- A resident of Lakeshore Drive spoke about a grant awarded to Seabrook and Lakeview Police Depts. to fund equipment for active shooter training.
- A resident of Pine View Circle expressed concerns with the Child Safety Fund Resolution proposal.
- A resident of Crestview Drive expressed concerns with the Child Safety Fund Resolution proposal.

City Official, Board, Commission, Committee, & City Service Report

- **Lakeview Police Department Monthly Report** – Chief Nunn reported on the Department's October activity and provided reports. Chief Nunn thanked Council for the new carpet at 98 Lakeshore. Chief Nunn also thanked Mrs. Jennifer Findley and the Rotary Club for the grant that will fund equipment for active shooter simulations for both El Lago and Seabrook.
- **Seabrook Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report** – Assistant Chief Andy Castaleon reported on the department's activity and provided reports.

Mayor's Report

- Grant for LPD - Mayor Findley reported on the \$10,000 grant awarded for training equipment for use by Lakeview Police Department.

Consent Agenda

- **Check Detail for checks printed from October 1 through October 27, 2023**
- **Minutes from the Council Meeting of October 4, 2023**

Hearing no objections, Mayor Findley declared the consent agenda approved.

New Business

- **Consider/Approve event room variance for Ralf Toennies** - Councilmember Parette motioned to approve the variance for Ralf Toennies' Bridge group to use the event room once per week provided the City Secretary approves of dates and time as well as use of the event room on December 12, 2023 for a luncheon. A second was made by Mayor Pro Tem Vernon. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Consider/Approve Resolution 2023-14 for Child Safety Funds and supplemental information** - Council discussed the resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Vernon motioned to postpone Resolution 2023-14 until a future date. A second was made by Councilmember Michalak. The postponement passed unanimously.
- **Consider/Approve Resolution 2023-15 for Surplus Property** - Councilmember Parette motioned to approve Resolution 2023-15 with the understanding that the zero dollar value items would be made available to citizens. A second was made by Councilmember Michalak. Mayor Pro Tem Vernon made a motion to amend the motion to exclude the large portable dog kennel if another one is not available to use. A second was made by Councilmember Michalak. The amendment to the original motion passed unanimously. The amended original motion was read and passed unanimously.
- **Consider/Approve Resolution 2023-16 for Appointing Melissa Adkins as City Secretary** - Councilmember Michalak motioned to approve Resolution 2023-16. A second was made by Mayor Pro Tem Vernon. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Findley administered the Statement and Oath of Office to Melissa Adkins.
- **Introduce Ordinance 500 regarding Short-Term Rentals in El Lago and supplemental information** - Council discussed Ordinance 500 regarding Short-Term Rentals. Mayor Findley asked for comments to be e-mailed. Mayor Pro Tem Vernon asked to make the ordinance as tough as legally possible. Mayor Findley stated that the ordinance will go back to the city attorney for possible additions and review.
- **Consider/Approve Ordinance 503 adding a sentence in Article 3(C) to read "The meeting on the third Wednesday may be cancelled if the business of the city does not require holding a meeting."** - Councilmember Parette motioned to approve Ordinance 503. A second was made by Councilmember Clark. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Consider/Approve the 4th Quarter 2023 Investment Report** - Council reviewed the 2023 4th Quarter Investment Report. Councilmember Clark motioned to approve the report. A second was made by Councilmember Parette. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Consider/Approve the AV Design Pro quote for relocating the audio-visual equipment to a rack inside City Hall** - Mayor Pro Tem Vernon motioned to postpone item 8.8 until after item 8.9. A second was made by Councilmember Clark. The motion passed unanimously. After discussion on item 8.9, Councilmember Parette motioned to postpone the AV DesignPro quote action until the next meeting on December 6, 2023. A second was made by Councilmember Michalak. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Consider/Approve construction at City Hall to create an office space to bring the Court Administrator to 411 Tallowood and lease more space to LPD at 98 Lakeshore** - Mayor Findley suspended the meeting from 8:27 PM until 8:32 PM for a short 5 minute break. After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Vernon motioned to postpone the item until the next meeting on December 6, 2023 and bring it back as two separate items on the agenda. A second was made by Councilmember Michalak. The motion passed unanimously. A point of order was made by Mayor Pro Tem Vernon to explain a postponement means to bring an item back whereas ignoring an item means the item is done completely.
- **Review the Contract Listing for City of El Lago** - Council reviewed the current contract listing.

