



Exchange Hotline

Exchange Newsletter

March 1, 2005

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Publisher

The Exchange Club of Sugar Land

4800 Sugar Grove Blvd. Suite 100
Stafford, TX 77477

Weekly Meetings

Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m.

Sweetwater Country Club

Sugar Land, Texas

Officers 2004-2005

President

Jerry Hurst (291)499-2310

President-Elect

Norma Reyna (281)980-2076

Secretary

Lydia Bourg (281)238-3543

Treasurer

Kay Parker (713)260-5230

Immediate Past President

Scott McClintic (281)491-5260

Directors

Alicia Marra (281)565-0265

Jim Kij (281)265-6128

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Keeping the Faith in Exchange



Photos by Larry Pullen

President's Message:

It seemed like every time I turned around recently, there was somebody making a proclamation on behalf of the Exchange Club of Sugar Land. In fact, in a strange twist of irony, for those of you who were there on Friday night for the Spaghetti Cook-off, even Missouri City weighed in with a proclamation with respect to what we do for the broader communities of East Fort Bend County, and how we raise the money to do it.

Mayor Wallace started this ball rolling with a proclamation making February "**Freedom Month**" and acknowledging what the Exchange Club of Sugar Land was, is, and will be doing to promote the cause of freedom in our community. Accepting for the Exchange Club are "**Doc**" **Murdock**, representing the traveling Vietnam Wall, **Mike Flory and Brenda Robinson**, representing the Trails to Texas Independence Freedom Shrine, and I represented the Exchange Club and the National Freedom Shrine.



Later, at the Spaghetti Cook-off, he presented to me on behalf of the Exchange Club another proclamation extolling the importance of our 18th annual spaghetti supper fundraiser as the primary means by which we raise awareness and funds for doing the things we do so well: Americanism, recognition of youth, community service, and the prevention of child abuse.

Proclamations are nice – it is wonderful to be recognized for what we as a club do. But ... we would do it anyway, with or without the proclamations, and I firmly believe that. In fact, unless I missed something along the way, I have been in this club for over 9 years and these are the first proclamations we have received, and nobody was holding back, waiting for the citizens of Fort Bend to pat us on the back. So, let us thank our civic leaders for recognizing the fact that we "excel" at doing the work of Exchange, and let us invite them to join us in any and all future endeavors to "have fun, doing good."

And with respect to expressing thanks, let me make a "**Proclamation of Thanks**" to:

"Doc" Murdock, for his relentless pursuit of bringing *The Wall that Heals* to our community. He will never know how many hearts were touched by family and friends being able to touch and be touched by that Vietnam Memorial wall.

Clark Walter, for leading us through another successful Spaghetti fundraiser. The energy and entertainment levels seemed higher than before, and I commend him for guiding the club through this major event.

Dave Kiger, for his enthusiastic if somewhat damp leadership at the Rodeo Parade this past Saturday. He well-represented our club amidst the presence of the National Exchange Club President Jerry Defeo and his First Lady. I think the Gulf Coast District was well-represented but even more so the Exchange Club of Sugar Land who had several spaghetti-sauce stained members there to **giveakidaflagtowave** – even in the rain.

Truly, I salute each one and each of you who helped them out in their specific responsibilities. Thank you all for ...

keeping the faith in Exchange!

Jerry Hurst,
pastor prez

The Exchange Club of Sugar Land



CPS RELEASES FINAL NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE IN 2004:

1,885

The growing number of child abuse cases in Ft. Bend county makes our efforts to create a Healing Field even more important.

We looked for a reduction to the 1669 cases of child abuse reported in Fort Bend in 2003, but our hopes proved in vain. We announced that our field would be more than 1500 hoping for fewer cases in 2004. Unfortunately its not only gone up but gone up by a huge 13% to 1885!

James Lebeck, the Program Director of Fort Bend CPS, gave an insightful presentation at our first March meeting into the workings of Child Protective Services. With his confirmation of the number of flags in our Healing Field at 1885, about 15 members collected near the Methodist Hospital for a news conference.



Photos by Bob and June Dempsey

Mayor Wallace addressed the media (l-r) James Heitzenrater, Hope Montgomery, Jim Lockwood, Jake Messinger, Amy Mitchell, Burke Randolph and Sue Lockwood

Special guests joining us at the conference included James Heitzenrater from the Methodist Hospital, Lynda Topp from CPS Child Welfare Board, Rita Drabek founding member of the Rainbow Room, and Hope Montgomery from Child Advocates of Fort Bend.

