

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

June 2001

Volume 24, Number 6

Summer is here!

Sam Stengler

The kids are out of school (or will be very soon), vacation and summer camp is just around the corner. Time to start anew, relax and take care of some things pushed aside during the busier times of autumn, winter and spring.

Summer is also the start of the new round of balloting for our neighborhood-wide effort to create the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO). Since most of you should by now be aware of what happened to our last effort (if not, please see the April 2001 *Gazette*, or call me at the number listed on the *Gazette* masthead), I'll focus now on the fun to come!

First off, the new GOMO ballots will be hitting your mailboxes any day now. These are *new* ballots, *superseding every ballot or survey that you have received in the past!* Those of you who have been generous enough to sign the previous ballot, we are counting on you to sign again. And, those of you who didn't get around to voting the last time, now is your chance!

We've even included a pre-stamped, self-addressed envelope for your convenience. Just vote, sign, stuff it into the envelope and put it in the nearest postbox. That's all there is to it. No notarizing necessary.

See GOMO Contest, Continued on page 7

Home Tour Showcases Neighborhood

Robert De Veau

From grandiose new construction to an original 1940's 2/1, this year's attendees were presented with a "full spectrum" tour of Garden Oaks on Sunday, April 1. There was no April Fool's joke as we were blessed with beautiful weather and record attendance. Tour attendees came from throughout the greater Houston area, Spring, Galveston, The Woodlands, Sugarland and Austin to get a glimpse of the charm that we have to offer. In addition to the many returning attendees (who have already booked their calendars for April 7th, 2002) were numerous first-timers who have heard about Houston's "best kept secret" through area newspapers, friends, co-workers and a featured spot on Channel 2's "Buzz Report" with Roseanne Rogers. Ms. Rogers toured one of the featured homes and interviewed committee member Tina Sabuco. Her segment aired on Friday evening and was repeated on Saturday before the Tour.

The weekend began on Saturday, March 31st with a preview of the Home & Gardens followed by a Sponsor Party held at the home of Dian Austin and Sandy Altman. Gathered under twinkling lights and serenaded by the smooth sounds of Jazz performed by students from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, home and garden owners, sponsors and guests took part of hors d'oeuvres and beverages. The highlight of the evening was the spirited bidding that took place during both a Silent Auction and a Live Auction. Led by Auction Chairperson Keith Kostelecky, party revelers outbid themselves to a record \$4,500. Items for bid ranged from a weekend in New Orleans to handcrafted Adirondack furniture to a pair of custom made boots donated by the boot maker to the President.

See Home Tour, Continued on page 11

Civic Club Meeting

*Tuesday,
June 5th*

The next Civic Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5th at 7:00 P.M. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room. For those of you with children, babysitting services, as always, will be provided.

A Big Thank You

Joe Muscara

I've used this space before to talk about volunteers. Well, talk about your volunteers! Many of you know Sheila Briones from her work in the community. Last month marked Sheila's final month as co-editor of the *Gazette*, ending a relationship with this publication that started well before I moved here. She has become one of two co-chairs of the Home Tour Committee, and from what I understand, that's nearly a full-time job itself.

I can't even begin to tell you what positions she's had and committees with whom she has worked. I can tell you that she has continually amazed me by how much she does. The only thing I haven't seen her do is be two places at once, but that would only be impossible for me, not, apparently, for her.

So before I get all blubbery and smear all of this ink in your *Gazettes*, let me just say Thank You Sheila, not only for all the work you did for the *Gazette*, but for the neighborhood, past, present, and future!

In light of this, there are a few new recruits we have on board to take up some of the tasks previously performed by Sheila. Warren Carlson and Ed deAlba both volunteered to proof-read the *Gazette* at about the same time, so I accepted both offers. I'll let them work it out (or duke it out...) between themselves if they want to alternate or coordinate their efforts. Thanks, guys, I'm sure I will enjoy working with you.

We also have a volunteer to write articles as sort of a 'roving reporter.' I don't want to put any pressure on her yet, so I'll leave her nameless for now. Hopefully you will see her contributions in upcoming *Gazettes*. Thanks, whoever you are!

Until next time, I'm

still the editor.

Classified Ads are \$15 per run for residents, and are for personal services only (yard sales, items for sale, infant care needed, etc.). Contact the Gazette Advertising Director for more information.

Join the Garden Oaks List Serv. It's easy, it's fun, and best of all, it's free. Just go to

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Houston_GO/join

Garden Club Officers

<i>President</i> Brenda deAlba	713 694 5934
<i>Vice President</i> Janet Cones	713 956 7340
<i>Secretary</i> Barbara Ballance	
<i>Treasurer</i> Tina Nieto	
<i>Yard of the Month</i> Holly Veech	
<i>Sunshine</i> Terry Jeanes	
<i>Phone Committee</i> Ann Hollis	

From the President

David Bell

I wanted to relate two news stories that have recently been in the public; one you have undoubtedly heard much about and another that may have escaped your attention. Both of these stories have pertinence to Garden Oaks.