Future Agenda Item Requests - 4th Quarter 2023 Financial Report, 2023 Budget Amendment, Date of Caroling in the Park for December – City Secretary to reach out to Ed White Elementary School to determine date., Pool Workshop – December 6, 2023, AV DesignPro quote – December 6, 2023, Store-Front for City Hall – December 6, 2023, Court Admin Counstruction – December 6, 2023.

PASSED and APPROVED this 3rd of January 2024.

*** To listen to full audio of the November 1, 2023 City Council Meeting, please go to the City's website at www.ellago-tx.gov, under the "Agenda Center."

Significant Items from the Minutes of the El Lago City Council Meeting on December 6, 2023

Missie Adkins

Direct excerpts from the official minutes deemed to be of interest and edited for space. Full minutes available on the city website <www.ellago-tx.gov>.

Citizens' Forum

- A resident of Pine View Circle expressed concerns with Council minutes leaving out Citizen Comment information; he also expressed concerns with moving the Court Admin to City Hall; and finally, he expressed concerns with purchasing new microphones.
- A resident of Crestview Drive thanked Lakeview Police Dept. for their efforts during the Christmas Light Display in Taylorcrest.

City Official, Board, Commission, Committee, & City Service Report

- **Lakeview Police Department Monthly Report** – Chief Nunn reported on the department's November activity and provided reports. Chief Nunn reported that officers are trained in case of contact with Fentanyl. A new policy manual for Lakeview Police Department is also being developed. He reminded the council about the blood drive on December 20, 2024.
- **Seabrook Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report** – Chief Nathan Douglas thanked council for a great relationship between the City and SVFD. He reported on the department's activity and provided reports.

Mayor's Report

- Security Cameras at City Hall - Mayor Findley reported that Texas Surveillance & Security provided City Hall with a new DVR at a discounted rate and 7 of 8 cameras are now operational
- Caroling in the Park – December 16, 2023 – Mayor Findley reported that the event will take place between 6 - 8 PM.

Consent Agenda

- **Check Detail for checks printed from October 28 through December 1, 2023**
- **Minutes from the Council Meeting of November 1, 2023**

Mayor Pro Tem Vernon pulled both items from the Consent Agenda with questions. Mayor Pro Tem Vernon questioned the \$850 payment to Progressive Commercial Aquatics. City Secretary Adkins explained receiving approval to have the company perform a diagnostic report completed to provide all information requested for the Pool Workshop. Mayor Findley stated that his approval was granted. Councilmember Skelton motioned to approve the Check Detail October 28, 2023 through December 1, 2023 with a second by Councilmember Michalak and passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Vernon requested to amend the Minutes to include the citizen comment summary. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Vernon with a second by Councilmember Michalak. Mayor Pro Tem Vernon, Councilmembers Clark, Michalak and Parette in favor with Councilmember Skelton opposing. The motion passed.

Workshop to discuss the El Lago City Pool

Mayor Findley suspended the meeting at 7:26 PM and moved into the pool workshop. The council and Mayor discussed the repairs needed for the pool. Erica Peace from Progressive Commercial Aquatics was present to answer questions. The Council and Mayor discussed the funding availability for the repairs. Mayor Findley ended the workshop at 8:29 PM and resumed the regular meeting.

