

# GARDEN OAKS GAZETTE

October 2001

Volume 24, Number 10



Garden Oaks

## FALL FESTIVAL



Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 3-6 p.m.

Rick Englert SPARK Park

### FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!!!

#### For The Kids

*Arts Alive with Tina Sabuco  
Petting Zoo  
Moon Walk  
HFD Fire Truck  
HFD Fire Safety Trailer*

#### 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 & Bone Voyage Pet Sitting for the dogs with the longest tongue, longest tail, oldest dog, youngest dog and the dog that most resembles their owner.  
Dog Rescue Adoption Info*

#### For Everyone

*Carved Pumpkin Contest - Bring your scariest, funniest or most elaborate pumpkin for 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, National Pet Center and Bone Voyage Pet Sitting for donating the prizes for the dog contest and our photographer Kevin Clothier.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!** Please call Shannon Thompson at 713 692 1042 if you are interested in helping.

### Civic Club Meeting

*Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>*

The next Civic Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room.

For this month's meeting, all candidates for mayor were invited and Orlando Sanchez has promised to stop by for a few remarks and questions. Also, Bruce Tatro, District A city council has indicated he may attend as well.

### 2002 Home Tour Announces Final Selections

*see page 7*

## Reflections

*David Bell*

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As this is written, the events of this week overshadow all other thoughts and actions. Like many others with whom I converse, these terrorists' assaults on our country still seem surreal as if they couldn't happen here on our land, but they did. It was not some visualization of a thriller novel or motion picture as the scene was replayed over and over again Tuesday, but reality. A number of our seniors experienced Pearl Harbor and we now may know something of what they suffered then. Many of us may have a connection to someone on board one of the planes or in one of the buildings, or actually had friends or relatives involved and it touches us directly. I suspect most readers heard about Barbara Olsen, national political commentator, author, and prosecutor, who was on the flight that crashed into the Pentagon. She is also the sister of Toni Lawrence, candidate for city council, District A, who addressed our September civic club meeting. Let us all remember Toni and all others who have suffered through this tragedy.

The many newscasts have also featured significant hours dedicated toward answering how such events could have happened. Obviously there are many reasons, but one main area was we let our guard down. We had become too lax, complacent, sure nothing catastrophic could happen here. Those trends transcend across all levels. We as a government and people had become all of those things. My question as civic club president is if we are also doing it right here, right now, in Garden Oaks. My response is an emphatic yes. I have stated before that we as a neighborhood are too comfortable, too inwardly oriented, and do not display the level of community we should. Unfortunately, it often takes a tragedy to make us come together. For us in Garden Oaks, will it take a series of horrible murders/rapes/assaults to one of our neighbors to get us concerned? Right now, our constable program is on the brink of collapse, the GOCOP program continues only by the dedication of a select few, and the civic club has token participation. Some 10%-15% of our community carries the ball for the balance. GOMO to date has less than a 50% voter response, for or against; and with GOMO all you had to do was fill out the form and mail it, prepaid. A community should mean something, and whether you agree or not, as a member of the community, we all have responsibilities to each other. Collectively, we can accomplish much, but separately, we can do little. Let's not wait until we have our own tragedy!

Lastly, the September civic club meeting noted an individual

*Continued on page 3*

### 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	

*Continued from page 2*

going door to door in Section 1 pressuring owners to grant or waive their mineral rights to permit a drilling activity in the area. I understand the homeowners are promised some fee or future royalty. I have also received a few calls regarding the same. If you are approached in such a manner, please consult your neighbors and take legal advice before acting. I am not familiar with this aspect of property rights, but you should not be pressured into taking any action. Also remember the old advice, "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

I will miss the October meeting, but I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Festival.

## Meet the Candidates Night

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The Garden Oaks Civic Club is proud to be co-sponsoring a *Northwest Meet The Candidates Night* to be held on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm. This event will be co-sponsored by The Leader Newspaper and other area civic groups, including Shepherd Forest Civic Club, Timbergrove Manor Civic Club, Lazybrook Civic Club, Oak Forest Homeowners Association, Brookwoods Estates Civic Club, Candlelight Plaza Civic Club, Candlelight Woods-Estates Homeowners Association, Shady Acres Civic Club, and Shepherd Park Plaza Civic Club. Together, these civic associations represent over 14,000 homes in northwest Houston. The Candidates Night program will be held at Waltrip High School, 1900 West 34<sup>th</sup> (just north of Loop 610 and Ella Blvd) at 7:00 pm.

