



## Deed Restriction Questions and Answers

*Sam Stengler*

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The Deed Restrictions Committee of the Garden Oaks Civic Club held a Question and Answer session at the March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002 GO Civic Club meeting. The subject was the proposed Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO).

The session was well attended, and we had a lively group of questioners from the neighborhood.

One of the things that we wanted to get across in this session was what GOMO will do for our neighborhood.

We see GOMO as primarily an educational/informational source for deed restriction matters for Garden Oaks. As such, GOMO would be the central source for the following:

- accurate and complete copies of the deed restrictions, ensuring that all parties involved with a sale/purchase of a property in GO have the DRs applicable to the property. This includes buyers, title companies, builders, architects, etc.
- an architectural review committee, which will be authorized to look over architects/builders' plans, and determine whether the plans meet the GO deed restrictions for setbacks, building height, etc.
- deed restriction expertise to answer questions about the GO deed restrictions from property owners, potential property owners, remodelers, public officials, government organizations, and other interested parties.

This primary mission is critical to keeping our GO deed restrictions. By getting information about the restrictions to remodelers, builders, etc. **before** a violation has occurred, we can 'head-off' costly (in financial *and* emotional terms) 'rebuilt' of structures in order to comply with the restrictions.

Of course, the secondary mission of GOMO will be the enforcement of our deed restrictions. If a new violation is discovered, GOMO will be charged with contacting the property owner to resolve the situation so that the violating structure conforms to the restrictions.

*Continued on page 11*

## 2002 Home & Garden Tour Just Around the Corner

**Sunday, April 7, 2002, from 12 Noon to 6 P.M.**

*Sheila Briones, 2002 Co-Chair*

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Just a reminder that Garden Oak's annual showcase of homes and gardens will be held Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. The collection of six homes and three gardens will be shown from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

*Continued on page 10*

## Civic Club Meeting

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

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

## Day by Day

*Joe Muscara*

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I know lots of you out there are running your own businesses. Don't worry - I won't tell. I've been gradually developing my business with the intent of being able to leave my current day job and run my business full time. What this entails is having enough clients to be able to pay the bills both in the short and the long term. This is one of those "easier said than done" kinds of things. Before you get to that point, you have to be doing enough work in your "spare time" so that leaving your day job is feasible. That tends to keep you pretty busy, and makes it more difficult for those other things in life. You know, not just whatever fun things you do in your spare time, but also stuff like mowing the lawn, washing the dishes, paying attention to the spouse, etc.

It's been a challenging juggle for me. Between the things I've been working on for the civic club (the Gazette, the Silent Auction web site, and GOMO) and the clients I currently have, I've often felt lately that I already have enough to do without my current day job. This has made it really tempting to leave the day job now (something that I have wanted to do for a while). But, I think I need to hold on a little longer, be patient, and wait until the business is a bit more established before I do that. It wouldn't take much; just to feel like there's enough regular business coming in to be confident of the longer term future. Meantime, I guess I'll keep collecting that regular paycheck.

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### Garden Club Officers

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<i>Vice President</i> Holly Veech	713 263 8659
<i>Secretary</i> Susan Spooner-Gunther	
<i>Treasurer</i> Tina Nieto	
<i>Yard of the Month</i> Terry Jeanes	
<i>Sunshine</i> Barbara Ballance	
<i>Phone Committee</i> Cathey Land	

## Hail to the Chef

*Kenneth Santos*

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I had every intention of writing a lighter, hopefully more entertaining letter this month, but I feel it is important to once again discuss Deed Restrictions and to clarify some of the misinformation that has recently surfaced.

Several Title Companies are now indicating that Garden Oaks deed restrictions are no longer enforceable or have been abandoned. This is completely untrue! Our Deed Restrictions have never been discounted or found to be unenforceable by any courts! A summary judgment ruled that the former Board of Trustees was incorrectly established and due to that, they did not have the authority to enforce them. This did not affect our deed restrictions, which are very enforceable, but left us without an official group to handle deed restriction issues.

Garden Oaks is currently trying to establish a new deed restriction enforcement organization, GOMO. This organization will work with you, answer your questions, and help preserve the character of the neighborhood that you have invested in and call home. GOMO will be available to answer questions from builders and architects to ensure that the deed restrictions aren't violated.

Without a maintenance organization, we, as homeowners must step in and take on the daunting task of protecting and enforcing our deed restrictions. This can be extremely costly and time consuming and in the process, you can easily alienate a neighbor.

On a lighter note, plan on attending this year's Garden Oaks home tour. It is a great way to spend a day and you have the opportunity to get some fantastic ideas on decorating and remodeling! For those of you with a green thumb, there will be three incredible gardens that will get you rethinking your flowerbeds!