The first story is about the widowed retiree in the Champions area who found herself at the butt end of a pernicious act committed by the homeowners association where she lived. It seems she had not paid one or more of the various levies assessed by the association and ultimately her home was foreclosed. After reading about the events in the papers and hearing the stories on TV and radio, I am still somewhat confused how the association was able to actually follow through with the foreclosure without any more effort to contact the woman than what was given. Their motive seemed to be even more flagrant. But, I will leave it to the courts to determine if any willful misconduct occurred. Since this story did receive so much coverage, I thought it would make sense to compare our proposed GOMO rules to the acts committed in Champions, and point out the stark differences.

In comparison, please note the GOMO

- **Cannot** levy any assessments or fees against homeowners;
- Will exist **only** to enforce the deed restrictions;
- Will have no authority or ability to file liens against homeowners' properties for non-payment of annual dues; and
- Cannot commence any foreclosure proceedings

In summary, there are no parallels between what happened in Champions and what is proposed for Garden Oaks. In contrast, what you will have is an organization comprised of homeowners from each section, operating in the public view, dedicated to enforcing our deed restrictions. Nothing else.

The other story I referenced above is from our neighbors just to our west in Oak Forest and Candlelight Estates. It seems a developer is proposing to develop some land to the north of Oak Forest at the end of Rosslyn Road. For the development to be successful, he needs to have Rosslyn extended with a bridge across a drainage ditch where it currently terminates; something both residential areas are actively protesting. The homeowners have rallied in large numbers, actively protesting to the Mayor's office with hopes the Mayor will per-

sonally intervene to cease the bridge discussion. I have not heard the final outcome. You may wonder what has this to do with Garden Oaks. The reason I mention it is that it is a vivid reminder of what can be accomplished with enough support. When the entire community rallies about a cause and takes action, remarkable results can be achieved. We need the same in Garden Oaks. By the time this article is read, efforts will have begun again to obtain the necessary signatures to create the GOMO. Garden Oaks needs your active and willing support to complete the mission. You need to sign the ballot when it comes, send it back to the designated source, and help to make sure your neighbor does the same.

Garden Oaks Elementary Receives Texas Successful School Award

Jeannie Daniels, Principal

We have cause to celebrate! Garden Oaks Elementary has received a State of TEXAS SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL Award! Our school received approximately \$5,000 from the State along with a beautiful certificate to display. To qualify for this Award, a school must demonstrate "the highest levels of sustained success or the greatest improvement in achieving State education goals." The school must also be in the top 25% of a group of 100 Texas schools closest in student demographics, AND have few students exempted from taking the TAAS. Garden Oaks has been State Recognized on numerous occasions, HISD Recognized and Exemplary, and listed by Texas Monthly Magazine as one of the State's top 100 schools. We are proud to be among the best!

Next year Garden Oaks will be offering After-school Programs for all students to include, among others: (Parent and) Student Spanish Classes, Drama, Art, Academic Clubs, Music and Instruments, Dance, and other choices. Watch the summer *Gazette* for more information on this topic. The classes will be offered from 3:00 - 6:00 daily on campus.

Finally, it is my great pleasure to serve as Principal of Garden Oaks Elementary. My thanks to our great neighborhood and Civic Club for all the support you provide us. Please feel free to visit your neighborhood school. Enrollment for next year begins August 1st, from 8-12:00 noon daily. Hope to see you soon!



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Minutes Of May 1, 2000 Civic Club Meeting

Amy Shaughnessy, Secretary

Vice-President Stacey Park called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A motion was made and seconded to accept the April minutes as published.

Officer Reports

Treasurer: Cherry Wolfarth distributed the financial report, which included preliminary Home Tour figures. Cherry reported that the Civic Club has funds to pay for the Constable Program for four more months.

Guest Presentation

Pastor Tom Moffett of The NET Church was scheduled to speak, but cancelled.

Committee Reports

Membership: Chair Michael Froebel was not present and the report was given by Cherry Wolfarth. Currently we have 216 paid Civic Club members. To join the Civic Club or for more information, contact Michael Froebel at 713-683-8914. There was again no report on the Senior Helpers. For more information or to get involved with the Senior Helpers, contact Sharon Lauder at 713-862-3747.

Beautification: Rick Grochoske reported that the Beautification committee has had several good workdays recently. The plans for the park at 30th and Randall have been completed and will go out for bids. Work should begin around September 1st with a tentative completion by Christmas. For more information or to join the Beautification Committee, contact Rick Grochoske at 713-864-8164.

