

GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

September 2001

Volume 24, Number 9

GOMO Balloting Has Begun!

Sam Stengler

The ballots for the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization vote are all finally out in the mail!

By the time you read this, the ballots will have been out for sections 1, 2 & 3 for almost 6 weeks, and the ballots for sections 4 & 5 for 4 weeks. Unfortunately, we were delayed getting sections 4 & 5's petition filed, and so could not release the ballots to you at the same time as other three sections. In addition, the US Postal Service has taken its sweet time about delivering mail that was dropped off at the Oak Forest station, even though most of it was to be delivered to the same ZIP code....!

Anyway, each of you, as Garden Oaks property owners, should have received an envelope containing a white cover letter, two pink pages, and a stamped, return-addressed envelope. Read the directions on both the cover letter, and the first page of the ballot, and then cast your vote by marking either 'FOR' or 'AGAINST' in the appropriate place. Remember to sign the ballot where indicated, print your name and address, and initial both sides of both pink pages. After completing the ballot, simply put it in the stamped, addressed envelope, and put it in the mail. It's that simple!

Remember: the pink ballot must be completely and correctly filled out before your vote is valid.

Needless to say, the delays described above necessitated changing the deadlines for the cash prize contests that the committee has had planned. The new deadline dates are below, and your ballots will be counted for each contest based on the postmark of the return envelope.

	Section 1, 2 & 3	Sections 4 & 5
Early Bird -	7/27/2001	8/7/2001
2 nd -	8/7/2001	8/17/2001
3 rd -	9/4/2001	9/4/2001

The third deadline is the night of the next GO Civic Club meeting. Any of you who have not already mailed your ballots can simply bring them to the meeting, where they will be included for the 3rd cash prize.

How are we doing with the balloting, you ask? Well, as of August 12, 2001, we had received completed ballots for the following sections:

Section 1 - 145 Yes, 8 No
Section 2 - 46 Yes, 6 No
Section 3 - 50 Yes, 11 No
Section 4 - 34 Yes, 8 No
Section 5 - 50 Yes, 14 No

These are fairly early numbers. There is a list in the 'Files' section of the Garden Oaks listserver (see page 3 of the Gazette for instructions on how to join) that will be updated at least weekly with the ballot return totals.

Unfortunately, we have received a good number of ballots that were not completed correctly. Most of them have been signed, and initialed, but no 'FOR' or 'AGAINST' vote was marked. Others lacked initials, or addresses. The section cap-

Continued on page 3

Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, September 4th

The next Civic Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4th at 7:00 P.M. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room.

This month's meeting will feature candidates from the District A City Council race. Toni Lawrence, the challenger, has confirmed her attendance, but at press time, Bruce Tatro, the incumbent, has not.

Making the Band

Joe Muscara

As I'm sure many of our neighbors know, Lori and I have a band. I must admit, I use the term loosely. We've been playing with one guy (a guitar player) off and on since I moved to Houston in 1993, and that's about it. We've had a couple other guitar players come and go, and we even had a drummer for a while. That was as close as we ever came to being serious.

But being serious about something like that can be really hard. With the drummer, we were getting together almost every week. That didn't leave much time for anything else on those Saturday nights, and the rest of the day had to be planned around that, especially when you get up as late as we sometimes do.

The good thing about getting together regularly was that it kept our "chops" up. We were at least playing about once a week. More recently we met a guitar player who we've played with a couple of times, and is very interested in continuing to do so. But, his schedule and ours haven't worked out for a few months. In the meantime, you can't even count how many times I've played or practiced, unless you can count to zero.

It's my fault, really. This guitar player never says he can make unless I specifically tell him when we are getting together. But, I try to be accomodating and find out if he can make it before committing to it. I guess I have not been motivated enough to do what I need to do to get together nor practice on my own. Maybe I should take lessons again. Oy vey. Anyone want to show me some useful piano or organ licks?

Enjoy the rest of summer!

Until next month, I'm still the editor.

Officer Nominations

Craig Lee

It's time once again for the Civic Club to find its next group of leaders for 2002 (wow! where did the millennium go!). If you think that next leader might be you, I would like to hear from you. Give me a call at 713-214-4852 (days) and 713-802-0079 (evenings) or email me at dc.lee@ev1.net. The positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

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	



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2002 Home & Garden Tour Off to an Impressive Start

Sheila Briones, Co-Chair

Believe it or not, the Selection Committee, headed up by Mike Caldwell, has already been hard at work looking at prospective homes and gardens for the 2002 Tour! Mike's phone has been ringing off the wall with phone calls from residents eagerly volunteering their home and/or garden for the upcoming Tour scheduled for Sunday, April 7, from 12 to 6 p.m.