*For a copy of the deed restrictions for your section, visit the Garden Oaks web site at <http://www.gardenoaks.org>, call 713 695 7347, or send mail to PO Box 10273, Houston, 77206. Please be sure to include your section number or your address in correspondence.*

## Membership

*Cherry Wolfarth*

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Just a short membership note for this month as I sit at my computer to write this, I'm preparing to leave on vacation to the Pocono Mountains. I hope that each of you will make the time this spring or summer to get away. The thought of no phone, no pager and no fires to put out (at least not the figurative kind) fills me with an excitement that I can barely contain. The mountains have always been a place of peace and wonder in my life. Houston just can't quite cut it in that department.

Our March meeting was well attended. We packed the multi-purpose room at the Garden Oaks Elementary School with a forum on the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization. There is obviously a lot of interest in the issue of deed restrictions in our neighborhood. Many of those attending were not members of the Civic Club and we hope they will make the move to join and show their commitment and support to our neighborhood.

Congratulations to the following Civic Club members who were our March prize winners:

**Melissa Becker & Winston Norrish** (1325 Sue Barnett) – 2 tickets to the GO Home Tour

**Greta Dorsey** (415 W. 30<sup>th</sup>) – 2 tickets to the Sponsor Party for the GO Home Tour

## GOMO Section Captains and Voting Totals

*Sam Stengler*

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Below are listed the section captains for each section, the current voting totals as of March 15<sup>th</sup>, and the required amount to pass GOMO. If you haven't voted yet, call the appropriate person to get a ballot and fill it out today!

Section 1 - Marie Grochoske	713 864 8164	55% (75%)
Section 1A - James King	713 426 1607	
Section 2 - Warren E. Carlson	713 697 8690	53% (75%)
Section 3 - David Bell	713 694 5016	45% (60%)
Section 4 - <b>Needs You!</b>	<b>Call Sam Now!</b>	26% (60%)
Section 5 - Shelly Immel	713 688 4681	34% (60%)
All Sections - Sam Stengler	281 773 3478	

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## Minutes of the March 5, 2002 Civic Club Meeting

*Lori Kennedy, Secretary*

President Kenneth Santos called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The February minutes were accepted as published.

### Officer Reports:

*Treasurer* – Treasurer Margie Dalton reported that overall there has been less income than the previous month since most due dates were in January; however, the home tour income has increased. The constable account is current and healthy.

### Standing Committee Reports:

*Beautification* – Chair Rick Grochoske reported that about 10 volunteers attended each of the last 2 workdays. A big “thanks” to all those who helped! The next workday is Saturday 3/23/02 at 9:00 a.m. on Garden Oaks Boulevard to help beautify the parks for the Home Tour. The city has begun work on the park at Durham and 30<sup>th</sup> and should complete it within 60 days. Contact Rick at 713.864.8164 for more information or to volunteer.

*GOCOP* – Chair Carl Waters reported the January crime statistics and mentioned that they also included a few crimes from December that apparently were not reported in time. HPD will only release the block number of a crime as public information. If a person wants more specific information he/she must make a written request to HPD and pay for the information. There are currently about a dozen GOCOP patrollers; more volunteers are always needed. Contact Carl at 713.864.1992 for more information or to volunteer.

*Constable Program* – Deputy James Moncrief reported that an Irish group and a Romanian group are working the neighborhood and conning residents, mostly elderly, with bogus repair work, sometimes for thousands of dollars. He passed around a picture of Robert Tedford (WM, 5’4” to 5’5”, thin build), who has been working in our neighborhood since 1996, uses several aliases and drives a red pick-up truck. Please call HPD Major Offenders unit (713.308.3153) if he is seen. Recent activity has been a garage burglary, a bike theft and 2 purse snatchings. Co-chair Terry Jeanes reported that membership booklets and phone stickers are available to paid supporters. Report any crime incidents or problems with response times to Terry so she can relay the information to the Constable’s office. Contact Terry at 713.812.9154 for more information or to support the constable program.

*Gazette* – Chair Joe Muscara reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Contact Joe at GOGazette@Mac.com regarding *Gazette* submissions. Contact Holly Veech at 713.263.8659 for *Gazette* advertising.