GOCOP: Carl Waters reported that last month there were three crimes against people, rather than property, in Garden Oaks, which is a disturbing trend. Carl presented rewards for hours patrolled to two sets of patrollers. GOCOP Patrollers are still needed - contact Carl at 713-864-1992 for more information on becoming a GOCOP.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes announced that there will be revisions made to the form in the *Gazette* to allow people to sign up for the Constable Program and pay what they feel they can afford. Contact Chair Terry Jeanes at 713-680-8550 for more information or to participate in the Constable Program.

GardenOaks.org: Sheila Briones reported a meeting on May 15 at 7 p.m. at 3309 Lawrence for anyone interested in helping with information or layout of the Web page. To volunteer to help with the Web page, contact James Cobb at 713-686-4578 or Sheila Briones at 713-861-8091.

Gazette: The deadline for the June *Gazette* is May 15. Sheila Briones is stepping down as Assistant Editor and Joe is looking for someone to help him proofread each *Gazette* and coordinate the calendar. Contact Joe Muscara at 713-691-6833 for information or to submit an article. Contact Advertising Director Holly Veech at 713-263-8659 to place an ad in the *Gazette*. If you are experiencing problems with delivery of your *Gazette*, contact Delivery Coordinator Willie Stollenwerck at 713-695-0721.

Home Tour: Co-Chair Mike Caldwell announced that the 2001 Home Tour made

nearly \$14,000.00, which is a substantial increase over last year. The committee is now looking for homes for the 2002 tour – contact Mike Caldwell at 713-697-8690 if you know of a home that the selection committee should see. There are still open positions on the committee – contact Mike Caldwell or Sheila Briones at 713-861-8091 to volunteer. The 2002 Home Tour will take place on April 7, 2002. Mike announced the following proposed breakdown for the distribution of the Home Tour proceeds:

- 15% - Beautification Committee for sign restoration and additional signs for our parks
- 15% - Civic Club general fund
- 40% - GOMO for reballoting expenses
- 15% - 2002 Home Tour start-up expenses
- 10% - Garden Oaks Elementary to use at their discretion
- 5% - Garden Club

These will be voted on at the June Civic Club meeting.

Garden Club: Ed de Alba announced the next Garden Club meeting will be May 10 at 915 W. 41st and the speaker will be the Backyard Gardener on composting. Contact Garden Club President Brenda de Alba at 713-694-5934 for more information.

GOMO: GOMO Chair Sam Stengler announced a meeting at Kroger on 43rd at 7 p.m. on May 9. The new petition will be filed in mid-May and we need to determine a plan of attack for getting the ballots distributed and collected. The goal is to have all ballots returned by July 15. The new amendment and ballot will be available at the June Civic Club meeting. Treasurer Cherry Wolfarth expressed concern over the funding for the re-balloting campaign. For more information on GOMO status or to volunteer, call the hotline number at 713-341-3737 or GOMO Chair Sam Stengler at 281-773-3478.

Old Business: Shannon Thompson announced a meeting for the Fall Fling at 7 p.m. on May 8 at the Kroger on 43rd. The next meeting will be June 12. The tentative date for the fling is October 14, 2001.

A question was raised about the lack of progress on the sound wall. Stacey Park said she would try to have an update at the June Civic Club meeting.

New Business: Joan Harmon announced that the Spark Park at Garden Oaks Elementary will be renamed Rick Englert Park and the dedication will be May 18 at 2 p.m. Garden Oaks residents are encouraged to attend the ceremony. She asked the Civic Club to fund the cost of the sign and landscaping, about \$1500.00. A motion was made and seconded that the money be approved.

Ed de Alba proposed that if the funds for the Constable Program fall below a two-month cushion, that cancellation of the program be initiated. This topic will be up for discussion at the June Civic Club meeting; if this is a concern of yours, please make every effort to attend on June 5th at 7 p.m. at Garden Oaks Elementary.

Stacey Park stated that a day care/art studio that was going to set up business in Garden Oaks has decided to relocate to avoid violating our deed restrictions, after Stacey spoke to the owner. Just a reminder that our deed restrictions are still in place and need to be enforced by all of us.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Refreshments for the meeting were graciously provided by Terry Jeanes, REMAX/Metro.

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Citizens on Patrol

Carl Waters, Jr.

The plant thieves are back in the neighborhood. Reports have been received of rose bush thefts from the Esplanade Park on Garden Oaks Blvd. on May 12th and a large decorative plant was stolen from the lit front porch of a resident living in the 500 block of W. Thirty-first St. between midnight and sunup on May 14th.

Start to plan now for your National Night Out Block party on Tuesday, August 7th. You can set your own hours, but generally the recommended starting time is 7:00 p.m.

March Crime stats (7)

Rape (2)

For the privacy of the victims, I will only report that one incident occurred on March 8th in Section 1 and the second occurred on March 29th in section 3. The incidents were reported to have occurred between 3:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Robbery (1)

1000 block of W. Forty-second St. on March 4th at 8:00 a.m. (residence).