Candidates running for the office of Mayor of the City of Houston have been invited to participate. In addition, candidates for the City Council District A race have also been invited to participate in a short program prior to the Mayoral Candidate Debate. Residents from all the sponsoring neighborhoods have been invited and a large attendance is expected. Local media representatives have also been notified and encouraged to cover the event.

We invite and encourage each one of you to attend this most informative and exciting event. Don't miss the chance to meet the candidates so that you can make an informed vote on Election Day. Mark your calendars now for Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>!!

## Constable Program: New Deputy & Challenge

*Terry Jeanes & Susan Saranie*

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As of mid-September the Garden Oaks Constable Program welcomes Deputy James Moncrief as our area deputy. Deputy Jason Green, who served our area with true commitment for over 2 years, recently received a promotion. Although Deputy Green will now be covering a much larger area, he assured us he would be keeping an eye on us. When you see Deputy Moncrief out patrolling, stop and introduce yourself. Show him what a great area he is now watching over. To Deputy Green, our thanks and we wish him the best.

There are a number of members who still are behind in their dues for the 2001 program. Although additional members were added this year, the failure of some supporters to pay their current dues will result in a slight shortage on the program. Phone calls and reminders will be sent to those still owing for the 2001 contract. Please forward your \$230 check promptly.

If you become a new member of the program now, for a \$230 donation you will not only be a supporter for the remainder of the 2001 contract (October 1, 2001- through years end) but for the 2002 contract as well. This includes 40 hours per week of paid professional law enforcement, vacation watch, security check, and much more.

Billing and soliciting for all residents will begin the end of October through the last quarter of the year. Your gracious support is encouraged. Remember several billing options are available. You can either pay \$180 up front for the 2002 contract or drafting at \$20 per month.

**A challenge to all residents** To help defray the minor shortfall in the 2001 program, at the September Civic Club meeting a contribution challenge was issued by Terry Jeanes, Constable Co-Chair and area Realtor, to provide a Gift of \$500 to the program if an additional \$1000 is raised in contributions/gifts, (not memberships) by the end of the October 2nd civic club meeting. The passed hat brought in \$370 in gifts. Please help us meet this challenge for safety in our neighborhood. We will pass the hat again at the October meeting. Thank you for your support.

*To support the Constable Program, call Terry at 713 812 9154 or e-mail her at [jeanest@pdq.net](mailto:jeanest@pdq.net).*



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Jeanes**

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## Minutes of September 4, 2001 Civic Club Meeting

*Submitted by Robert De Veau, acting Secretary*

President David Bell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The July minutes were accepted as published.

### Officer Reports

*Treasurer:* Cherry Wolfarth reported that the revenue collected to date for the Constable Patrol would be enough to pay for October. Additional funds will be needed to complete the current contract, which expires in November. She also pointed out that *Gazette* ad revenue is behind schedule. She reminded all Committee Chairs that their budget requests for 2002 are now due.

*President:* David Bell will be contacting all the Committee Chairs to schedule a meeting in September to work on their budgets. David also announced that the Civic Club made a \$140 donation to purchase school supplies for underprivileged children attending Garden Oaks Elementary School.

### Guest Presentation

Toni Lawrence, who is campaigning for Houston City Council District A gave a presentation. Her opponent, incumbent Bruce Tatro, was unable to attend the meeting.

### Committee Reports

*Beautification:* Chair Rick Grochoske is planning several fall "Work Days" and will announce the dates in the *Gazette*.

*GOCOP:* President David Bell reported in Carl Waters' absence. There is no additional information on the murders that occurred in the 900 block of Gardenia. David also reiterated the crime statistics published in the September *Gazette*.

*Constable Program:* Co-Chair Terry Jeanes informed the attendees that Jason (Deputy Green for those who don't know him on a first name basis) has been promoted and will be leaving Garden Oaks. Deputy James Moncrief will be taking his place as of September 10. Terry continued by outlining the 2002 enrollment rates for participating in the Constable Program. For residents paying in full prior to February 28 – the rate will be \$180. After February 28, the rate will be \$200. For those wishing to pay by automatic bank draft, the rate will remain the same at \$20 per month. Bills will be mailed out in October for the 2002 renewal. The Committee will continue to raise the additional funds required to pay the last month of this year's contract due in November. The fund is short approximately \$1,400. Terry issued a challenge that if \$1,000 could be raised by October 1, she will donate \$500 to the program.