*Home & Garden Tour* – Co-chair Sheila Briones reminded everyone the home tour is scheduled for Sunday 4/7/02 from 12:00–6:00 p.m. There are 3 homes, 3 gardens, and 3 homes and gardens. So far there are 28 sponsors donating \$10,750.00. Pre-sale tickets are now available for \$12 at several locations around town. Tickets will be \$15 on the day of the Tour. The sponsor party is Saturday 4/6/02 from 7:00–10:00 p.m., and those tickets are also available now. There will be a silent

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and live auction the night of the sponsor party. All volunteers will receive T-shirts. Trish Ricklefsen announced that for next year's Tour, they are considering having local artists paint individual chairs, which will kick off next year's silent auction. There would be a limited number of chairs each year so they could become collectible. The home tour can still use volunteers. Contact the home tour hotline 713.267.7800 for more information or to volunteer.

*Membership* – Michael Froebel announced that last year's total membership was 248; so far this year there are 216 paid members of the Civic Club, and a few more have been added at tonight's meeting. Garden Oaks T-shirts are available for purchase: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. The winner of the drawing from the paid memberships received by 3/1/02 will be announced in the next *Gazette*. Prizes are Home Tour and sponsor party tickets.

**Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

*Deed Restrictions* – Chair Sam Stengler reported that he received 10 new ballots tonight. Section totals are: Section 1 – 55%, Section 2 – 51%, Section 3 – 39%, Section 4 – 27% and Section 5 – 33%. Contact Sam at 281.773.3478 for more information or to volunteer.

*GO.org* – No report.

**Garden Club:**

Robert DeVeau announced the next meeting is Thursday 3/14/02 at 1063 W. 42.

**Old Business:**

President Santos stated that the Civic Club should not cross into deed restriction territory, as that is not its function. Terry Jeanes withdrew her tabled motion from the January meeting regarding a welcome-type letter with deed restrictions to all new construction and remodeling projects. Vice President Josh Hamilton proposed a new motion. The motion reads: In order to make the text of the Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions more easily available, the Garden Oaks Civic Club will provide upon request to a Garden Oaks property owner a copy of the Deed Restrictions text for a particular Garden Oaks section, provided that the request is reasonable and may be filled without exceeding the then current operating budget. The President will designate from time to time the Garden Oaks Civic Club officer or committee with responsibility for receiving and fulfilling such requests. The *Garden Oaks Gazette* will include each month text notifying Garden Oaks property owners of the availability of copies of the Deed Restrictions text, and the means by which copies may be requested, The text will be positioned in a prominent place in the *Garden Oaks Gazette*, to be determined monthly as needed by the editor. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)**

A special question and answer session was held to discuss GOMO. Topics and questions covered included the following: the formation history of GOMO, that GOMO will serve as an educational body for information about deed restrictions, how and why GOMO is financed as it is, distribution of excess funding, and that GOMO will be composed of the residents of Garden Oaks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

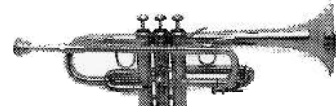
Meeting refreshments were graciously provided by Terry Jeanes of Re/Max-METRO.



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Guillaume "GEM" Morvan (Shepherd Park Plaza Resident)

**Citizens on Patrol**

*Carl Waters, Jr.*

Let's start this month by finishing some business from last month. As I mentioned, my neighbor was victimized by 3 scam artists who had been working the neighborhood. We have found that they took him for at least \$7,000.00 claiming they had done work that had not been performed. This has led to criminal charges being filed against one of the men. Robert Tedford has been charged with theft because of the efforts of a concerned citizen, namely, my wife! He was placed in the Fort Bend County Jail in mid-March on unrelated charges and will be transferred to Harris County for trial some time in the future. This is not the only group working the neighborhood as we have learned from dealing with the people coming to our neighbor's home. Perpetrators of this type of scam or con have been known to sell their target lists to other groups. Please be aware that Mr. Tedford still has partners working in the neighborhood, so don't let your guard down! One of the remaining individuals has been identified as Henry "Wilton" Doughtrey. Our neighbor was not aware that his checks were being cashed for large amounts of money because he was letting the criminals fill in the amount and we have learned that our neighbor was not their only victim in the neighborhood. Citizens On Patrol is concerned about the welfare of our senior citizens; I would like to start a list so that our patrollers can check their homes a little more closely. If you know someone who could benefit from this service, please contact me at the numbers listed below.

Last month I provided a "final" crime report for 2001. In the crime report for January three more burglaries with December dates were listed. That would bring last year's total to 88.