Burglary (1)

900 block of W. Forty-first St. on March 22nd at 7:30 a.m. (residence).

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (1)

200 block of W. Thirty-fourth St. on March 29th at 8:30 p.m. (driveway).

Auto Theft (1)

1000 block of W. Forty-second St. on March 29th at 7:00 p.m. (street).

Driving While Intoxicated (1)

3000 block of N. Shepherd on March 25th at 11:20 p.m. (street).

Please contact me via the Internet at GOCOP77018@AOL.com or call me at 713-864-1992 for details about joining our program.

Emergency Contact Numbers

**CALL THESE FIRST - THEN CALL ME TO REPORT NEIGHBORHOOD
CRIMES**

Crimes in progress, Fire or Ambulance	911
Houston Police Department (non-emergency)	713-222-3131
Precinct One Constable Dispatch	713-755-5200

GOMO Contest, Continued from page 1

There will be signs on most of the neighborhood street corners throughout the month of June and into July, just as a reminder to open that ballot and vote. Also, several progress signs will be erected at a few strategic points in the neighborhood to show our progress in getting the votes counted.

The most exciting part is that we've also organized a little set of three contests. This is a chance for lucky property owners to win a bit of pocket money by quickly returning your signed and completed ballot to us.

The first contest will start the minute you receive your ballot in the mail. Open it, vote, and return it in the supplied stamped envelope. All returns postmarked as of June 15, 2001 will be put into a 'hat' (ok, it'll be a large Coleman© cooler) to await the July Civic Club meeting. There, five lucky GOMO voters (one voter per neighborhood section) will have their ballots drawn and each receive a check for \$200.00 dollars!

The second contest will end about two weeks later than the first, on June 29, 2001. All completed ballots postmarked by that date will be put into another 'hat', along with *everyone* from the first contest. Again, at the July Civic Club meeting, another set of five winners (one from each neighborhood section) will be drawn, and each of the lucky five will receive a \$300.00 check! WoW!

But, wait, there's more! The last contest will include all ballots from the previous two contests, as well as any ballot received at the July Civic Club meeting before the first drawing begins. This single, neighborhood-wide, lucky property owner will receive a check for \$500.00!! YEA!!!

O.K., enough exuberance. These prizes are just the Deed Restrictions Committee's way of saying 'Thank You!' for casting your vote. So please, in order to cash in, both with a cash prize, *and* by creating a dedicated Deed Restrictions enforcement body for Garden Oaks, fill out and sign your ballot just as soon as you receive it, and mail it back to us. You, and your neighbors, will be glad you did!

Contest Rules: Except for Contest #3, you *must* return your signed, completed ballot in the envelope provided with the ballot. Except for Contest #3, all ballots must be postmarked by the dates in the rules below for each contest. For Contest #3, any ballot received by 5 PM Central Daylight Time at the Post Office Box or Address printed or written on the enclosed return envelope, or hand-delivered to the Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting before the start of the drawing for Contest #1, will be eligible. Entries must be in the form of a signed and completed ballot from a valid property owner(s) of property(ies) within the Garden Oaks neighborhood to enter and win. All 'Yes', 'No', 'For', and 'Against' votes are eligible to enter and win in each contest, subject to the rules of each individual contest below. Prize winners do NOT have to be present at the July Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting to win.

Contest #1: All signed and completed ballots received at the Post Office box or address printed on the enclosed return envelope, and postmarked no later than June 15, 2001, will be eligible for one of five (5) cash prizes of \$200.00, each prize to be awarded to one voting property owner of each of the five (5) sections of Garden Oaks.

Contest #2: All signed and completed ballots received at the Post Office box or address printed on the enclosed return envelope, and postmarked no later than June 29, 2001, in addition to all completed and signed ballots from contest #1, will be eligible for one of five (5) cash prizes of \$300.00, each prize to be awarded to one voting property owner of each of the five (5) sections of Garden Oaks.

Contest #3: All signed and completed ballots received for Contest #1 and Contest #2 above, as well as any signed and completed ballots received as described in the first Contest Rules paragraph above, will be eligible to win a single cash prize of \$500.00.

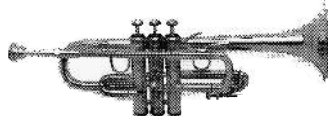
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Garden Project

Mark Saranie

When looking through gardening magazines it is difficult not to covet the many bits of garden art being highlighted. A body can go too deep into this sort of investment but it sure makes a garden look great. Things hanging on the fence create a wonderful dimension to the backyard and those pricey black iron hooks can take a toll on the pocket.

