



Join Us for National Night Out

Kenneth Santos, Civic Club President

In lieu of our August 6th Civic Club meeting, Garden Oaks, along with thousands of other neighborhoods throughout the country, will be celebrating National Night Out (NNO). The purpose of NNO, which premiered in 1984, is to promote neighborhood awareness and involvement in crime and drug prevention, how to protect yourself, your neighbor and your property and to improve police-community relations.

National Night Out is also a great opportunity to get to meet and know your neighbors and work at becoming a more cohesive, safer neighborhood. One of the first steps for making a safer neighborhood starts with knowing your neighbors – knowing their routines, when they are home, at work or on vacation. With that basic information it is much easier to determine when something doesn't appear to be normal.

We have become an invisible nation due to our busy work schedules and other activities, spending great amounts time away from our homes. And when we are at home, we spend that time inside, in front of the television or computer monitors searching the web, or in our back yards, hidden behind fences! As we continually become more private, not necessarily by choice, we become more vulnerable to crime by not seeing or knowing or even noticing what is normal for your street, for your neighborhood.

On August 6th, get out in your front yard, pull out a few chairs and welcome your neighbors to join you. If time permits and you are more ambitious, organize a block party, a cookout or barbeque, or just serve cookies and lemonade. The purpose of NNO is to be visible, to get to know your neighbors and to become aware of what is happening where you live. A safer neighborhood starts with you!

Citizens on Patrol

Carl Waters, Jr.

Crime is on the rise once again in Garden Oaks. There were thirteen reported crimes in May (see below for details) bringing the total for the first five months of the year to 44. This is an increase of over 90% from last year. Alarms, the Constable patrol, HPD patrols and Citizens On Patrol can only do so much to deter crime in the neighborhood. Is there an answer? Yes, it's community involvement! No, I am not talking about vigilantism. I am talking about knowing your neighbors, knowing who belongs at their homes at what times of the day or night. I am talking about caring for their safety because if they're not safe, how safe are you?

How can you get to know your neighbors? An excellent opportunity is fast approaching. It is called National Night Out. National Night Out was started in 1983 in Wynnewood, PA (maybe that explains why it is celebrated in August) to help com-

Continued on page 4

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6th

There is no August Civic Club meeting. Instead, celebrate National Night Out on your block. Have a party and get to know your neighbors. Stop crime, have fun.

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DEANNA ZUGHERI

Minutes of the July 2, 2002 Civic Club Meeting

Lori Kennedy, Secretary

President Kenneth Santos called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The June minutes were accepted as published.

Officer Reports

Treasurer – Treasurer Margie Dalton reported the constable fund is low; there is enough money to pay one more month.

Standing Committee Reports

Beautification - Chair Rick Grochoske reminded people that landscaping the area at 30th, Randal and Durham is the next project. Contact Rick 713.864.8164 for more information or to volunteer.

GOCOP - Chair Carl Waters reported the May crime statistics. For crime statistics ending 5/31/02, crime is up about 91% in our neighborhood. National Night Out is next month; it is important for everyone to know their neighbors and what happens around the neighborhood. Contact Carl at 713.864.1992 for more information or to volunteer.

Constable Program – Deputy Moncrief reported that summer has brought an increase in crime, especially in motor vehicle burglaries. Keep valuables locked up and out of sight. Neighbors need to help neighbors, watch what happens in the neighborhood, and call in suspicious activity. Co-Chair Terry Jeanes reported that they are contacting people who supported the program last year. They have done a partial mail-out and will do another one. Contact Terry at 713.812.9154 for more information or to support the constable program.

Gazette – Editor Joe Muscara reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. Contact Joe at GOGazette@Mac.com regarding Gazette submissions. If you know of someone who wants to advertise, please contact Holly Veech at 713.861.8093.