**January Crimes Statistics (4)**

*Burglary (1)*

500 Block of W. Thirty-third St. on January 10 at 7:30 p.m. (residence).

*Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (3)*

700 Block of W. Forty-first St. on January 2 at 11:30 p.m. (driveway).

700 Block of Garden Oaks Blvd. on January 26 at 6:00 p.m. (strip center parking lot).

900 Block of W. Forty-second St. on January 16 at 10:00 p.m. (street).

Applications are now being accepted for patrollers via email at GOCOP77018@AOL.com. Just leave a message and I will get back to you within 24 hours. You can also 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

# Constable Program Report

*Terry Jeanes and Susan Saranie*

Just a reminder... Your constable contributions are due! If you are unsure if you have sent yours, please contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or jeanest@pdq.net. If you have not joined please use the insert and member profile insert. Remember, a one time annual contribution or monthly draft options are available. Your membership contribution entitles you to 40 hours of paid law enforcement per week, vacation watches, security checks on your home for insurance deductions, and the constable's office can be your contact with your alarm monitoring company for a more rapid response.

Good News... Regarding Deputy Moncrief's report of the scam artist ring preying on a number of our elderly neighbors, 4 offenders—Robert Tedford, Timothy Spivey, Stephen B. Johnson, and Joseph Murphree—were arrested and have been charged. If you or any of your neighbors may have been victimized, please call the Houston Police at 713-308-3100.

*Deputy Moncrief's Report – February*

1406 Miles patrolled, 16 court citations, 2 criminal offenses, 7 suspicious vehicles, 34 park checks, 2 vacation watches, 12 citizen assists.

# You Are Invited!

*Sam Stengler*

The Deed Restrictions Committee of the Garden Oaks Civic Club is making preparations for a final push throughout May 2002, to gather votes for the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) from our neighbors who have not yet turned in a ballot.

We need your help! We will once again be going door-to-door, attempting to collect ballots for GOMO from property owners who have not yet turned one in.

For those of you who have assisted us in this effort in the past, we urgently need your time and willingness to meet your neighbors for this effort.

Those of you who have yet to get involved, this would be an excellent opportunity to do something wonderful for the neighborhood!

Come to the April Civic Club meeting, and hear about it!

Thanks!

Sam Stengler

Chair, Deed Restrictions Committee of the GO CC

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## The Female Athlete Triad

*Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD and Kari Baranko*

The number of women participating in sports has dramatically increased in the last 30 years. Regular physical activity has many benefits to women including decreased mortality, improved body image, increased bone density, decreased stress, and improved aerobic fitness.

With this boom in female fitness, new health risks for these athletes have arisen. The female athlete triad is a disorder composed of three parts: disordered eating patterns, amenorrhea (cessation of normal menstrual periods), and osteoporosis. This disorder makes your bones thin and weak. Left untreated, athletes are at higher risk for stress fractures and the loss of bone strength may last forever.

The female athlete triad affects women and girls in many sports, but those in "appearance" sports such as dancers, gymnasts and figure skaters are at a higher risk. Other risk factors include being a competitive athlete, playing sports that require you to weigh in, exercising more than is necessary for your sport, and being pushed by your coach or parents to win at all costs.

Women who train intensely and emphasize weight loss often engage in disordered eating behaviors. These behaviors range from moderate restriction of food intake to severe food restriction and regular bingeing and purging. This decreases the available energy, therefore reducing body mass and body fat to a point at which the individual is at risk for energy imbalance, over-training, poor performance, and amenorrhea.

Primary amenorrhea or delayed menarche, oligomenorrhea or irregular menstrual periods, and secondary amenorrhea, the complete absence of menstrual periods for greater than three months, are considered "red flags," warnings that something is seriously wrong with the body. Amenorrhea is a telling sign of over-training, energy imbalance, impaired nutrition, energy drain, eating disorders, hormonal imbalances, and stress. It is often the first diagnosed symptom to the female athlete triad.

Osteoporosis occurs when a bone contains more holes and less solid mineral than a normal bone. It is weak, brittle, and more likely to break or fracture. Peak bone mass reflects genetics and everything, good or bad, that happens to your bones during puberty and early adulthood. Nutritional deficiencies, delayed menarche, episodes of amenorrhea, and eating disorders will put the female athlete at risk for osteoporosis. To build strong bones throughout life, eat a well balanced diet, exercise appropriately, and include daily intake of the bone builders—1200-1500 mg calcium, 400-800 mg Vitamin D, and 12 mg Zinc.

To treat athletic amenorrhea, reduce your training level by 10-20 percent, gradually increase total energy intake, strive to increase your body weight by 2-3 percent, and maintain the recommended daily vitamin and mineral allowance. To take the disorder out of eating, tolerate diversity in body shapes and do not compare yourself with others, listen to hunger and satiety cues, enjoy food, and most importantly, do not punish yourself for overeating through severe diet restriction.