New Business

- **Consider/Approve Progressive Commercial Aquatics quote for pool replastering** - Councilmember Parette made a motion to approve the quote for pool replastering in the amount of \$85,400 with a second by Councilmember Michalak. Mayor Findley called for a roll-call vote: Councilmember Michalak - Aye; Councilmember Parette - Aye; Mayor Pro Tem Vernon - Aye; Councilmember Clark - Aye; Councilmember Skelton - Aye, The motion passed unanimously.
- **Consider/Approve Progressive Commercial Aquatics quote for filter replacement at a cost of \$5,747** - Mayor Pro Tem Vernon made a motion to approve quote Q7107 for \$5747 to replace the sand and laterals in the filters with a second by Councilmember Skelton. Mayor Findley called for a roll-call vote: Councilmember Michalak - Aye; Councilmember Parette - Aye; Mayor Pro Tem Vernon - Aye; Councilmember Clark - Aye; Councilmember Skelton - Aye. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Consider/Approve Progressive Commercial Aquatics quote for repairs and replacement of equipment in the pump house at a maximum cost of \$25,000** - A motion was made by Councilmember Michalak for repairs to equipment in the pump house at a maximum cost of \$25,000 and seconded by Councilmember Parette.; Mayor Findley called for a roll-call vote: Councilmember Michalak - Aye; Councilmember Parette - Aye; ; Mayor Pro Tem Vernon - Aye; Councilmember Clark- Aye; Councilmember Skelton - Aye. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Consider/Approve Progressive Commercial Aquatics quote for drain repair at a maximum cost of \$27,000** - Councilmember Parette made a motion to approve the drain repair not to exceed \$27,000 with a second by Councilmember Michalak. After discussion, Councilmember Skelton moved to call for the vote. Mayor Findley called for a roll-call vote: Councilmember Michalak - Aye; Councilmember Parette - Aye; Mayor Pro Tem Vernon - Aye; Councilmember Clark - Aye; Councilmember Skelton - Aye; The motion passed.
- Mayor Findley suspended the regular meeting for a break at 8:53 PM and resumed at 8:59 PM
- **Consider/Approve a Store Front enclosure for City Hall from 3 quotes** - Councilmember Parette made a motion to approve the quote from Mann's Carpentry with a second by Councilmember Clark. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Consider/Approve creation of an office inside City Hall for the Court Administrator from 3 quotes** - Councilmember Skelton made a motion to approve the quote from Mann's Carpentry with a second by Councilmember Parette. Mayor Pro Tem Vernon motioned to postpone the vote until after El Lago Court implemented the credit card software and provided the data. Councilmember Michalak seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Vernon and Councilmembers Michalak and Parette in favor with Councilmembers Clark and Skelton opposing. The postponement passed.
- **Consider/Approve AV Design Pro quote for audio-visual equipment relocation** - Mayor Pro Tem Vernon made a motion to approve the \$4973 quote for new equipment and relocation with a second by Councilmember Parette. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Consider/Approve AV Design Pro quote for new microphones** - Councilmember Skelton made a motion to approve the \$3192 quote for new microphones with a second by Councilmember Clark. The motion passed unanimously.

Future Agenda Item Requests - 4th Quarter 2023 Financial Report; 2023 Budget Amendment; Dorados Contract – January 2024.

PASSED and APPROVED this 3rd of January 2024.

*** To listen to full audio of the December 6, 2023 City Council Meeting, please go to the City's website at www.ellago-tx.gov, under the "Agenda Center."

Significant Items from the Minutes of the El Lago City Council Meeting on January 3, 2024

Missie Adkins

Direct excerpts from the official minutes deemed to be of interest and edited for space. Full minutes available on the city website <www.ellago-tx.gov>.

Citizens' Forum

- A resident of Cedar Lane thanked the Mayor, Council and City Secretary for the continued support of Dorados swim team.

City Official, Board, Commission, Committee, & City Service Report

- **Lakeview Police Department Monthly Report** – Chief Nunn was unable to attend.
- **Seabrook Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report** – Chief Nathan Douglas reported on the Department's activity and provided reports. Chief Douglas mentioned the 1 electrical call was for a known issue with a power pole in the front of the city and asked if someone from the city could call and look into infrastructure updates. Chief explained the networking SVFD does with neighboring departments and was hosting the Bay Area Fire Chiefs. He also explained the EMS services provided and how calls are handled.