This is where recycling comes in. We all collect hundreds of wire hangers from the cleaners, right? They slowly grow in the closet until there is no room for clothes. I use lengths of this wire to use as a miniature dibble for seeds, a sweetly curved and bent piece helps pat down potting soil in small pots, long connected lengths hold hanging pots. I had tried using hanger wire to hang clay pots but the different ways I tried failed, until now. And what a great solution it proved to be.

The length of the wire is up to you but I found that the bottom portion of the hanger is sufficient and becomes nearly invisible once the project is complete. The neat thing about the gauge of hanger wire is that it can take the weight of up to a 12" clay pot and then some. Anything larger and the pots' own weight will cause the pot to break.

This is what you need: clay pots, soil, plants, wire hangers, wire cutters, needle nose pliers, a cordless or conventional drill, and masonry bits. Using a masonry bit slightly larger in diameter than the hanger wire, drill two holes about one to one and a half-inch apart under the rim collar of the pot. Using a bit 3/8" to 1/2" in diameter, drill an additional drainage hole in the bottom of the pot opposite the two small holes. Drenching the parts of the pots with water prior to drilling makes this a much easier and dust-free task.

Bend the length of wire in half and then bend about an inch of each end to a ninety-degree angle. Insert these ends from the inside of the pot and bend the ends up so that the hook will not fall out. After you have the amount of pots you need for your display, screw a 1 3/4" screw for each pot into the fence at a 45-degree angle. Transplant your posies or whatever your heart desires and hang the pots. My first project of this type is currently sporting nasturtiums, a plant I usually kill with kindness. They are doing great with all the neglect I bestow upon them. Good luck.

Garden things for June

- Last chance to prune those azaleas. Mid month is the deadline. Azaleas start setting next years buds soon so if you did not do this back in May and you wanted to prune your shrubs, do not delay.
- Fertilize your color beds with a balanced fertilizer.
- If any summer plants are still waiting for a home in your garden, June is still relatively gentle with the heat, so get these guys planted and watered in well.

Make Soy a Smart Part of Your Diet

Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD

Today, Americans are looking for foods that have been fortified with healthy ingredients. In our busy lives, we want to get the most bang for our buck. Soy-related foods fit into this category. Asian countries have been consuming soy for centuries. Scientific studies show lower incidences of bone fractures, cardiovascular disease, certain types of cancer, and menopausal symptoms in many Asian countries when compared to the United States. This article will summarize 10 reasons soy is a smart addition to your diet.

1. Soy isoflavones, the plant's estrogens, have been of interest to researchers because of the potential effects of soy protein on hormone-dependent cancers as well as other cancers.
2. Soybeans are high in fatty acids, including omega-6's and omega-3's, which may reduce the risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer. This is a great way to get in your omega-3's if you don't eat fish three times per week.
3. Soy products are rich in plant estrogens which studies show may alleviate menopausal symptoms, including hot flashes.
4. Soy products contain genistein, a natural plant estrogen, that research has shown may protect against breast cancer. The incidence rate of breast cancer in Asian countries where they consume significantly more soy foods is five to eight times lower than in the US.
5. Soy is the only vegetable food considered to be a complete protein. It contains all 8 essential amino acids. This means it is equivalent to meat products as far as protein content.
6. Soybeans contain more protein than milk and contain little saturated fat and no cholesterol.
7. Consumption of a diet containing 25 grams of soy protein, as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may reduce the risk of heart disease by lowering LDL cholesterol.
8. Some studies on soy show that isoflavones may help slow down bone loss and possibly increase bone mineral density associated with menopause.
9. Additionally, researchers have identified that soy's phytoestrogens have other cardiovascular disease risk reduction effects such by decreasing diastolic blood pressure and beneficial effects have been shown in blood vessel elasticity and plaque size reduction.
10. They taste yummy!

Now you say, "That's great, but I am not eating tofu!" You are in luck; soy products have come a long way in the past few years. Industry experts expect an increase in soy related foods by 20% per year for the next few years. Here are a

See Soy, Continued on page 12

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Powers of GOMO

Sam Stengler

Many of you have either read in the paper, or seen on television, the reports about the property owner in the Champions area that had her home foreclosed on by her neighborhood's Property Owners' Association (POA) for failing to pay her dues. This action has resulted in the loss of all of the equity that she had in the property, as well as the loss of the property itself.

While some validity may be given to placing at least some blame on all of the parties in this unfortunate incident, one party has certainly come into the 'lion's share' of scrutiny and disapprobation. That party is the Champions Community Improvement Association (CCIA) with their decision to foreclose on that property.

The ability for a POA, such as the CCIA, to assess fees and dues, and foreclose on a homeowners' property for non-payment of those fees and dues, is embodied in Texas State law. The fees/dues money is used to fund the activities of the POA, and the power to foreclose can be used to compel payment of those fees and dues, as well as an 'ultimate' threat to enforce the POA's rules and the neighborhood's deed restrictions.