# Garden Oaks Community Garden

*Robert K. Gabrysch*

Jan Koenig, a previous resident of Garden Oaks, originally started the Garden Oaks Community Garden on the campus of Garden Oaks Elementary School in the 1980's. The garden was sponsored by Garden Oaks Elementary School, Interfaith ministries and Garden Oaks Civic Club. The garden, consisting of five raised beds, then moved to its present location at 4405 Alba Rd. in 1991. When Mr. Koenig moved away from the neighborhood, Beth Galiano assumed management of the garden. Bob Gabrysch joined Beth in 1993 and he added several more beds.

The garden is organically grown and consists of 10 raised beds (5 feet by 40 feet), one bed (2 1/2 feet by 8 feet), one bed (2 1/2 feet by 75 feet), and two beds (8 feet by 24 feet). The garden is separated from a small orchard by a stand of pine trees.

Almost all of the vegetables and herbs are given to the St. Matthews Methodist Church food pantry, the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church food pantry, and Kid Care on Old Yale.

Since 1991, the water bill has been paid by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and Ed de Alba, a current Garden Oaks resident. Mike Tisdal, of T M Services, mows the grass. In exchange for their services, T M Services stocks leaves, pine needles, and grass clippings (which they would have to pay to dispose of) at the garden. The material is composted and used for organic matter in the garden. Each year, five or six loads of manure and hay are obtained from the Police Stable on Post Oak. The material is free and is an excellent mulch and compost.

The garden is now operated by Bob and Cecilia Gabrysch (a 20+ year teacher at Garden Oaks Elementary) and Beth Galiano. Bob and Cece are residents of Candlelight Estates No. 1 and Beth is a resident of Shepherd Park Plaza. The school is no longer a sponsor and Interfaith Ministries also no longer provides sponsorship to community gardens.

I believe the garden serves a very useful purpose and is an attractive site. Many people stop to look and inquire about the garden. An additional use for the garden would be as a growing place for starting plants, which could be used by the Garden Club or neighborhood Beautification program.

P.S. Birds and squirrels take care of the figs and pears produced by the small orchard.

Robert K. Gabrysch  
1847 Bethlehem  
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*Continued from page 1*

Everyone is encouraged to support the Tour! **Please help keep our neighborhood looking its best and refrain from putting items such as heavy trash out until after the conclusion of the Tour.**

*Purchase your discounted pre-sale ticket, priced at \$12, at one of the following locations:*

Another Place in Time, 421 W. 11<sup>th</sup>, (713) 864-9717  
 Bell's MyOwn Cleaners, 1362 W. 43<sup>rd</sup>, (713) 680-8404  
 Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E. 11<sup>th</sup>, (713) 861-5702  
 Greenwood King Properties, 1801 Heights Blvd., (713) 864-0888  
 Haute Groceries, 3468 Ella Blvd., (713) 682-2780  
 Irma's Restaurant, 22 N. Chenevert, (713) 222-0767  
 Kandy's Kafe, 3452 Ella Blvd., (713) 263-1112  
 Kaplan's Ben-Hur, 2125 Yale, (713) 861-2121  
 Kojak's Deli & Fine Foods, 1912 W. 18<sup>th</sup>, (713) 426-1800  
 Northwest Family YMCA, 1234 W. 34<sup>th</sup>, (713) 869-3378  
 Prudential Premier Properties, 1354 W. 43<sup>rd</sup>, (713) 686-2038  
 Smith & Hawken, 3935 San Felipe, (713) 621-9395  
 The Frame Shop, 3444 Ella Blvd., (713) 682-4578

All pre-sale tickets must be redeemed at the Command Center/Trolley Station located in the Garden Oaks Shopping Center in the 3800 block of North Shepherd between W. 38<sup>th</sup> and Garden Oaks Blvd. Full priced day-of-tour tickets may also be purchased for \$15 each at the Command Center. Catch the free bus trolley (*generously underwritten by METRO*) that will take you to all nine stops.

One of the highlights of the Tour is the Sponsor Party held the night before the Home Tour. The party, this year held Saturday evening April 6, honors the Home & Garden owners, sponsors, and underwriters who have generously contributed to the success of the Tour. For a \$40 ticket, the evening features a sneak preview of all 6 homes and 3 gardens, catering by Kandy's Kafe, entertainment by Mariachi "Guadalajara Trio" and a Silent/Live Auction. The menu includes fajitas with all the trimmings, margaritas, beer, wine, and delicious desserts. Reserve your Sponsor Party tickets by contacting Deanna Zugheri at (832) 476-4123 or mail your check (*made out to the Garden Oaks Civic Club*) to Deanna Zugheri, c/o GOH&GT Sponsor Party, 1801 Heights Blvd., Houston, Texas 77008.