Both Lynda Topp and Rita Drabek presented underwriting checks to Michael Cole our event chair.



Michael Cole receives a \$5000 underwriting check from Lynda Topp of the CPS Child Welfare Board.

Local 2 News and Channel 11 both aired coverage of our Healing Field news conference. Channel 2 aired a feature piece on several broadcasts. **Sue Lockwood** is doing a great job of raising awareness in the community for our event. Way to go Sue.

We now need everyone's participation to follow through to make this project as successful as Spaghetti. **Greg Oelfke** greg@oelfke.com and **Brenda Robinson** brendar143@aol.com need help to contact local organizations for flag sales. If you have any involvement with local organizations please contact Greg or Brenda so we can make a connection. **Lydia Bourg** lbourg@omsi.net has sign up sheets for volunteers. People are needed for weekday evening and Saturdays starting next Tuesday March 8th to help check the 1300 flags delivered from our sister club in Jefferson Parish Louisiana. We also need to start signing up people for the event itself especially for **Friday April 1st** when we layout the field and post the majority of the flags. Please contact Lydia and get your name on the list.

If you haven't bought your flag yet don't forget to go on line today at www.ecsl.org to get your very own \$25 flag you can use time and time again to show your patriotism by posting it in your front yard.

Michael Cole, Event Chair
713 408-6363
mdcole@consultiques.com

New Member Richard Tisch hosts Underwriting Auction for The Healing Field

Richard Tisch will host a live auction at CigarCigar, 2581 Town Center North, located between Old Navy and Barnes and Nobel on Friday March 11, at 7:00 p.m. We need your help locating items for the auction. If you have any items to donate or contacts of people to approach. Please contact Richard Tisch



mycigarcigar@yahoo.com

Houston Rodeo Parade



Photo by Drake Cameron

Jerry DeFeo, President of the National Exchange Club, joined fellow Houston District Exchangites pass out American Flags on Saturday, Feb 26th. It was a somewhat cold and rainy morning, but the Spirit of Americanism and Exchange made the parade route glow with enthusiasm. Fellow Exchangites from the Heights, Galleria, Pearland, Bellaire, Hobby, Memorial, Fort Bend, Katy, Angleton, 1960, along with 22 Sugar Landers, spouses and kids, teamed up to pass out about 16000 flags. Another great team effort on the part of our club, right on the heels of Spaghetti, to help pull off a super good District Exchange Americanism event for the Houston Metro area. Thanks to all who came out in the rain.

Dave Kiger, Giveakidaflagtowave Chair

The Exchange Club of Sugar Land

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SERVICE TO SENIORS



3/4 Help seniors celebrate their birthdays at the 5th Street Community Center in Stafford. Contact: **Mary Jo Salvaggio** 713 789-3314 mjsalvagio@netzero.net

LIGHT OF HOPE



4/1 6:30 The Light of Hope ceremony presented by Friends of Child Advocates of Fort Bend County and The Exchange Club of Sugar Land will take place on Friday evening, April 1, 2005, at Sugar Land City Hall in Town Center.

HEALING FIELD



4/2 10:00 am—5:00 PM

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Exchange Club of Sugar Land will create a Child Abuse Healing Field of over 1,885 flags. The flags will represent reported cases of child abuse in 2004 in Ft. Bend County. Contact: **Michael Cole** 713 408-6363 mdcole@consultiques.com

CAR SEAT CHECK



4/27 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Texas Children's Hospital and ECSL will conduct a "Car Seat Check" at Babies R Us, Sugar Land. Exchangites are needed to "hold babies" while trained technicians check cars seats and instruct parents on correct installation and suitability of their car seats. If the seat is unsafe, it will be replaced with a new seat free of charge! Contact: **David Newell** 281 238-3205 dnewell@co.fort-bend.tx.us

BLUE RIBBON COMPETITION



The Exchange Club of Sugar Land also promotes a "Blue Ribbon Competition" among FBISD schools. **Nancy Castellvi**, Competition Chair, works with **Jan Schiff**, FBISD Volunteer Coordinator to give each participating school 100 yards of blue ribbon. The school supplements the ribbon with additional materials and the children's creativity to decorate the school's front yard. The display remains up for the month of April. The top three schools receive cash prizes from funds donated by the Board of Child Protective Services and the ECSL.