The Tour committee is very pleased and encouraged by this flood of phone calls and we guarantee you that you will not be disappointed with the final selection of homes and gardens. Target date for announcement of final selections is October 1, 2001. Assisting Mike with the arduous task of selection are the other members of the committee: Brenda de Alba, Warren Carlson, Terry Jeanes, Susan Kostecky and Debbie Padon.

Even though Mike has been inundated with phone calls, the Selection committee is still interested in speaking to you regarding your home/garden or simply taking nominations of a home/garden for consideration. Mike can be reached at (713) 695-2003.

The first official 2002 Home & Garden Tour Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 7 p.m., 3309 Lawrence, #1, located in Section 1 at the corner of W. 34th and Lawrence.

Thanks to the following individuals who have stepped forward to volunteer their time and energy to the following sub-committees:

- William & Deanna Zugheri - Sponsor Party
- Rebecca Stark – Communications
- Craig Lee – Concessions
- Warren E. Carlson who is helping Debbie Padon with Docent Scripts

Of special note is the fact that several key sub-committee chair positions are still available. They include the following:

- Raffle Committee – Oversee the solicitation of raffle items that are "raffled off" at the conclusion of the Tour. Also works closely with the Silent/Live Auction committee chair to determine packages for the Silent Auction that is held the night of the Sponsor Party.
- Pre-Sale Ticket/Poster Distribution – Secures locations for the selling of pre-sale Tour tickets and coordinates delivery of Tour posters/postcards to local businesses throughout Garden Oaks and the surrounding areas.
- Set-Up – Assembles the "set-up kits" for each home/garden and Command Center. "Kits" contain sponsor signs, easels for signs, sand bucket for cigarette butts, check-in table, chairs, tablecloth, money box, directional signs, and other

items too numerous to list. Delivers the "kits" to each home/garden the day before the Tour and picks up the "kits" at the conclusion of the Tour. Inventories supplies and returns supplies to storage unit.

- Underwriting/Sponsorships – Solicits sponsorships from businesses and individuals.

Anyone interested in serving as a chair for the above listed committees may contact Sheila Briones at (713) 861-8091 (home) or (713) 718-8608 (work).

Special Offer

Home Tour Committee

River Bend Books publishes a yearly gardening calendar and they have agreed to list our GO 2002 Home & Garden Tour for free.

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"THE LAZY GARDENER & BULB LADY'S GULF COAST GARDENING NEWSLETTER" is a fun, easy way to learn via email about what's new in the gardening community in Houston. There will be tips for monthly gardening chores, a calendar of gardening events, tidbits about retailers, must-have plant recommendations, and lots more from Brenda Beust Smith (the Lazy Gardener) and Sally McQueen Squire (Houston's Bulb Lady)!

To subscribe, send \$10 (make checks payable to River Bend Company) for 12 email newsletters, starting with the issue following the first full month after your check or money order is received*. Mail to: TLGBLGCG Newsletter, River Bend Company, 50 Briar Hollow Lane, Suite 620 East, Houston, Texas 77027.

Sorry, but payment is not possible any other way. Be sure to include the email address to which you would like the newsletter sent.

September Yard of the Month
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Citizens on Patrol

Carl Waters, Jr.

Last month I started my article reporting on the deaths of two of our neighbors. It was pointed out to me shortly after the *Gazettes* were delivered that I did not report the location of the murders. You will find that information listed in the monthly crimes statistics below. Please remember when reviewing the information below that the dates and times listed represent when the police were called out or were told by the crime victims that they believed the incident occurred. As of August 15th, which is the deadline for this article to appear in September *Gazette*, I have not been able to officially find out anything more than was known when I wrote my article for the August edition. I am waiting for a call from the Homicide Sergeant who was assigned to the case. I have also asked an HPD Lieutenant to check for me as well. I will share any new information in the October COP report.

I would like to wish a speedy recovery to one of our patrollers who has been having some health problems recently. Bill Hines and his wife have been dedicated members of the COP since late 1995. Bill, here's hoping you are back on your feet and cruising the streets of Garden Oaks very soon.

June Crime Statistics (5)

Murder/Nonnegligent manslaughter (1)

900 block of Gardenia on June 16 at 11:07 a.m. (residence).