Mayor's Report

- **City Celebration** – Mayor Findley explained the need to help organize the 2024 City Celebration. A date in April will need to be chosen. Mayor Findley will bring a list of items to the next meeting..

Consent Agenda

- **Check Detail for checks printed from December 2 through December 28, 2023**
- **Minutes from the Council Meeting of November 1, 2023**
- **Minutes from the Council Meeting December 6, 2023**

Hearing no objections, Mayor Findley declared the consent agenda approved.

Workshop to discuss the Volunteer Fair

Mayor Findley suspended the regular meeting at 7:20 PM for the workshop. The Mayor discussed the need for volunteers to sit on Boards and Commissions in the city. After some discussion, it was decided to hold a small Volunteer Fair an hour prior to the next meeting on February 7, 2024 at 6 PM. Mayor Findley resumed the regular meeting at 7:36 PM.

New Business

- **Consider/Approve an Event Room variance for James May for Reboot Recovery** - A motion was made by Councilmember Parette with a 2nd by Mayor Pro Tem Vernon. Council discussed the need to review the variance forms. Councilmember Skelton commented that this appears to be outside of the normal non-profits benefitting our citizens. A vote was taken with Mayor Pro Tem Vernon and Council members Michalak and Parette approving; Councilmember Skelton opposing. The motion passed.
- **Consider/Approve the Dorados Swim Team Contract with City of El Lago** - A motion was made by Councilmember Parette to approve the contract pending review by the city attorney with a second by Councilmember Michalak. Mayor Pro Tem Vernon made a motion to amend the original motion to approve the contract pending review by the city attorney as well as add language in the contract for the Dorados to pay for damages resulting from their usage. Councilmember Michalak seconded the motion. The secondary motion passed unanimously. The original motion with the amendment passed unanimously.

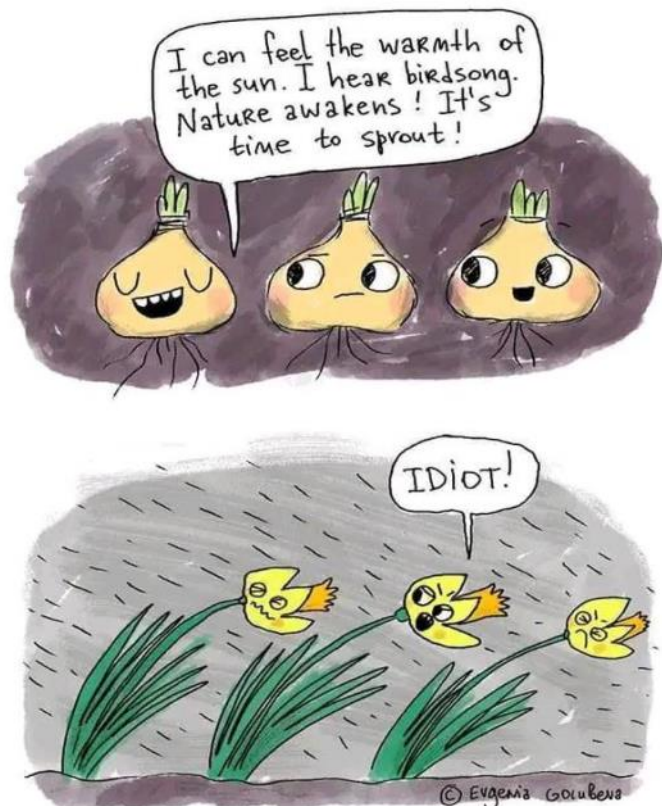
Future Agenda Item Requests - City Celebration task list, Ordinance to Call Election, 4th Quarter 2023 Financial Report, 2023 Budget Amendment.

PASSED and APPROVED this 7th of February 2024.