So, what does this have to do with Garden Oaks?

As many of you are aware, the Deed Restrictions Committee of the Garden Oaks Civic Club is leading an effort to create a deed restrictions enforcement body to replace the old Board of Trustees. This enforcement body will be a POA, and will be called the "Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization", or GOMO, for short.

Several of you have expressed concern, even alarm, over the creation of an organization of which so many horrible stories (like the one above) have been circulated. You have asked me whether GOMO, as a POA, would be able to foreclose on a property for nonpayment of yearly/quarterly dues or fees.

The short answer to this question is "No!"

Here's why:

The specific legislation (Chapters 204 and 201 of the Texas Property Code) that we are using to create GOMO spells out the powers that CAN be granted to such an organization. We have been careful, in our petition to create GOMO, to grant to GOMO only a limited set of powers for assessing dues or fees. Our end result is that GOMO will *not* have the ability to assess periodic mandatory fees/dues/assessments from Garden Oaks property owners. In other words, there will be no yearly, quarterly, or other 'periodic' mandatory fees/dues that Garden Oaks property owners will have to pay.

The only monies that GOMO will be empowered to collect will be a one-time, purchaser-paid 'Special Assessment' at closing, and a *voluntary* assessment that can be requested from Garden Oaks property owners from time to time (keep reading for more...).

Once you receive your GOMO ballot in the mail, you can read for yourself the proposed amendment to the GO Deed Restrictions (Amendment A). The amendment states (Section 3) that the 'Special Assessment' is the *only mandatory* assessment that GOMO will be allowed to collect, once GOMO has been created. This 'Special Assessment' will be collected by the escrow or closing agent, title company or other person conducting the sales closing of a property (called a 'Parcel' in the amendment), with the exception of a parcel changing hands because of the death of the owner, or by a divorce decree.

The collection of the 'Special Assessment' will not begin for a section of Garden Oaks until that section has approved the creation of GOMO.

The operating costs of GOMO will come entirely from the 'Special Assessment', with the addition of any *voluntary* assessment (meaning the property owners are under no legal obligation to pay it, and no lien may be put on a property whose owner chooses not to pay it) that GOMO may ask for in the future.

That's it. One mandatory assessment, paid upon sale closing, one time. No yearly dues, and no quarterly or annual fees, and with that, no threat of foreclosure for not paying.

If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to call me at 281-773-3478, or email at [sstengler@pdq.net](mailto:ssstengler@pdq.net).

A Word of Thanks

Darla and Trey Englert

Trey and I have been truly blessed by the outpouring of cards, food, flowers, and contributions to Trey's Educational Fund. Many of you Trey and I never had the privilege of knowing as Rick touched the lives of so many people. I think it is impossible for us to have known who all of you were unless we were Rick himself!

There is no way that Trey and I can express to all of you how much it has meant to us to have your love and support. Unfortunately between the Funeral Home, Church, and confusion at our home during our loss, we do not know some of you and more importantly do not know how to contact you to convey our appreciation.

We, therefore, hope that you will realize how much your thoughts and prayers have meant to us during this time. It is always wonderful to know that your friends and family are there for you but all the comfort we received and continue to receive from so many is something that we will never forget! It is our hope that if you are reading this you will tell others so they will know that no one was intentionally forgotten or missed, we just don't know how to reach you.

[Editor's Note: The Spark Park at Garden Oaks Elementary was officially dedicated as "Rick Englert Park" on Friday, May 18th in memory of Rick Englert, Garden Oaks resident and friend.]

GOMO Voting Section

Captains

Sam Stengler

Section 1 - Mary Tyler Martinez	713 681 3913
Section 1A - James King	713 426 1607
Section 2 - We need YOU!	
Section 3 - David Bell	713 694 5016
Section 4 - Steve Powell	713 686 6503
Section 5 - Shelly Immel	713 688 4681
John Evans	713 688 1528
All Sections - Sam Stengler	281 773 3478

Home Tour, Continued from page 1

On Sunday, attendees were spirited around the neighborhood to view seven homes and three gardens on Metro Trolleys, underwritten by METRO. Each of the homes featured stunning floral arrangements donated by Alfred's Times Square Flowers, Darlene's Flowers and Gifts, Flowertime, Heights Floral, Jan's Flowers, John's Flowers & Antiques and Mark Anthony Florist. Two corporate sponsors generously underwrote this year's event: AES-Houston Carrier, Inc. and Shannon & Associates, Inc. In addition, eleven Platinum and ten Gold Sponsors also helped underwrite the Tour.