Robbery (1)

1300 block of Sue Barnett on June 27 at 11:30 p.m. (street).

Burglary (1)

800 block of W. 43rd St. on June 23 at 4:00 p.m. (garage).

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (1)

1400 block of Sue Barnett on June 21 at Midnight (residence).

Auto Theft (1)

700 block of W. 43rd St. on June 11 at 7:00 p.m. (Other).

Like the Marines, the Garden Oaks Citizens on Patrol program is always looking for a few good men and women volunteers to help protect the neighborhood. Please contact me via the Internet at GOCOP77018@AOL.com or call me at 713-864-1992 for details about joining our program.

Hope y'all had fun at National Night Out. Remember to watch out for all the children returning to school this month.

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

Constable Program

Terry Jeanes & Susan Saranie

Join and support our Garden Oaks Constable for a prorated rate for the remainder of the 2001 contract term...the best security value going. For continued success your support is needed. It has come to our attention that the constable's office has received a number of calls from neighbors who are not paid supporting members. It is true this program benefits the entire community; however for calls regarding security issues we would appreciate your monetary support. Increased participation by the residents will result in a reduced fee for all. Remember, you receive 40 hours per week of paid professional law enforcement, security checks, vacation watches, and much more. Deputy Green has been responsible for numerous traffic citations for speeders and other offenders throughout our neighborhood streets, arrests of offenders with illegal drugs, and removal of vagrants trespassing on area property including "aggressive" soliciting at neighborhood intersections. Deputy Green's proactive law enforcement presence is an important message to all, especially the "bad guys." To keep this program a success your support is needed. Many of you met Deputy Green at National Night Out parties....now is your time to join....simply call Terry Jeanes @ 713-812-9154 or e-mail jeanest@pdq.net.

Remember... 2001 Memberships are available on a prorated basis. Contact Terry Jeanes now to find out more.

Billing will begin the last quarter of the year for the 2002 (December 2001 - November 2002) contract with early membership paid in full by March 15, 2002 at a discount rate of \$180 The \$20 per month draft option is also available.

Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome!

New residents who closed on their properties between June 15th and August 15th. Please make them feel at home. Hope you can join us at the Civic Club Meeting.

818 West 30th	954 West 41st	1019 West 43rd	1054 Lamonte
802 West 32nd	843 West 42nd	1059 West 43rd	934 Althea
539 West 34th	902 West 43rd	1446 Sue Barnett	

Congratulations!

Stephanie Harmon, age 13, attended the Pony Finals (a showcase for the best of the best) in North Carolina August 11th - August 18th. This is the national finals for Hunters and Jumpers. **Joan and Gary Harmon** are certainly proud parents.

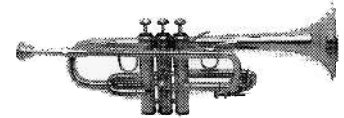
Hal Bowman and **Georgia Lister** welcomed new arrival **Lily Claire Bowman** on April 18th.

A great thanks to all the neighbors who had great National Night Out parties under their own Oak Tree. If you have any good stories or neighbors we should recognize, simply call or e-mail Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or jeanest@pdq.net.

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 - 721 W. 41st St. 1026 Althea
 - 818 W. 41st St. 4232 Apollo
 - 858 W. 41st St. 855 Azalea
 - 970 W. 41st St. 839 Lamonte
 - 862 W. 41st St. 1325 Sue Barnett
 - 717 W. 42nd St. 1458 Sue Barnett
 - 718 W. 42nd St. 1575 Sue Barnett
 - 847 W. 42nd St. 1043 Gardenia

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Friends of Montessori Board for 2001-2002

Christine Adams, President, Friends of Montessori

Friends of Montessori at Garden Oaks Elementary announces its Board for the 2001-2002 school year. The 2001-2002 Friends of Montessori Board Members are the following:

Christine Adams, Ph.D., President

Betsy Coe, Ph.D., Evaluation and Assessment

Joanna Temple, Program Development/Fundraising

Rene de Luna, Finance/Treasurer

Brian Sherwood, Established Programs

Beth Stengler, Recording Secretary

Celeste Zamora, Communications Secretary

The Friends of Montessori Board expresses its appreciation to the parents, teachers and community members for their hard work and commitment to having a neighborhood public school Montessori program at Garden Oaks. The Friends of Montessori Board is looking forward to collaborating again with Garden Oaks faculty, parents, PTA and the community to promote and strengthen the quality of all educational programs at Garden Oaks Elementary. Every child who is successful in school makes our neighborhood stronger and safer.