*Fall Festival:* Chair Shannon Thompson and her committee have been very busy making the final arrangements. Scheduled for Sunday, October 21 from 3 – 6 p.m. in the Rick Englert SPARK Park, there are activities planned for everyone in the neighborhood. The committee is still in need of additional volunteers to assist with set-up on the day of the event. Contact Shannon at 713 692 1042.

*Garden Oaks.org:* Co-Chair Sheila Briones stated that the committee has been working on the project. James Cobb still needs information from the Beautification, GOMO and Membership Committees to complete the general information pages as well as information from the Garden Oaks Garden Club. James can be contacted at 713-686-4578.

*Gazette:* Editor Joe Muscara had nothing to report.

*GOMO:* Chair Sam Stengler reported that as of September 4, the committee received 417 "Yes" ballots, 54 "No" ballots and 8 ballots which can't be used because the resident's Section was not completed. Approximately 30 envelopes have been returned as undeliverable. If you have not received a ballot, please contact anyone from the GOMO Committee. The drawing to announce the winners of the three early-bird voter deadlines has been rescheduled until the October Civic Club meeting.

*Home Tour:* Co-Chair Sheila Briones announced that the Selection Committee would be making their final decision on September 10. The complete list will be available in the October issue of the *Gazette*. The first committee meeting is scheduled for September 11 at 3309 Lawrence #1. To volunteer for a committee – either as a Chair or a member – contact Sheila Briones at 713-861-8091.

*Membership:* Chair Michael Froebel reported that 260 residents have paid their membership dues for 2001. Work on the "New Resident Welcome" is still on going.

*Nominating:* Sheila Briones reported on behalf of Chair Craig Lee. The committee has had one meeting to identify possible candidates for the 2002 slate of Officers. They will continue to meet and have a slate ready for publication in the November *Gazette* with voting taking place at the December Civic Club meeting.

*Garden Club:* Ed de Alba reported on behalf of Club President Brenda de Alba. The next meeting will take place on September 13 at 974 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St. He also reminded the attendees that the Garden Club is a great resource for learning about gardening in the Houston area and invited everyone to "come out and grow with us."

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** A resident brought with him a legal document from Ballard Exploration being circulated around the neighborhood asking residents to sign away their mineral rights. He warned residents to be aware of what they were signing.

The NET Church will be making a donation to the Civic Club of the letters taken down from the Garden Oaks Theater when they remodeled.

The Mayoral Candidates will be invited to attend the October Civic Club meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Terry Jeanes of REMAX/Metro graciously provided refreshments for the meeting.

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# Citizens on Patrol

*Carl Waters, Jr.*

One of the bad things about waiting until the last minute to write a monthly column is that things happen to totally change your perspective about the column. I am of course talking about the terrorist attacks on our country on September 11. Usually this is the time of year that I start discussing holiday safety and precautions to be used between Halloween and New Year's, but this year is definitely different. Perhaps by time this article appears at your home the events of September 11th will have begun to fade from headlines and lead stories on the evening news. While I hope so, I also hope that as neighbors and fellow Americans we do not forget all the lives lost and families that were destroyed on that fateful day.

**July Crime Statistics (7)**

*Burglary (2)*

1000 block of W. 41st St. on July 2 at 8:30 p.m. (garage).  
800 block of W. 41st St. on July 8 at 4:40 a.m. (residence).

*Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (1)*

800 block of Azalea on July 18 at 10:45 a.m. (residence).

*Auto Theft (4)*

3200 block of N. Shepherd on July 12 at Noon (church parking lot).  
700 block of Sue Barnett on July 12 at 8:00 a.m. (driveway).  
900 block of W. 41st St. on July 13 at 8:00 p.m. (driveway).  
800 block of Azalea on July 24 at 10:15 p.m. (driveway).

New volunteers are always needed and welcomed at GOCOP. 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	713-755-7628

## September Yard of the Month

**703 W. 31<sup>st</sup>**

For a well-maintained nice lawn.

# 2002 Home & Garden Tour Announces Final Selections

*Sheila Briones, 2002 Co-Chair*

After months of hard, exhaustive work, Mike Caldwell (Co-Chair) and his Selection Committee members have come up with an exciting array of homes & gardens for the 2002 Tour.