For the first time this year, you're able to bid on-line for items featured on the Silent/Live Auction. Items now online include Spaghetti Spectacular for Six, Starter Wine Cellar, Teddy Bear's Picnic, tickets to the Alley Theatre, aerial tour of Houston, month of unlimited Nia & Yoga, crepe myrtles, japanese magnolia, English garden bench, two nights in the French Quarter, etc. New items are being added on a weekly basis. Place your on-line bids at [www.gardenoaks.org/silentauction](http://www.gardenoaks.org/silentauction)

For up-to-date information about the Tour, call the Tour Hotline at (713) 267-7800.

**Thank You to the following 2002 Home & Garden Tour Underwriters**

*Corporate (\$1000)*

Abbey Event Services  
 Greenwood King  
 METRO  
 Shannon & Associates, Inc.

*Platinum (\$500)*

Bos Lighting Design  
 Coldwell Banker Swilley-Hudson  
 First HomeCare-Houston, Inc.  
 First Houston Mortgage  
 House Painting by Hand  
 Harry James Building & Design  
 Houston Structural, Inc.  
 Mike Caldwell Building & Design  
 Team Texan, Patsy Bushart & Wes Vawter, Prudential  
 Gary Greene Realtors  
 Terry Jeanes, RE/MAX Metro  
 Tony's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina

*Gold (\$250)*

All Star Construction, Inc.  
 Cascade Custom Pools  
 CenterPoint Energy Houston  
 Clouse Wood Floors  
 Deanna Zugheri, Greenwood King Properties  
 McGuff Architects  
 Oscar Ochoa, OD's Printing  
 Pat Walker, Keller Williams-The Garden Group  
 RF Raymond Landscape Construction  
 San Jacinto Stone  
 Texas Drain Technologies  
 The NET Church  
 Tom & Carol Hazel

Garden Oaks

Home & Garden Tour 2002

*Continued from page 1*

On another topic, we had a longer discussion involving the funding of GOMO. A little detail is necessary, so bear with me.

- original funding based upon footage of front property line - \$0.40 per linear foot
- average price of developed GO property around 1950 - \$4600
- average amount paid for funding at closing - \$30
- funding cost as percentage of property price - 0.60%
- proposed GOMO funding percentage - 0.75%
- typical purchase price in early 2000's - \$200,000 (an increase between 50 - 60 times)
- typical amount for funding due at closing - \$1500 (an increase of about 55 times)
- average ownership period in GO - 7 years
- amount fee would work out to if paid yearly (it's not) - \$215

While these numbers are somewhat approximate, you can see that we are simply trying to bring the funding level up to account for the huge increase in the dollar value of our properties, as well as the DR services, that has occurred since the funding was originally set over 50 years ago.

That original dollar amount stayed the same through the Real Estate boom of the 1970's, the bust of the 1980's and on into the late 1990's, when the BOT was dissolved. Through thick and thin, about \$30.00 bought you the services of a small group of dedicated neighbors to provide the same services that we are proposing to provide with GOMO, even though the cost of these services, especially if the service involved any non-volunteer personnel, increased drastically...talk about a bargain!

Which brings us to one more question: what to do with the money?

GOMO will use the funds collected for its ongoing business: operating costs, insurance for GOMO and its officers, mailings, DR printing, legal matters, etc. However, within the by-laws will be a provision to cap the total funds that GOMO must keep on hand for its own operation, with any funds collected over that capped amount to be used as GOMO sees fit. This is one of many places where each of you homeowners, as automatic members of GOMO, can help decide on how this money is distributed.

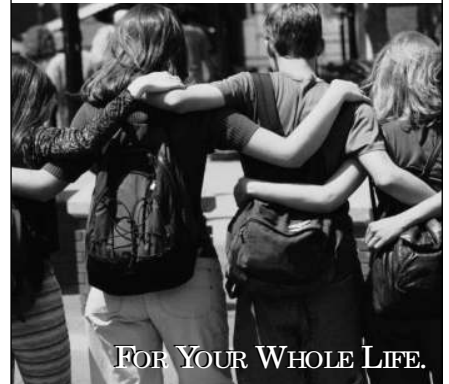
This brings me to my last point, and a question that, while not always explicitly stated, has been asked by many of you: who is GOMO?

To put it simply, GOMO is **you!**

Each property owner of a section where GOMO passes will automatically become a member of GOMO. As a member, you can attend the meetings, run for officer or director, vote on issues and plans before GOMO, etc. It will be **your** organization!

As always if you have any questions about any of this, please feel free to call one of your Deed Restriction Committee Section Captains (name and numbers elsewhere in the *Gazette*) or myself, Sam Stengler, at 281.773.3478.