The list of individuals to thank is long and I would probably inadvertently forget someone. In lieu, allow me to issue a huge "Thank You" to all of the Home and Garden owners who graciously participated; the committee members who worked tirelessly; the volunteers who gave up their time; and the many donors. Each of you has made this year's Tour a success. I am pleased to announce that net profits will be just under \$14,000 after we have paid the few remaining outstanding bills. That's an increase of \$5,000 from last year! The Tour could never take place without the collaborative effort of folks who are proud to call Garden Oaks home.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of next year's Home Tour - Sunday, April 7th - please contact the 2002 Home & Garden Co-Chair, Sheila Briones at (713) 861-8091. If you would like to have your home or garden featured, or would like to suggest a home or garden, contact Co-Chair Mike Caldwell at (713) 697-8690.

May Yard of the Month

The Berryman Residence at

1514 Sue Barnett

Congratulations!

Cornices—Think Outside the Box

Susan Kostelecky, Window Fashions Certified Professional

Cornices are a great option for a window treatment valance. Many people think of cornices as just a plain box of wood covered in fabric. Structurally, this is true; decoratively, it doesn't have to be!

Cornices are a great way to showcase a fabric that you love. Since they are generally flat, a medium to large print becomes a focal point. However, you are not limited to a print or even a single fabric.

Shapes and Trim

Shaped cornices add interest and movement to a window treatment. The top can be arched, and the bottom can be shaped as well. Contrast cording at the top and bottom accentuates the curved lines of the cornice, and can coordinate with drapery panels underneath. The cording can be custom made from one of your selected fabrics, or can be a purchased twist cord or even a tassel fringe. Purchased cording or fringe is available in many solid colors and color combinations. Trim can really accentuate your treatment and add pizzazz. Now your cornice has both a nice shape and interesting details.

Layers

Cornices can be softened even more, with the basic box (shaped or not) as the base, and layers applied to it. Perhaps your living room is navy and taupe. You have some green in your artwork and your moldings and trim work are off-white. Your window treatment can bring all of this together and unify your colors. You have one large window facing the front yard and want some interest, color, softness and the ability to close the treatment at night for privacy.

A cornice in a navy, taupe and green print, with cording in taupe, contrasts well with the navy walls. The taupe cording is a definite contrast against the paint, while coordinating with the trim work. The fabric and style work with your furniture and art. To soften the look, add some taupe swags to the face of the cornice, with a small double tassel hanging from the center of the cornice, where the swags meet. The taupe swags keep the large navy, taupe and green print on the cornice from being too busy or overwhelming the room. The taupe and green tassel adds a pretty detail and coordinates with your chosen colors. You have softness, interest, color and detail, now you'd like a little privacy.

Privacy

There are many choices to meet your need for privacy at night, and also to provide light control during the day. You can add drapery panels on a traversing rod underneath the cornice. These can be drawn open during the day, as you prefer, and closed during the heat of the afternoon or at night while watching television. The panels could be in the taupe of the swags if you prefer something a little more neutral. A navy banding could be added for detail running down the leading edge of the drapery panels. For a bolder look, the panels could be in green, giving you another strong color to use for pillows, table runners, etc. in the room. It is important not to overwhelm the room, so consider the size of the room and the amount of furniture and open space you have to work with.

Other alternatives for privacy and light control are shades or blinds. The honeycomb shades or wood blinds can be raised completely behind your new cornice, for a clear view outside to your landscaping and yard. They can then be lowered for privacy, as you prefer. If you want **some** privacy, consider sheers. This is a lighter look and feel than drapery panels, and offers some privacy and light control. Sheers soften the room but do not offer complete privacy. The sheers can be left closed, letting in light and some views, or drawn open to the sides, for a clear view and soft fabric framing the window.

For more information, call Susan Kostelecky at 713 697 4110.

Soy, Continued from page 9

few of my favorites. Next time you are at the grocery store pick one of them up: Boca burgers, Amy's Kitchen Tofu and Vegetable Lasagna, Luna Bars, Silk Soy Milk, Veggie Slices Cheese. Also, you can try this great soy recipe.

Soy & Spinach Quesadillas

- 2 whole-wheat tortillas
- 2 slices of Veggie Slice Pepper Jack cheese (produce section of the store)
- Guiltless Gourmet Black Bean Dip
- Fresh spinach
- Salsa

Spray skillet with Pam. Spread 1 T. of black bean dip on each tortilla. Layer 1 slice of soy cheese and spinach on one half of the tortilla. Fold the other half of the tortilla over and place in skillet on medium heat. Heat until cheese begins to melt and then flip quesadilla. Cook until the cheese is completely melted and edges of the tortilla begin to brown. Serve with salsa.

Yield: 2 servings; Serving size: 1 quesadilla
Per serving: 205 calories, 4.5 g fat, 10 g protein

Catherine Kruppa can be contacted at 713 316 2707, ckruppa@houstonian.com, or www.advice4eating.com.