*** To listen to full audio of the January 3, 2024 City Council Meeting, please go to the City's website at www.ellago-tx.gov, under the "Agenda Center." ***

**Join the La Ventana Team !
We are looking for
Content Contributors
and an
Advertising Coordinator
Call Jeff Tave
at (281) 326-5098**





Local Restaurants Offering Take-Out (Some Delivery)

Jeff Tave

Support our local restaurants who now are limited to take-out/delivery and limited hours. Ones in the immediate area are below:

- **Athenas Corner:** 281-549-6278, athenascornertx.com, DoorDash, GrubHub
- **Boondoggles Pub:** 281-326-2739, boondogglespub.com
- **Dave's Smoke House** (on Kirby): 281-326-7164
- **Gabachos** 281-326-5697, gabachos.net, DoorDash
- **Hunsa Thai Kitchen** (in Arlan's Center): 281-532-6339, GrubHub, seamless.com, DoorDash
- **Iguana Ranas Cantina** (Lakeside Shopping Ctr): 832-864-2855, myiguanasranas.com, DoorDash, GrubHub
- **Jack in the Box:** 281-326-1101, jackinthebox.com, DoorDash
- **Las Anitas Mexican:** 281-326-2200, lasanitas1.com, DoorDash
- **Pelican Grill:** 281-326-6149, pelicanbreakfast.com
- **Sam's Boat:** 281-326-7267, samsboat.com
- **Seabrook Classic Cafe:** 281-326-1512, 281-326-1546, 832-766-9745, 832-766-9759, 832-766-9762, seabrookclassiccafe.com
- **Subway** (in Arlan's Center): 281-326-2288, subway.com, postmates.com, DoorDash
- **The Flame Tacos** (in Pelican Plaza): 281-326-2288, theflametacos.com, DoorDash
- **Valdos:** 281-326-3866, DoorDash
- **Villa Capri:** 281-326-2373, frenchiesvillacapri.com
- **Village Pizza & Seafood:** 281-326-3200, villagepizzaseafood.com, seamless.com, Grubhub, DoorDash
- **Viola & Agnes' Neo Soul Cafe:** 281-326-2226, www.neosoulfood.org
- **Wong's Chef:** 281-532-3027, 281-532-3037, wongschef.com, DoorDash

El Lago NeighborLine

Jeff Tave

Here again is the updated El Lago Neighbor Business Line, a list of business owners who desire to promote their services to fellow El Lagoans. The La Ventana in no way endorses these businesses, rather we are reporting their availability. With that in mind, here is our current list by type to date. If you are interested in adding your name/business to the list, please contact Jeff Tave (281-326-5098 or via email: jefftave@earthlink.net) by February 29th (for the March issue). The listing fee is \$5 per issue (3 lines) or \$40 for a full year (9 issues). All fees go towards supporting the operations of your community newspaper.

CPA

- **Coggin, John:** John F. Coggin CPA PLLC, El Lago Resident since 1985. Full service CPA firm offering individual/corp. taxes, accounting, payroll & monthly financial statements. Offices @ 2511B NASA Pkwy STE A 203 (Seabrook) in Lakeside Yachting Center directly behind Classic Café, 713-408-1318 or john@jcoggincpa.com. www.jcoggincpa.com

Erosion Control

- **Mitchell, Alexis:** Got Erosion along your waterfront property? Call the premier certified erosion control experts of the USA today! Resident for 2 years offering shoreline erosion control with SOX Erosion Solutions, 281-799-3902 or amitchell@soxerosion.com. www.soxerosion.com.

Fitness/Virtual Classes

- **Campos, Kimberly:** MEbody Online, Work out from your home w/ live instructor. Pilates, Adult Ballet, barre360, stretching classes. All levels welcome. Very important to stay moving! Call/text 281-984-7325 or themebody.com.

Realtor/Realty Services

- **Knis, Toni:** Texas Shore Properties UTR, Texas Realtors. Local El Lago resident (12 years) & full service Realtor. It's a Sellers Market right now, so call 832-474-2863 for a FREE Market evaluation of your home. Visit [www.HAR.com/toniknis].

Sailing School

- **Coggin, Laurie:** Let's Go Sailing at www-lets-go-sailing-net, come see us. Offices @ 2511B NASA Pkwy STE A 203 (Seabrook) in Lakeside Yachting Center directly behind Classic Café. El Lago Resident since 1985. For info, call 281-532-1518, galvbaysailing@aol.com.