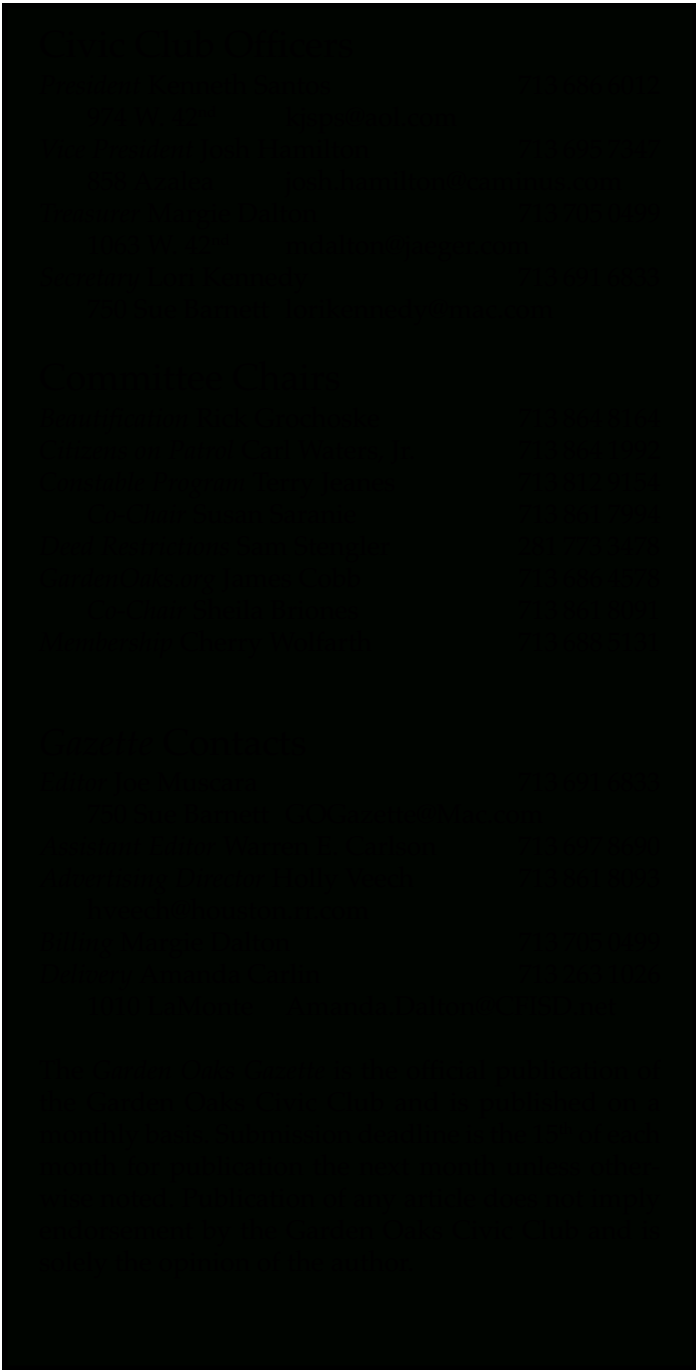
Home & Garden Tour – President Santos reported that the committee is looking for a chair for the 2003 Tour.

Membership – Chair Cherry Wolfarth announced there are 278 paid Civic Club members so far this year, which is up from last year. Welcome packets are being distributed quarterly and the next round will go out soon.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Deed Restrictions – Chair Sam Stengler thanked all volunteers who have helped in the GOMO balloting effort – both rounds. Balloting is winding down as the deadline for Sections 1, 2 and 3 is 7/23 and 7/30 for Sections 4 and 5. Section 3 has passed and Sections 1 and 2 only need a few more votes. Section 5 has gained momentum and is getting close. The next meeting is Thursday 7/11/02 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kroger. Contact Sam at 281.773.3478 for more information or to volunteer.

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Garden Club Officers

<i>President Janet Cones</i>	713 956 7340
<i>Vice President Holly Veech</i>	713 861 8093
<i>Secretary Susan Spooner-Gunther</i>	
<i>Treasurer Tina Nieto</i>	
<i>Yard of the Month Terry Jeanes</i>	



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Continued from page 1

but similar problems there. This year it will be celebrated on Tuesday, August 6th. Make plans to celebrate with your neighbors. Neighborhoods are eligible for awards based on their participation and I know the command staff and officers of the North Division really enjoy bragging to the station in Clear Lake when we have more parties than they do. If you want to plan a party it can be as simple or as extravagant as you want it to be. Just let me know that you are having one and I will try to get someone from the Houston Police Department or the Precinct One Constable's Office to stop for a visit. You can call me at home or send the information to the GOCOP email address. I have attendance forms that can be distributed. Our block uses the party as a time to exchange/ update phone numbers for emergencies.

May Crime Statistics (13)

Burglary (8)

- 900 Block of Azalea St., May 3, at 2:15 a.m. (residence).
- 700 Block of W. Forty-second St., May 5, at 6:30 p.m. (residence).
- 700 Block of W. Thirty-ninth St., May 7, at 7:30 a.m. (garage).
- 1300 Block of Sue Barnett, May 12, at 12:00 midnight (residence).
- 700 Block of Garden Oaks Blvd., May 12, at 6:00 p.m. (garage).
- 300 Block of W. Thirty-second St., May 18, at 2:30 p.m. (residence).
- 700 Block of W. Forty-second St., May 23, at 9:30 a.m. (residence).
- 300 Block of W. Thirty-third St., May 24, at 8:00 a.m. (residence).

Burglary of Motor Vehicle (2)

- 1000 Block of Gardenia, May 14, at 7:45 p.m. (street).
- 800 Block of Lamonte Ln., May 16, at 10:45 a.m. (driveway).

Auto Theft (3)

- 900 Block of Gardenia, May 9, at 8:00 p.m. (street).
- 3200 Block of N. Shepherd, May 21, at noon. (parking lot).
- 3200 Block of N. Shepherd, May 21, at noon. (parking lot).

In addition to these crimes, our neighborhood deputy constable reported several motor vehicle burglaries occurred at the end of the school year. He is encouraging all citizens to make use of their driveways and take their personal belongings out of their cars at night. This will help make them less tempting to criminals passing through the neighborhood. He also asked that we be aware of a black male driving a new blue Volkswagen Beetle. This individual has been attempting to sell what is believed to be stolen car stereos. I understood this to be happening at the Spark Park next to the elementary school.