The Montessori program is one of several quality educational programs available at Garden Oaks. However, unlike other Garden Oaks programs, revenue beyond those allotted by H.I.S.D. must be raised to support the Montessori program, in part because of the Pre-K classes offered to 3 and 4 year olds. Public schools do not ordinarily offer educational programs for children this young unless they have special needs. Friends of Montessori raises funds for the Garden Oaks Montessori program and collaborates with the PTA on fund-raising events for the entire school.

The annual Montessori Pancake Breakfast has been scheduled for Saturday, September 29th so mark your calendar. Come have breakfast, meet people, and get to know your neighborhood school – and meet our new principal, Mr. Jeff Amerson. Each year the fire fighters have come with their big, red, fire engine for all the kids to see and enjoy! Be on the look out for more fundraising, fun events this year sponsored by the Garden Oaks Elementary PTA and Friends of Montessori. The 2001-2002 Friends of Montessori Board looks forward to the continuing support of the community for the Montessori program and all the other programs offered at our very special neighborhood school, Garden Oaks Elementary.

Foods that Fill You Up Without Packing on the Pounds

Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD

One of the main complaints about being on a diet or trying to lose weight is that you feel hungry or have certain cravings. Eating foods that fill you up on only a few calories can help you curb those hunger pains and consume fewer calories, therefore losing weight.

There are certain food groups as a whole that are more filling than others on an equal-calorie basis. Fruits are number one. The least filling foods include baked goods.

Why one food is more filling than another becomes a whole lot less mysterious once the weight of each is taken into account. You are looking for a food that contains more weight for a given amount of calories. Then you are less likely to eat more calories than you need. First of all, you will see more food on the plate; you automatically expect to be more satisfied. Secondly, it takes you longer to eat it, making the experience more substantial. Finally, eating more food distends the stomach, filling you up until you stop eating. The weight loss trick is to find the foods that can do all this for the least number of calories.

Ten Most Filling Foods

<i>Food*</i>	<i>Satiety-Index Score</i>
Baked Potato	323
Fish	225
Oatmeal	209
Oranges	202
Apples	197
Whole wheat Pasta	188
Beefsteak	176
Grapes	162
Popcorn	154
Bran Cereal	151

* Approx. 240-calorie portion

Bottom Line: Look for foods low in dietary fat. They tend to provide more bulk for the calories. Also go for high-fiber foods like vegetables and fruits – again, they will fill you up for fewer calories.

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

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Bulbs—Spring Powerhouses

Mark Saranie

I have mentioned in several articles the enjoyment I derive from the color with which bulbs grace us in spring. Knowing full well that a good percentage of bulbs are destined to the intestinal tracts of squirrels, I remain a devout fan of these powerhouses. But what a lout of a fan I am, as I was rudely reminded one day.

I had made a quick visit to a local home improvement center to check out pricing and availability of large sized doggie doors when I came across their clearance table in the garden section laden with almost-spent vegetation. Seduced by the \$1 price tags on the gallon size pots of ill cared for and root bound irises, I nearly wiped them out and ran home with the spoils. So much for the doggie door!

This is why I am a lout: I failed, (and continually fail miserably), at performing a cardinal rule when planting bulbs. I never mark the area I put them in, erroneously convincing myself I will remember where these treasure troves of beauty have been hidden.

The freesias purchased last year came up this spring and were so beautiful and fragrant that I will purchase more when the Bulb & Plant Mart fires up late September or early October. The freesias finished blooming and then went dormant, their spent foliage becoming part of my compost. Well, when the irises came home, guess where some of them ended up! While preparing a spot for two containers of irises, I was taken by surprise by the sudden “boiling up” of bulbs. I could not figure out where they had come from and why they were precisely there. I squat there, dumbfounded, for several seconds until the realization hit me, like when you take firm hold of a rotten caladium tuber, (yuck!). THE FREESIAS!

I carefully prospected for the bulbs, which had multiplied, and planted them in another bed. Yes, they are unmarked. Will I ever learn? The irises got their new places in life and look like they are settling in.

If you are thinking of putting out bulbs this year, (and I use this term in the generic form that includes bulbs, corms, rhizomes, etc.), the best information resource a gardener can possess is Sally McQueen Squire’s “*A Gardener’s Guide to Growing Bulbs on the Gulf Coast*.” I urge you to get it and learn, especially the part about marking where you have given these future plants a home.