Classified*Classified*Classified

- Join the El Lago Baby-sitting Co-Op. It's a great way to exchange baby-sitting at no cost. We just exchange tickets; for example, two tickets pays for 1 hour of baby-sitting. Plus, we have monthly kid and parent fun activities. Please join us or call Peta at (281) 326-1340 for more information.
- Join the La Ventana Team! We are looking for an Advertising Director. Call Jeff Tave at (281) 326-5098.
- Baby-Sitting 14 year-old who loves kids. Call Alicia (281) 291-0942.





ABNC News
Heather Millar



Gator Basking Days

Our Expert guides will lead you to our secluded rookery where you can view our ever growing rookery. Your tour begins with a 5 minute walk down the boardwalk to our Environmental Learning Center auditorium, where our interpretive naturalist will give a 45 minute presentation on American alligators. This includes an opportunity to meet one of our ambassador gators! Then you will ride down the trail on one of our electric vehicles to board our Bayou Ranger II Pontoon Boat and look for gators in Armand Bayou. Ages 16+. Registration Required. Learn more & book here <https://www.abnc.org/preserve-watch>

Family Dip-netting March 2nd & 9th

Learn about the mysterious and amazing creatures who take cover beneath the surface of ponds! All Ages. Registration Required. <https://www.abnc.org/family-dipnetting>



Nature Photography Workshop - March 23rd & 30th

Learn from award winning photographer Gary Seloff in our new Photography Workshop with pontoon tour. Ages 18+. Registration Required <https://www.abnc.org/nature-photography-workshop>

Last Minute Gifts - Give the Gift of Nature

ABNC Memberships and Gift Cards make great eco-friendly gifts for the nature lover on your lists. For fun nature inspired gifts you can wrap, visit ABNC's Gift Store in our admissions building. <https://www.abnc.org/green-gifts>

Reconnect with Nature Today! ABNC offers 5 miles of well-maintained walking trails of various lengths for your enjoyment, including our discovery loop boardwalk. <https://www.abnc.org/hours-location-admission>



LAKEVIEW POLICE ACTIVITY
DECEMBER 2023 –JANUARY 2024
928

911 HANGUP	6	LOST MISSING RECOVERED ABDUCTED	2
ACCIDENT MAJOR	1	MINOR ACCIDENT	11
ABUSE NEGLECT CHILD ELDERLY	8	MENTAL HEALTH CONCERN	1
ALARM BURGLAR	21	OFFICER ASSIST	1
ANIMAL CONTROL PROBLEM	6	PARKING VIOLATION	22
ASSIST BY LAW	51	PATROL ALERT	1
ASSIST CITIZEN	17	PRISONER PROCESS	1
ASSAULT	0	PROPERTY LOST RECOVERED	2
BURGLARY	3	RECKLESS DRIVER CONDUCT	8
CIVIL PROBLEM STANDBY	3	SEXUAL ASSAULT	0
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	0	SUICIDE ATTEMPT/ PSCHIATRIC	0
DEATH INVESTIGATION	1	SUSPICIOUS CIRC PERSON VEHICLE	52
DISABLED VEHICLE	3	TRESPASS	1
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	0	TRAFFIC HAZ PROB DIRECT RELAT	8
DISTURBANCE	14	TRAFFIC STOP	574
FLAGDOWN	1	THREAT TERRORISTIC	0
FOLLOWUP	6	UNAUTHORIZED USE OF M/V	0
FRAUD	2	VIOLATION CITY ORDINANCE	49
HARASSMENT	2	WELFARE CONCERNS	20
INTOXICATED DRIVER PERSON	3	WEAPONS OFFENSES	1
LOUD MUSIC NOISE	13	WARRANT SERVICE	0

DATE LOCATION TYPE OF OFFENSE

12/03/23 411 Tallowood Hit and Run Accident

On a Sunday afternoon at about 3:30 pm, residents near the El Lago city hall reported that they witnessed a red and tan golf cart speeding down Ferndale Dr.. The golf cart turned into the parking lot next to city hall, lost control and the driver fell out of the golf cart. The golf cart continued on through the parking lot, with a female passenger still in the front seat, and struck a parked city pickup truck.