We are honored to announce the 2002 selection of homes & gardens which showcase a variety of Garden Oak's finest and unique properties, ranging from remodeled cottages to major renovation. The following is the list of six homes and three gardens:

415 W. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Section 1	Home & Garden
432 W. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Section 1	Home & Garden
1535 Sue Barnett	Section 5	Home & Garden
423 W. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Section 1	Home
811 W. 41 <sup>st</sup>	Section 3	Home
938 LaMonte	Section 4	Home
336 W. 33 <sup>rd</sup>	Section 1	Garden
420 W. 32 <sup>nd</sup>	Section 1	Garden
803 LaMonte	Section 3	Garden

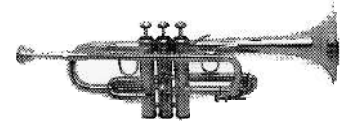
With the announcement of the 2002 homes & gardens, the work of the Tour Committee has just barely begun. The Committee will spend the next seven months fine tuning plans for the Tour scheduled for Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

One of the first priorities to be undertaken by the Tour Committee is the task of recruiting and training Captains for each of the homes & gardens. Captains are critical to the success of the Tour because they work directly with the home & garden owners on a regular basis and keep them up-to-date on what's going on with the Tour. They also serve on the Tour Committee and attend monthly Tour Committee meetings. If you feel compelled to volunteer, think about serving as a home or garden Captain and call or e-mail the Staffing/Volunteer Chairs, Tina Sabuco at (713) 692-6778, tinamarie@houston.rr.com or Brenda de Alba (713) 694-5934, brenda.p.dealba@exxonmobil.com.

If a Captain position is not for you and you still feel compelled to volunteer, perhaps a Committee Chair position is of interest. The following committees are in need of a Chair:

- Raffle Committee – Oversees the solicitation of raffle items that are “raffled off” at the conclusion of the Tour. Also works closely with the Live/Silent Auction committee chair to determine prize packages for the Live/Silent Auctions held the night of the Sponsor Party.
- Live/Silent Auction Committee – Puts together prize packages to be auctioned off 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 posters/postcards to local busi-

*Continued on page 13*



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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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## At the Crossroad

*Alex Martinez*

Garden Oaks is at a crossroad never before encountered. It's an economic crossroad; one that could take us up or down, financially speaking. So the question is: Which way do you want to go?

Why are we at this crossroad and why am I asking you this question? It's because the mechanism that was in place to preserve the integrity of this neighborhood no longer exists, and because of the ongoing effort to replace it.

In order to answer this question, maybe one should ask oneself why they own property and/or live in Garden Oaks. Are some of those reasons because you liked the neighborhood, and you knew it would be a good investment? If so, why did you believe it would be a good investment? Was it because the neighborhood had been well maintained over many decades and had a history of maintaining and increasing its value?

As imperfect as our deed restriction enforcement entity was, it was all we had, but it got us to where we are today. We have seen our property values rise significantly and the buyers keep coming. Many new homes are being built. Do you think this trend will continue without a way to control our deed restrictions? I don't think so. Even though we as individuals have the right to enforce our restrictions, this takes vigilance and having to make tough decisions at the appropriate times. Who is going to take on that responsibility, you? You would have to have some deep pockets to do that, because for some reason, some property owners knowingly violate the deed restrictions.

I believe that violating your deed restrictions is a self-defeating process. Sure, the individual who chooses to violate temporarily enjoys what they have done, but multiply that enough times and the negative effect begins. It's downhill from there for all of us, with unenforceable deed restrictions, a less desirable neighborhood, and a decline in the value of our property. Is that the road you want to go down?

The bottom line is that our system is broken and it needs to be fixed. If we don't fix it, we have no one to blame but ourselves if things go downhill. The only logical way to fix it is to replace the enforcement entity that we lost. Volunteers have been working on this project for two years. There has been some trial and error, but by now you should have had an official ballot presented to you through the U.S. mail.

To set the record straight, this organization being created (GOMO), will operate on funds collected at the time of the transfer (sale) of a property, just as the original entity did. It used to be called a Maintenance Fund. The fee amount was changed to allow for inflation. This fee will **NOT** apply to a division of community property due to a divorce or the death of the Owner. GOMO will **NOT** have the power to foreclose on any Garden Oaks property for failure to pay this transfer fee. It will **NOT** have the power to create a mandatory membership fee. GOMO **WILL** have the power to enforce deed restrictions through legal action.