Spaghetti Dinner

Wow! It was an honor for me to chair such a successful event as our Spaghetti Cook-off 2005. Preliminary figures show that we served over 1,500 people and netted over \$100,000.00 for our community service work for next year! Norma will have a great reign as next year's president because of the efforts of all of you. Thank you all for your hard work. **Clark Walter**



Silent auction was a big success thanks to Chairperson **Norma Reyna**. The computer program designed by **Pat Welsh** made bidding and check-out a breeze!



Children's area Chair **Linda Newsome-Johnson** gave kids an evening of fun with puppet shows, games and even a clown doing magic tricks!



Photos by Larry Pullen

Congressman Tom DeLay stepped in as auctioneer to help Chair **Burke Randolph** with the live auction. All in all it was a wonderful night of fun, food and entertainment.



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS:

Title Sponsor:

Bill Heard Chevrolet

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Seismic Ventures, Inc., Faye Dettling Campaign Fund, Freed Advertising, Sterling Bank Fort Bend

The Exchange Club of Sugar Land

The Vietnam Veterans Wall



Photo by Larry Pullen

Over 3,000 people visited the Vietnam Veteran's Traveling Wall last weekend as it stood proudly in front of Sugar Land City Hall in remembrance of the armed forces personnel who lost their lives in the Vietnam war.

Special thanks to **Doc Murdock, Mike Flory and Marita Pratt** for all their hard work in bringing the wall to Sugar Land.

The sponsors who made this possible were: **The Exchange Club of Sugar Land, City of Sugar Land, Bill Heard Chevrolet, Early, McClintic and McMillan, Matera Paper, Marriott Hotels, Pappa La Rosa Flying Pizza and Restaurant, Community Planned Partners, Marion, Montgomery Inc., Fort Bend Publishing, Vineyard on the Square and Home Depot.**



March Birthdays

Linda Lupro, **Donnell Cooper**,
Bob Dempsey, Don Burns, **Leslie Vyoral**,
Patty Hoelker, Louis Garvin, **Mike Flory**,
Brenda Pullen

David "Doc" Murdock

Youth Recognition



Photo by Larry Pullen

Citizen Of The Month

January 2005

Sugar Land Middle School

Adrienne Tate

Adrienne Tate (age 14) was honored January 26th by **The Exchange Club of Sugar Land** as Citizen of the Month. She is an eighth grader who is in the gifted and talented program and is a straight "A" student. She is a member of the SLMS volleyball team and is a cheerleader. She has been accepted into the Hightower Medical/Science Academy.

Exchange Club of Sugar Land website

www.ecsl.org



[Texas Gulf Coast District](http://www.texasgulfcoastexchange.org)

www.texasgulfcoastexchange.org

[National Exchange](http://www.nationalexchangeclub.org)

www.nationalexchangeclub.org

News from National

S.E.E.

Share the Exchange Experience

Share the Exchange Experience by recruiting at least one new member during the month of March. The program will run from March 1-31, 2005 with prizes available for all members, all new members, all clubs and all districts! Any member recruited during this period will count towards prizes because when Exchange grows, we all win!

For more information on how you can play, win great prizes and Share the Exchange Experience, download the [S.E.E. booklet](#) in Adobe PDF. Once you've played and recruited many new members, be sure to fill out the [S.E.E. Report form](#) by March 31, 2005 to qualify for club and district prizes.

News from District

The Mid Winter Educational Conference led by District President Elect, **Greg Oelfke**, Jan 29th, was a huge success.

Sugar Land attendees were **Mike Flory, Jim Kij, Kay Parker, Brenda Robinson, Jerry Hurst, Alicia Marra, Clark Walter, Dave Kiger, Amy Mitchell, Jake Messinger, and Ray Wathen.**

Our newsletter edited by **Sue Lockwood** won the District Award. Keep your fingers crossed for National.

Just a few bullets from Greg's "Membership Expansion & Retention" presentation.

Attract: Attend Social Mixers-Identify community leaders and companies.

Orientation: Proper introduction and orientation— First 90 days most important.

Involvement: Assign to club duties and committees-use member interest finder.

Retention: Educate—Involve-Interest-Socialize.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

District Convention will be held at the Flying L Ranch in Bandera, Texas May 13-15, 2005. Contact: **Greg Oelfke** greg@oelfke.com 713 988-0492

Crime Prevention Gala on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at the Sugar Land Marriott Hotel, 6:00 p.m. cocktails, 7:00 dinner, \$50 per person. Contact: **Ron Norsworthy** rnorsworthy1@houston.rr.com