The witnesses attempted to help the injured female passenger, but both the male driver and the female passenger refused their assistance and fled the scene in the golf cart. Responding Lakeview PD Officers checked the area and were unable to locate the golf cart. The investigation is ongoing.

12/03/2024 4100 Blk NASA Pkwy Disturbance / Assault

Two groups of people, consisting of 9 total adults and a baby, were dining on the patio area of a local pub/restaurant. One of the parties became offended by the cursing going on at a nearby table within earshot of their one year old child. The situation deteriorated when one of the offended parties began physically assaulting one of the persons in the loud, cursing, group.

Another family member, that consisted of the small child, got physically involved, and at some point pulled his shirt up to show that he was wearing a handgun. The Pub's staff got involved and physically broke up the disturbance, throwing the armed person to the ground. The staff then called the Lakeview Police Department. Before the Lakeview PD and assisting Seabrook PD Officers arrived, the male placed the handgun in his car.

After sorting out all the conflicting stories, the investigating Officer contacted the Harris County District Attorney's Office and presented the facts of the case. The Assistant District Attorney at Intake refused to accept charges on any of the involved parties. The parties all left the scene without further incident.

01/03/2024 4300 NASA Pkwy Drug Possession & Identity Theft

A Lakeview PD Officer was monitoring traffic in the 4300 block of Nasa Pkwy when he observed a vehicle displaying an expired motor vehicle registration. A traffic stop was performed and upon contacting the driver, the Officer noticed a strong smell of burning marijuana coming from the drivers side window. During the Officers investigation, he discovered nearly an ounce of marijuana, several grams of methamphetamine, dozens of tablets of Xanax and identification cards, drivers licenses and credit cards belonging to numerous different people, none of whom were in the suspect vehicle. Some of the people who's identifying information was found in the suspect vehicle were later found to have been victims of identity theft and other fraud offenses.

One of the suspect vehicles occupants, who gave a false name and date of birth, was also found to have one misdemeanor warrant and two felony warrants out of Brazoria County. This person was arrested and charged with drug possession and fail to identify fugitive from justice. After being transported to the Harris County Jail for booking, a large stash of drugs was found concealed in the suspects crotch and seized as evidence, prompting additional charges. The investigation into the identity theft continues.

01/09/2024 3800 NASA Pkwy Illegal Drugs and Weapons Possession

A Lakeview Police Officer stopped a vehicle for a defective equipment violation in the 3800 block of Nasa Pkwy. When the Officer contacted the driver, the driver admitted to being in possession of a small amount of synthetic marijuana (a felony offense). Further investigation revealed that there was a loaded 9mm handgun under the drivers seat and that the driver, a 26 year old Pasadena resident, was currently on probation for a felony drug charge out of Harris County. The LVPD Officer contacted the Harris County District Attorney's office and relayed the facts of this case to the assistant district attorney at intake. The ADA advised that no criminal charges would be accepted on the driver at this time. The LVPD Officer confiscated the drugs and gun and released the driver with a warning. The drugs will be sent to the crime laboratory for testing and the Lakeview Police Department will attempt to file criminal charges at a later date.

01/12/2024 Bayview Dr. Aggravated Assault- Family Violence

The victim, a 38 year old El Lago resident, reported that her live-in boyfriend had assaulted her earlier in the day and had pointed a loaded handgun at her and another person and threatened to kill them. The two victims later hid the gun from the suspect in a vehicle and brought it to the police station to make a report. The Harris County District Attorney's Office was contacted and agreed to accept two counts of aggravated assault on the suspect. LVPD Officers located the suspect at the residence on Bayview Drive and arrested him for the aggravated assaults. The suspect was transported to the Harris County Jail and booked in without incident.