By a majority of homeowners approving the creation of GOMO, a choice is being

*Continued on page 10*



# Letter to Garden Oaks Residents

*Victor C. Moore*

My name is Victor C. Moore. I live at 532 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, in Section I, and I have lived in Garden Oaks since 1981. I have been sued by the Board of Trustees twice, and I have filed corresponding suits. I welcome my neighbors to drive by my home and look at my home. I have consistently improved my property, and I believe, have improved the property values in our neighborhood.

The former trustees of the Garden Oaks Trustees' Association were an extremely litigious group. At the time I won my lawsuit showing that they were not empowered to enforce any of the deed restrictions, there were six lawsuits against various members and residents of our community (one of which was mine). I broke the Garden Oaks Board of Trustees by virtue of having enough staying power to show that there was not one **POSITIVE** thing occurring, except for an abuse of the local residents by this board of ex-trustees. One of the six lawsuits had even caused one of the residents of Garden Oaks to have to declare Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. That is the precursor of the Board of Trustees' history within Garden Oaks.

Texas law requires that the Board of Trustees be elected or "appointed" by the residents of the community. The former trustees were self-appointed and were never elected by the residents of the community. We're voting for a tax and an organization that will have some unknown leadership. Who are they?

The second concept in Texas law is that if deed restrictions have not been enforced over the years, that they are "waived", and are, therefore, never again enforceable. The reason that I prevailed in my litigation against the Board of Trustees was twofold. The first being that the Board of Trustees had not been elected by the residents and that had been self-appointed as an incestuous contiguous group that fed on itself. Secondly, I showed graphically (with over 300 photographs) that in Garden Oaks, Section I, there is a 68% violation rate of the sideline deed restrictions. That violation percentage is well in excess of that allowed by rule of law, in that a violation percentage of 4% to 6% is not considered significant, but a substantial violation in those percentages (i.e., 68%) is considered under Texas law to be a waiver of those restrictions, forever.

Now switching to GOMO, Texas law does not allow the old deed restrictions, which have been waived by virtue of lack of enforcement over an approximate 55-year period, to ever be enforced in today's environment. This is a relatively straightforward concept under Texas real estate laws that do not currently allow enforcement of deed restrictions that have not been enforced historically for 50 years. Therefore, the sideline and side setback violations that are so prominent in all of the Garden Oaks subdivisions preclude those restrictions from ever being enforceable by any GOMOs or by you as neighbors. In my opinion, the only element of the remaining deed restrictions that are enforceable are the front setback deed restrictions, because that has been maintained relatively clearly throughout Garden Oaks' 50 year history.

An additional element of the GOMO organization that I resist is that the sponsors of the GOMO organization are trying to affect a transfer tax of .75% that will

*Continued on page 10*

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Guillaume "GEM" Morvan (Shepherd Park Plaza Resident)

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Located in the Garden Oaks Professional Building

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**(713) 695-6808 FAX**

## PIANO LESSONS

Juilliard graduate with extensive teaching and performing experience now has a few openings for students at all levels (children or adults).

**For information and/or an appointment, please call 713-956-6855**



*Continued from page 8*

made to take Garden Oaks down the path of continued prosperity and preservation.

So what are you waiting for? Use the power within you to protect your home, your neighborhood, and your investment by voting "YES" on your ballot and sending it in. Ask your neighbors if they have done the same. If you need a ballot call 281-773-3478 and ask for one. Let's get this thing wrapped up because there's a lot of work left to do in order to have a board seated by early spring 2002. That's the road we should go down.

*Continued from page 9*

have to be paid by either the buyer or the seller of all properties sold or transferred in Garden Oaks. This fee, which would be approximately \$1,500.00 for a \$200,000 property, is higher than that for River Oaks and West University. The significance of this amount is that in combination with the litigious nature of the sponsors of GOMO, an incredible amount of money would be funded to an organization that intends to sue us as individual residents over deed restrictions that have been waived by virtue of Texas law. The problem with this is that the legal fees associated with defending such a claim (even while waived by virtue of Texas law and prior lack of enforcement) is material to most residents within the neighborhood and is an expensive legal process to refute such claims. This significant transfer rate tax is intended to provide a "war chest" for a litigious group of residents who intend to intimidate other residents attempting to improve their property.

One of the things not included in the GOMO ballot and is ultimately required under Texas law is a slate of directors that have to be elected by a majority of the residents of the community. No one to date, that I am aware of, has provided a list of proposed directors, proposed executive officers or a provision that would allow for 1) elections, and 2) an alternative vote by residents for other candidates. Who are these new trustees? Are they going to include Mr. DeAlba, the most litigious person included in the former Board of Trustees or are they going to include a new group of people that understand some of the values of our neighborhood.