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It's just \$40 for one month, \$200 for 6 months, and \$380 for one year for the standard ad size (2 3/8" x 2 1/4"), or \$70 for one month, \$350 for 6 months, and \$740 for one year for double the ad size.

Contact Holly Veech at 713 263 8659 or send an e-mail to m2lindsay12@hotmail.com.

*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.*

## Critter Corner

### *Casey and Mau Mau Farris*

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April showers may bring May flowers, but they also bring thunder boomers. This month we have some tips for you to help your dog overcome fear of thunder. The outdoor birds are flocking in and are awful busy so we have suggestions to ease their workload a little bit. Mau Mau has a few words about the feline anatomy.

**Pet of the Month:** “Miss April” is a four-year old Plymouth Barred Rock chicken named Ethyl Caldwell. Ethyl was adopted at one-day old and came with a companion Rhode Island Red named Lucy. Lucy is no longer with us, but Ethyl has a big family with one person, two dogs, and three cats. Ethyl knows her name and comes when you call her. Often times you find her at the gate with the dogs waiting on their mother to get home. She loves treats, especially sunflower seeds and cat food. Ethyl is a serious gardener. She gets up at the crack of dawn and rids the yard of all insects and snails, but she doesn’t like slugs. If you sit in the yard, she will take a break and sit with you. She loves to sunbathe, take dust baths and attend hen parties.

**Pet News:** Wilson Zambon (Sheltie) got a new baby sister Monster (Sheltie). Buster Bear Wolfarth (Cocker Poo) has an ear infection. Dash Caldwell (Italian Greyhound) recently passed on and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Biscuit May (Yellow Lab/Chow mix) has a way out of his fence invisible to humans. Please keep an eye out for him in Section 1A. Owen (Yellow Lab/Boxer mix) and Jake (Chocolate Lab/Pointer mix) Veech have a new human baby and are very calm and gentle with her. Tucker York (Beagle) is excited about having lots of company since her house is on the upcoming Home Tour. Keegan Sabuco/Arnold (Daschound) celebrated his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday at home with family and friends. The Munson Family found a black lab mix near 41<sup>st</sup> and Sue Barnett. He is neutered and very sweet. They would like to find his owners or a good home for him. Please call 713-957-2959.

#### **Critters 101: Fear of Thunder**

When your dog becomes frightened, he tries to reduce his fear usually by destruction and escaping. Both behaviors can be dangerous for him and trouble for you. Fear of thunder is actually very common, and affects dogs of both sexes and all breeds. There is some speculation that the dog is reacting partially to the atmospheric pressure changes during a storm, as well as to the noise itself. Dogs that display no fear of storms as puppies may develop this fear later in life. There are several ways to help your dog cope with this fear.

If your dog is crate trained, or has a place that he considers his “safe place,” you may find that he will ride out the storm better if he is confined to his safe place. Some dogs hide in the bathroom. Dr. Dodman, the respected Tufts University vet, proposes that frightened dogs are being affected by a build-up of static charge and seek out conductive surfaces such as sinks and pipes in the bathroom. A sink is typically supplied by metal pipes and therefore acts as an electrical grounding device.

Some dogs merely need to be reassured. However, you must be careful about the way you do this, and make sure you are not inadvertently rewarding the dog for a fear reaction. If you positively reinforce fear reactions with unintentional praise – such as softly crooning or stroking when the dog exhibits fear, it is likely that the reactions will continue. By simply ignoring the storm and carrying on with a normal household routine, you send the dog the message that the storm is no big deal. Another way to reassure the dog without inadvertently praising or reinforcing the fear reaction is to massage your dog or brush your dog in long even strokes.

One solution for mild fear of storms is to associate the storms with something wonderful. If your dog has a favorite indoor game, or a special treat, provide that during the storm. Many times they will get so absorbed with their game, or the possibility of a favored treat, that they will forget to worry about the storm, and will start to associate the storm with good things. You can also play tapes of storms, starting at a low volume and working up to a very high volume. As you stroke your dog and play with him you will be teaching him to ignore the sound.

Any panic behavior, such as uncontrolled running, foaming at the mouth, howling consistently, aggression, or violent shaking should be considered severe and you should consult with your veterinarian. Do not punish your dog for being afraid and do not force your dog to experience or be close to the sound that frightens him. This will not decrease your dog’s fear.