continued on page 14

01/19/2024

4000 Blk Nasa Pkwy

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle

The victim, a 35 year old El Lago resident, reported that an unknown suspect(s) had broken into his pickup truck overnight while it was parked in the Condominiums parking lot and had stolen about \$4,000.00 worth of tools. After a brief investigation the Officers located surveillance footage from the Condo's security cameras. The camera's caught the burglary on video. The suspects appeared to be two dark skinned males wearing masks and hats to conceal their features. The suspect vehicle is described as a Black Dodge Charger with an air intake hood scoop on the hood, ground spoiler on the front end, a fin on the trunk, sun-roof and black on black rims. The suspect vehicle was displaying a temporary

The El Lago Moon Tree Program

Jean Raffetto, former El Lago City Secretary (retired)

Roger Nylin, City of El Lago Mayor, 1992 – 1998

What is the El Lago Moon Tree Program?

In 1971, astronaut Stuart "Stu" Roosa, an El Lago resident, was the Apollo 14 Command Module (CM) Pilot on the mission to the moon. Roosa orbited the moon in the CM while Apollo 14 astronauts Commander Alan Shepherd and Lunar Lander pilot Ed Mitchell proceeded to the moon surface and performed their moon walks (the 5th and 6th men on the moon).

As a young man, Roosa was very interested in forestry and was a US Forest Service "smoke jumper," one of those who parachutes into a forest fire to help put out the fire. He, in coordination with NASA and the U.S. Forestry Service, carried approximately 500 seeds from about a half dozen species of US trees to evaluate the effects of zero gravity and space radiation on the seeds.



After returning to earth, about 450 of the 500 seeds germinated and were planted in nurseries in Mississippi and Alabama to mature and develop. Upon requests from various governmental entities and other interested organizations, some 70 trees of these seedlings were planted in locations around the world in honor of the USA NASA Aerospace Program and the U.S. Forestry Service. Many of these trees grew to heights of 60 – 80 feet, and today, after 50 plus years, about 65 trees are still alive. Seeds from some of the remaining trees plus some of the offspring are germinated and grow to provide additional generations of Moon Trees. Also, new tree seeds have flown on the 2022 Artemis I Mission around the moon; the uncrewed spacecraft contained approximately 2,000 seeds for five tree species, including sweetgums, Douglas-firs, sycamores, loblolly pines, and giant sequoias.

Rosemary Roosa, the daughter of Stuart Roosa, lived with her famous astronaut family in El Lago at 506 Cedar Lane. She and her brothers attended Ed White Elementary School and Seabrook Intermediate School. She wrote a book called "To the Moon" about their life in El Lago and thereafter. Rosemary Roosa founded the Moon Tree Foundation <www.moontreefoundation.com>, a not-for-profit organization, to honor the historic mission by her father, Stuart Roosa. She serves as President of The Moon Tree Foundation, and as such oversees its activities and work.

Our neighbors in Nassau Bay have planted two moon trees by City Hall and two in David Braun Park in honor of the Apollo 14 astronauts. This spring, they will plant another two trees to continue honoring former residents who made substantial contributions to winning the space race with Russia. Nassau Bay resident, Gary Mossman, has been very instrumental in coordinating, acquiring, and the planting of the Moon Trees in Nassau Bay. Therefore, Rosemary has named him "Ambassador" for the Moon Tree Foundation.

The City Council of El Lago considered participating in the program in 2023, but decided against it due to the cost and other reasons. A small group of citizens in support of the Moon Tree Program is forming an exploratory committee and asking City Council to reconsider participation in the Moon Tree Program to honor Astronaut & former El Lago resident Stuart Roosa as well as all the other NASA employees responsible for USA's effort in putting the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, another former El Lago resident.

We write this to inform our neighbors of this Moon Tree Program and solicit support from the community.

Persons interested in joining us in these endeavors may contact any of the following founding committee members:

Mayor Shawn Findley, sfindley@ellago-tx.gov

Jean Raffetto, jeanraffetto@comcast.net, 281-326-3472

Finance/Recruiting - Roger Nylin, rnylin@comcast.net, 346-318-8993

Public Relations/Social Media - Jeff Tave, jefftave@earthlink.net, 281-326-5098 (landline)