What has not been discussed, at any point so far that I am aware of, are several things that I think should be discussed by a group representing the neighborhood. There has not been one single mention of anything **POSITIVE** coming out of the GOMO structure, such as the following:

- An election and slate of Garden Oaks friendly representatives and/or trustees,
- A liaison with the City related to streets and city issues

for street and/or park repair (when was the last time you saw a street re-paved in the Garden Oaks subdivision),

- An HCAD liaison related to tax relief as a result of the recent tax increases on land, but decreases on improvements,
- Improvements in additional signage at the entrances to our neighborhood to include Shepherd Dr.,
- Cleanup of elderly-owned or vacant properties to ensure that lawns are mowed even on vacant properties to maintain the continued aesthetics of our neighborhood,
- Real estate tax aid for poor or elderly members of the neighborhood as a result of increased real estate taxes,
- Improvements to "Pocket Parks", and
- Improvements to make Garden Oaks a showplace of the near North side.

We have a great neighborhood that is old, has character and is worth preserving. What we do not need is a neighborhood ruled by an organization that wants to increase transfer taxes to a rate higher than comparable neighborhoods, and is rife with litigious members who prefer lawsuits to improvements.

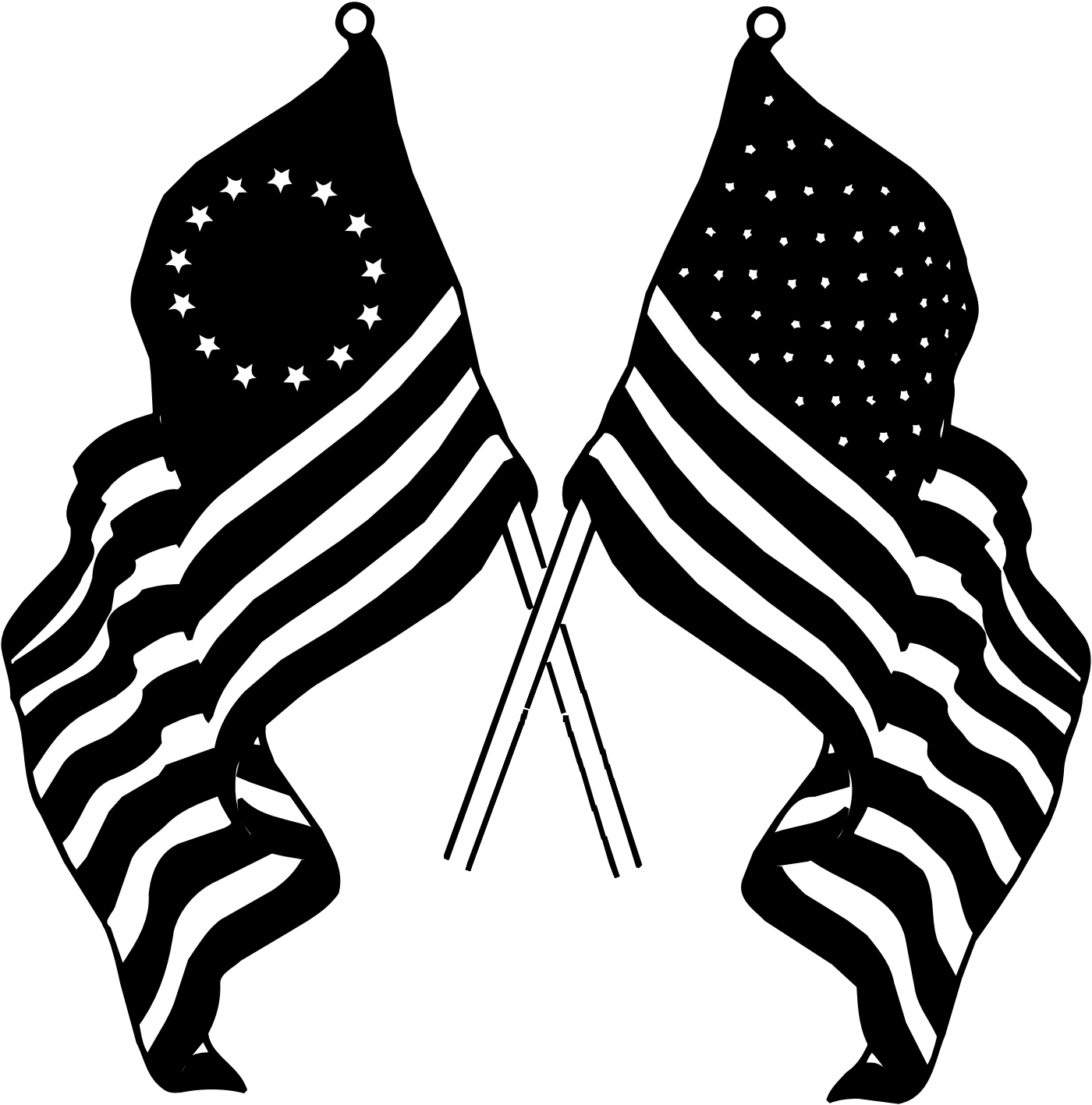
There are many, many positive things that can be done to improve the Garden Oaks neighborhoods, the pocket-parks, the signage related to the neighborhood and yet none of this is being discussed by the proponents of GOMO. What **IS** BEING discussed is litigation against fellow neighbors. I fail to understand how any litigation can ever be advantageous to the neighborhood when there are so many positive things that could occur.