**Dear Mau Mau:** What is the purpose of your whiskers? K. Townsend

A cat’s whiskers are usually as wide as its body and as such, help them navigate through tight spaces. The average cat has 24 whiskers, 12 on each side. Aren’t we fascinating creatures! *Mau Mau*

**Migratory Report:** The birds are very busy now building nests so they can attract a mate and have babies. The female of some species of birds chooses her mate by the quality of the male’s nest. So why not provide nesting material to help your feathered friends in their parenting duties? Accumulate yarn, cotton string, lint from the clothes dryer, pet hair,

straw, or batting. Place the nesting materials on a plate, suet holder or similar receptacle, and put it near your feeders or watering area where the birds frequent. Observe where the birds take the material and you can watch the nest building process, the courting process, and soon enough the hatch and fledge.

**Casey's Comments:** If you get to thinking you're a person of some influence, try ordering somebody else's dog around.

*Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services, a Garden Oaks company offering many services and products dedicated to the welfare of our pets and the people who love them. Mau Mau Farris is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@goDOGusa.com or call 713-683-6191.*

## Fun Fair on the Amen Corner

St. Michael's Episcopal Church and St. James Lutheran Church would like to invite the residents of Garden Oaks to join in a day of fun for the whole family. The two churches, located at the corner of W. 43rd and Chantilly, two blocks west of Ella, are hosting their first "Fun Fair on the Amen Corner" as a gift to the community they serve on April 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Festivities will include: a classic car show, live bands, a moonwalk, ice cream social, games and more. Admission is free. For more information, contact Mike Childers at (713) 680-8256.

## Heard Under the Oak Tree

### Terry Jeanes

Welcome new residents who recently closed on their properties.

915 West 41st.	843 West 41st.
1074 Lamonte	311 West 32nd.
324 West 32nd.	951 Lamonte

Welcome to the neighborhood and we hope to see you soon at a civic club meeting. It certainly has been great seeing all the "new faces" at recent civic meetings.

Congratulations & Welcome to the following new arrivals:

*Joe Crownover and Jennifer Langdon* welcomed new baby girl the first week of March.

*The Shelleys, John and Alisha,* welcomed their baby girl in January.

*The Nulls* welcomed the birth of their daughter Sydney Grace on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Welcome back *Cherry Wolfarth* - how was the Poconos?

### Special Dates & Events

Happy belated March birthdays to *Lori Kennedy, Ed de Alba,* and *Kenneth Santos!*

Happy belated 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary March 17<sup>th</sup>, *Rob & Terry Jeanes.*

Garden Oaks resident, *Susan Spooner Gunther,* will have an art show at the Rotunda Gallery at St. Luke's Methodist church, Westheimer at Edloe during the month of June. Featured will be watercolor botanical paintings, intaglio prints, oils, and acrylics.

*To feature someone or an event, simply call Terry 713-812-9154 or e-mail her at [jeanest@pdq.net](mailto:jeanest@pdq.net).*

## March Yard of the Month

507 W. 31<sup>st</sup>

For the color combination of tulips and azaleas.

# April 2002

## Useful Numbers

Senior Helper  
713 862 3747

All City Services  
(city information or services ranging from traffic court dates and sewer concerns to pothole problems and neighborhood complaints)  
311

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

Recycling Hotline  
713 837 9130

Deed Restriction Violations  
City of Houston Legal Department  
713 247 2000

Bruce Tatro (District A)  
713 247 2010

Ken Yarbrough  
713 263 1516

John Whitmire  
713 864 8701

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." -Martin Luther King, Jr.	1 Home Tour Meeting 7:00 P.M. Kroger W. 43 <sup>rd</sup> April Fool's Day	2 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. G.O. Elem.	3	4	5	6 Home Tour Sponsor Party 7 P.M. - 10 P.M.
7 Home and Garden Tour Noon - 6 P.M. Daylight Savings Begins	8	9	10	11 Garden Club Meeting 7:00 P.M.	12	13
14	15 Gazette Article Deadline	16 Home Tour Wrap-up 7:00 P.M. Location TBA	17	18	19	20
21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	<b>Upcoming events</b> Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, May 7 <sup>th</sup> Make sure your Civic Club committee meeting or event gets on the calendar! Email the editor at <a href="mailto:GOGazette@Mac.com">GOGazette@Mac.com</a> with your information.			

## 2002 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 Email \_\_\_\_\_

(A) Annual Dues

- Household \$25
- Senior Citizen \$5
- Business \$50

(B) Additional Program Support

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

(C) Garden Oaks T-Shirts - \$15 each  
2002 Paid Member Price - \$10 each

Qty Sm \_\_\_\_\_ Total Shirts Ordered \_\_\_\_\_  
 Med \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lrg \_\_\_\_\_ Price each \_\_\_\_\_  
 XLrg \_\_\_\_\_  
 XXLrg \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ for T-Shirts \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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