Following is a narrow and somewhat redundant list (gleaned from the planting guide), of spring blooming bulbs to plant this fall and winter. The value of this is that if you plant these bulbs throughout both seasons, you will have blooms at different times throughout spring. Enjoy the color!

(Fall) *Agapanthus, Allium, Alstroemeria, Anemone, Bletilla, Crinum, Crocosmia, Cyclamen, Freesia, Gloriosa, Hyacinthus, Ipheion, Iris, Ixia, Leucojum, Lilium, Moraea, Muscari, Narcissus, Neomarica, Ornithogalum, Oxalis, Ranunculus, Sparaxis, Watsonia, Zantedeschia, Zephyranthes*

(Winter) *Agapanthus, Allium, Alstroemeria, Anemone, Bletilla, Caladium, Canna, Colchicum, Crinum, Cyclamen, Freesia, Gladiolus, Gloriosa, Hosta, Hyacinthus, Ipheion, Iris, Lilium, Moraea, Muscari, Narcissus, Neomarica, Oxalis, Ranunculus, Sparaxis, Tulipa, Watsonia, Zephyranthes.*

Next Month: “The Lighter Side of Gardening.”

Garden Things for September

- This is a bit early but if you have wanted to start a compost pile, make your plans now and get the spot ready before the leaves begin to fall. At the pace this year is racing by, the trick-or-treaters will be at our doors soon.
- If you want tulips, September is a good time to purchase and refrigerate these for winter planting. Mark the bag well so that the bulbs do not become a meal or gets tossed out. Do not put in fruit bin alongside apples. They release a gas that hastens ripening of other fruit and can damage your bulbs.
- Brown patch remains a threat to you lawn so watch out for it and treat as necessary.
- I for one will replant our basil and start some arugula that will yield nice greens—that is if Mr. Dog will respect my efforts. (Fat Chance!)

The Backyard Gardener

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Garden Oaks **FALL FESTIVAL**

Sunday, October 21st 3-6 p.m.

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For The Kids

*Arts Alive with Tina Sabuco
Petting Zoo
Moon Walk*

For The Seniors

*Recognition given for oldest resident, longest resident of GO, resident with the most grandchildren and the resident(s) married the longest.
Veterans honored as well.*

For The Dogs

Prizes provided by National Pet Center for the dogs with the longest tongue, longest tail, oldest dog, youngest dog and the dog that most resembles their owner.

For Everyone

*Pumpkin Carving Contest - scariest, funniest & most elaborate from entrants under 10 and over 10.
Dessert Contest
BINGO!!!!
Plant Sale*

GREAT FOOD WITH GREAT NEIGHBORS!!

You can't beat an old-fashioned potluck supper! We'll provide the brisket and ribs and Coca-Cola has generously donated the drinks. We need you to bring the rest. Residents with last names beginning with A-L bring salads and vegetables. Residents with last names beginning with M-Z bring breads and desserts. YUMMY!

This event is **FREE** to Garden Oaks residents thanks to a generous donation from Greenwood King Properties. We'd also like to thank Arts Alive for donating their talent and emceeding the event, Coca-Cola for donating beverages, Mike Caldwell Building and Design for donating the Moon walk, and National Pet Center for donating the prizes for the dog contest.

September 2001

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Useful Numbers

Senior Helper
713 862 3747

One Call Program
(Heavy trash and more)
713 956 6589

Recycling Hotline
713 837 9130

Rat-on-a-Rat
(Illegal Dumping)
713 525 2728

Neighborhood
Protection Team
(Enforce City Codes for
environmental matters)
713 525 2525

Public Works
(Water/sewer, street
repairs, street lighting,
trees or bushes that are
traffic hazards)
713 837 0600

Bruce Tatro (District A)
713 247 2010

Ken Yarbrough
713 263 1516

John Whitmire
713 864 8701

Upcoming events Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, October 2 nd 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 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. GO Elem	5	6	7	8	
9	10 Labor Day	11 Fall Festival 7:00 P.M. Kroger Home Tour 7:00 P.M. 3309 Lawrence #1	12	13 Garden Club 7:00 P.M. 974 W.42 nd	14	15 Gazette Article Deadline	
16	17	18 Rosh Hashanah	19	20	21	22 Autumnal Equinox	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Montessori Pancake Breakfast 8-11 A.M. G.O. Elem	
30				Yom Kippur			

2001 Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form

Please note that your Civic Club dues are now payable on the first of each year.

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