Join with me in voting NO to GOMO and NO to litigation, lawsuits and intimidations by a group of GOMO proponents who want to wield power over us as individual owners and residents of Garden Oaks, because of some self-appointed enforcement mentality.

The City of Houston will not "permit" commercial businesses or other alleged business on our residential lots. The fear factor created by this group of GOMO proponents is a farce. We need to stick together as residents, neighbors and owners of property within Garden Oaks to not subject ourselves to a self-appointed group of litigious proponents of GOMO whose purpose is to abuse us through litigation and intimidation. Our goal should be to maintain a neighborhood that is a showplace on the north side and a great place to live and raise our families.

Very truly yours,

Victor C. Moore  
532, W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Houston, TX 77018



## Caring for Window Treatments

*Susan Kostelecky, Certified Window Fashions Professional*

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### Fabric Window Treatments

Draperies, swags, valances, etc. should be cleaned carefully to maintain the life and appearance of the fabric. Custom window treatments should last for a minimum of five years, and can maintain their quality for ten years or more. Custom window treatments are a luxury item and an investment. Proper care and cleaning can increase the life and longevity of your window treatments.

Dry cleaning is not recommended, since the face fabric, interlining and lining can react differently to the various solvents used. The face fabric may shrink and the lining may stretch, causing your draperies to be somewhat shorter than they had been prior to cleaning, and the lining may "bag" out from behind the face fabric. The valance or drapery panels may pucker and buckle at the seams and side hems. Any sheen or chintz finish originally on the fabric may possibly be removed, causing the fabric to lose crispness or body.

## Mom's Club Open House

*Kandice Mulry*

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Come and meet other stay-at-home moms! MOMS club is a national, non-profit support group specifically for mothers who have chosen to stay home with their children. We have hundreds of chapters across the country and are inviting you to visit our chapter here! Join us for our Open House and find out about park days, playgroups, recipe club, moms-night-out and other mother and child friendly activities, Wednesday, October 17, Garden Oaks Baptist Church, 3206 N. Shepherd, 10:30 am-12:30 pm. The Mom's Club has no religious, political or other affiliations. For more information contact Michelle Runnels at 713-956-7411 or Kandice Mulry at 713-695-4596.

To properly maintain your treatments, vacuum them at regular intervals with a hand held vacuum attachment. The attachment can also be used on the folds of swags where dust may settle over a period of time.

A lint brush can also be utilized to remove pet hair from the hems and linings if dogs or cats are regularly in the vicinity of your drapery panels.

### Sheers

Sheers can be placed in the dryer with a white towel on a **no heat setting** and tumbled for five to ten minutes. Use caution, as any heat setting may shrink the panels. The towel will help absorb any collected dust.

If your sheers are pinch pleated, remove the drapery hooks from the back of the panel heading – after carefully and lightly marking where the pins are inserted with a small pencil mark. This will show you where to reinsert the pins after the sheers have been tumbled. **Do not** use any dryer sheets with your sheers as they may leave an unwanted residue on the sheer fabric.

### On-Site Cleaning Services

Some companies offer drapery cleaning services on site. These can be reputable and successful options. Be sure to check with the Better Business Bureau for customer satisfaction reports. Another option is to use a company that a neighbor, co-worker or friend has used and been pleased with.