Fall Festival

Amanda Dalton

Mark those calendars! The Garden Oaks Fall Festival will be held on October 21st in the Rick Englert Park. Get to know your fellow Garden Oaks residents while enjoying food, contests and activities for children of ALL ages, including our beloved seniors. Let's all celebrate fall together, as a neighborhood, with some good old-fashioned fun. A big thank you to Greenwood King Properties for underwriting the festival. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, please call Shannon Thompson at (713) 692-1042 or come to the next planning meeting June 12th in the upstairs room at Kroger.

Join the Club!

Michael Froebel

Just a reminder that it is never too late to help your neighborhood civic club, so continue to send in those membership forms with your payments. The money you contribute helps fund beautification projects, on-going maintenance of our parks, and other projects such as the push for the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization.

You may have already noticed that there is no membership insert this month. The reason for this is that we discovered that if we don't actually include it as a separate insert and instead include it as part of the actual *Gazette* we can save a great deal of money. This does however require a little extra work on your part. This means that to send in your membership form you will need to cut it out of the *Gazette*. For those of you that feel this is simply too much work, we will still include an insert in the December and January issues of the *Gazette*, since this is when the majority of the yearly dues are mailed. We will also have forms at every civic club meeting, which is the first Tuesday of almost every month. You can verify the date of the meeting each month by checking the calendar on the back of the *Gazette*.

You will see a few changes to the membership form this month that I would like to mention. As you all probably know membership dues, as well other neighborhood program dues, are not mandatory and the amounts listed on the forms are simply recommended contributions. Many residents have commented that they would like to contribute to one or more of the programs, but that they cannot currently afford the full amount. In an attempt to address these comments, we have included "Other" amounts on some of the line items. If you want to contribute a lesser or greater amount to a program, feel free to do so. If you want to send a little extra to one of your favorite programs or you can only send a little to another, feel free to change the amount listed and include your own personal contribution. Every dollar adds up and your contribution will be put to good use. We also moved the Garden Club to its own item. The reason for this is that although the Civic Club and the Garden Club have a strong relationship and the Garden Club does many wonderful things for the neighborhood, the Garden Club is not technically part of the Civic Club. The Garden Club has their own officers and manages their own finances. You may then ask, "Why is the Garden Club listed on the membership form?" Many residents were interested in contributing to the Garden Club, so the Civic Club agreed to take in contributions on their behalf and forward this money directly to the Garden Club dollar for dollar. The last change to the form is that the calendar year for which you are paying is now listed on the top of the form.

I want to thank all of those who have generously donated their time and/or money to Garden Oaks. Your contributions continue to make Garden Oaks one of Houston's treasures.

Home Tour Recommends Proceed Distribution

Home Tour Committee

The 2001 Home & Garden Tour Committee proposes that the net proceeds from this year's Tour be distributed as follows:

- 5% Garden Oaks Garden Club
- 10% Garden Oaks Elementary School
- 15% Beautification Committee – to be used for replacing neighborhood signage
- 15% Garden Oaks Civic Club General Fund
- 15% Home Tour Operation Fund Carryover
- 40% Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization

We urge the community to attend the June Civic Club Meeting and vote on this distribution.

June 2001

Heavy Trash

One Call Program
713 956 6589

Section 1 - June 12

South of 38th – June 5
(including 1A)

North of 38th to
South of 43rd – June 12

North of 43rd to
Chamboard - June 19

Recycling

North of West 43rd St.
Tuesday June 12 & 26

South of West 43rd St.
Tuesday June 5 & 19

Recycling Hotline
713 837 9130

“By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he’s wrong.”

- Charles Wadsworth

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Upcoming events Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, July 3 rd Neighbor’s Night Out Tuesday, August 7 th Fall Festival Sunday, October 21 st <i>Make sure your Civic Club committee meeting or event gets on the calendar! Email the editor at GOGazette@Mac.com with your information.</i>						1	2
3	4	5 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. G. O. Elem.	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12 Fall Festival Planning 7:00 P.M. Kroger	13 Deed Restrictions 7:00 P.M. Kroger	14 Garden Club 7:00 P.M. Joshua’s Native Plants Flag Day	15 Gazette Article Deadline	16	
17 Father’s Day	18	19	20	21 Summer Solstice	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

2001 Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Own Rent Section # _____

(A) Annual Dues

- Household \$20
- Senior Citizen \$5
- Business \$50

(B) Additional Program Support

- All Three Programs \$18
- Gazette \$7
- Citizens on Patrol \$7
- Beautification \$7

(C) Constable Patrol Program

- Annual Payment \$230
- Contact me about participating in the Monthly Debit Program
- Other Contribution \$ _____

(D) Gift to the Garden Club \$7 or other \$ _____

Total amount enclosed (A) _____ + (B) _____ + (C) _____ + (D) _____ = \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO

Garden Oaks Civic Club

Mail completed form and payment to

PO Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206