*Continued from page 7*

nesses throughout Garden Oaks and the surrounding areas.

- Graphics/Printing – Develops all printed materials for the Tour to include posters, Tour tickets, pre-sale tickets, billboards, etc.
- Underwriting – Solicits sponsorships for each home & garden from businesses and individuals.

If anyone is interested in one of the above Committee Chair positions contact Sheila Briones at (713) 718-8608 or by e-mail at [sbriones@hotmail.com](mailto:sbriones@hotmail.com).

In closing, I would like to publicly thank Mike Caldwell and his Selection committee members for all their hard work this past couple of months. Mike's Selection committee members included Debbie Padon, Warren E. Carlson, Brenda de Alba, Terry Jeanes and Susan Kostelecky.

*Co-Editor's Note: Sheila Briones was also quite an instrumental member of the Selection Committee. Her hesitance to give herself credit where credit is due is beyond the Editor.*

## A Time for Stoicism

*Mark Saranie*

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Normal life has taken a temporary side step for us all as we, as individuals, come to terms with the attack upon our country and way of life. The demonstration of humanity and bravery, seen on the many news programs, brings us, near and far, together with such closeness of purpose and resolve that our collective psyche is fired up and rising like the legendary Phoenix from the devastation in New York.

During the Victorian era, different meanings and sentiments were assigned to flowers, herbs, trees, and other species of flora. The list is long and at times surprising. I thought it appropriate to pass along some of these so that a bough or a pot or two would adorn your doorstep or serve as a simple yet deeply heart felt gift to a neighbor or friend who has been touched personally by this national tragedy.

Bravery - Oak (The signature tree of our neighborhood)

Patriotism - Nasturtium/American Elm

Peace - Olive Branch

Perseverance - Swamp Magnolia

Remembrance - Rosemary

Stoicism - Box Elder

Strength - Fennel/Cedar

Sympathy - Balm/Sweet Briar Rose

-Sentiments-

Absent Friends - Zinnia

Our Hearts and Souls are united - Phlox

Enough said.

## GOMO Section Captains

*Sam Stengler*

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Section 1 - Mary Tyler Martinez	713 681 3913
Section 1A - James King	713 426 1607
Section 2 - Warren E. Carlson	713 697 8690
Section 3 - David Bell	713 694 5016
Section 4 - <b>Needs You!</b>	Call Sam
Section 5 - Shelly Immel	713 688 4681
John Evans	713 688 1528
All Sections - Sam Stengler	281 773 3478

## Heard Under the Oak Tree

*Terry Jeanes*

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### Garden Oaks Spirit

In light of the recent events in New York and Washington DC I would like to encourage all neighbors to tie either a yellow or red, white, and blue ribbon around a tree in your yard. We stand united.

### Welcome New Neighbors

Please make welcome the following neighbors who recently closed on their homes.

858 West 42nd	515 West 30th	1014 Gardenia
958 Gardenia	528 West 31st	862 West 43rd
511 West 31st	855 Lamonte	975 Lamonte
1519 Sue Barnett	1011 West 42nd	979 Gardenia

Welcome to the neighborhood and we hope to see you at your first civic club meeting soon.

### New Neighborhood Additions

The Mulry family welcomed new addition Grace Marie born August 9th, 2001, and the Carvell family welcomes their daughter Emma Kathryn born August 28th, 2001

### Mom's Club Meeting

The Mom's Club, a non-profit support group for moms who have chosen to stay at home with their kids, will be holding an open house on October 17th. For information contact Kandice Mulry at [mulryj@msn.com](mailto:mulryj@msn.com)

*To highlight or spotlight a new member of your family, a special event, honor, or occasion, please forward information to Terry Jeanes at [jeanest@pdq.net](mailto:jeanest@pdq.net) or call 713-812-9154.*

*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](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Houston_GO/join)

**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

# October 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind." - Mahatma Gandhi	1	2 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. GO Elem Sukkot Begins	3	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day (Observed)	9	10	11 Garden Club 7:00 P.M. 336 W.33 <sup>rd</sup>	12	13
14	15 Gazette Article Deadline	16	17	18	19	20
21 Fall Festival 3-6 P.M. Rick Englert Spark Park	22	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26	27
28 Daylight Savings Time Ends	29	30	31 Halloween	<b>Upcoming events</b> Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, November 6 <sup>th</sup> Make sure your Civic Club committee meeting or event gets on the calendar! Email the editor at GOGazette@Mac.com with your information.		

**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