Please contact me via the Internet at GOCOP77018@AOL.com or call me at 713-864-1992 for details about joining our program or to let me know about your National Night Out party.

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
All Other City Services	311

Membership

Cherry Wolfarth

Hello Neighbors! As I write this column, there are 2 concerns on my mind: when will it ever stop raining (seems like it's feast or famine in the precipitation department) and what will happen to our neighborhood when we have organized deed restriction protection (GOMO) for only *part of* Garden Oaks? There are no definite answers to either of these questions. God only knows about the weather. Neighborhood cohesion and integrity are perhaps more within our ability to predict or affect. The section of Garden Oaks that I live in will NOT be protected by GOMO. Built during the wartime years, section 4 is often known as the "step-child" section. We have the lowest participation rate of any section in the neighborhood (Civic Club membership, GOMO voting, Constable Patrol funding). Will the lack of formal deed restriction protection contribute further to this laissez faire attitude? I certainly hope not, for there are many of us Section 4 residents who work hard for Garden Oaks, the home we love.

If you're reading this column and have not yet joined the Civic Club, PLEASE do your part and take a moment to fill out the membership form in this issue of the *Gazette*. Your financial contributions are the primary source (other than the Home Tour) for funding Civic Club activities, including the maintenance of our 5 parks.

NEWS FLASH!! Here's a special deal for you: if you join this month and order a Garden Oaks t-shirt, write on the form "*Cherry said free!*" and I'll personally deliver a free t-shirt to your doorstep.

Now for our latest Membership numbers. We now have **281** members, representing almost 20% participation. We need only 70 more residents to sign up to make our goal of 25% participation.

Continued from page 2

GO.org – President Santos reported that the committee is looking for a new person to complete the website.

Garden Club

The next meeting is at 5117 N. Main. Contact Janet Cones at 713.956.7340 for more information or to join.

Old Business

President Santos announced the Civic Club is looking for a chair (or co-chairs) to organize a Fall Festival for this year. Anyone interested should contact Kenneth at 713.686.6012.

New Business

President Santos announced the Civic Club is looking for a new historian to replace Sheila Briones. Anyone interested should contact Kenneth at 713.686.6012 or Sheila at 713.861.8091.

There is no August meeting in observance of National Night Out on Tuesday 8/6/02.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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



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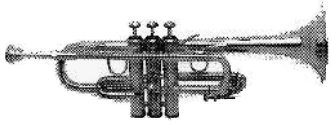
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Underfoot Greenery

Mark Saranie

One of our neighbors has put their house up for sale. It's a sad feeling because someone you have come to know and appreciate is leaving. The real estate sign out front, the lock box on the front door, the absence of their car bring home the thought that we wish we had known them better. This August 6th is National Neighbors Night Out. Get your street together and have some fun. The ebbs and flows of life bring us all together for but a brief moment and then like a monarch butterfly sampling a bloom, we move on. Get to know your neighbor.

I like rain, but with the amount we saw mid-July, and that of the coming months, the incidence of brown patch goes up. The high humidity and warm nights encourage this fungal disease most commonly identified by brown circular areas in the lawn. Brown patch usually affects the grass blades only, so once the fungus disappears during dry weather the grass will return. I had this fungal disease in the yard in places it has never been. It can be transported into your lawn simply by walking over an affected spot in another lawn or brought to you compliments of your lawn service. Brown patch is easily treated. Several fungicides are available at your local garden centers. Just follow the instructions.

Along with excessive rain comes the possibility of chlorosis. This is evident with the discoloration of your lawn or plants. This can be remedied with an application of iron available in pellet or liquid form. Follow the label. I usually spread some Ironite when needed. It helps things green up.

When the heat and dry weather resume, have your lawn service, or you yourself, cut your grass at the highest possible setting on the lawn mower. First, the longer grass blades will aid in conserving moisture and shading the roots. A closely cropped lawn loses moisture quickly as well as allows the sun to heat up the ground enabling weed seeds to germinate and begin their pernicious invasion. Speaking of weeds in the grass, I have one that resembles a wandering jew that has been an insufferable challenge. As much as I detest using herbicides, none that I have tried has proven itself as its nemesis. The only defense has been to painstakingly expunge it manually and put down a layer of topsoil so that the grass can take possession of the lost ground.

As far as feeding your lawn goes, mulching the clippings returns nutrients to the soil. A regular cutting schedule, usually once a week will allow your lawn to fill in and become dense. A feeding schedule that consists of a good balanced fertilizer, e.g., 13-13-13 once every season will ensure a healthy lawn. The exception I follow is a 3-1-2 ratio in spring when the lawn begins to green up. If you cut your lawn yourself, doing so after heavy rains is not the optimal time. The ground is too saturated and as you step across the lawn you will compact the dirt forcing out oxygen. If you can bear it, wait a day or two and then cut. Have your lawn service observe this practice as well. You will avoid creating a sloppy muddy mess.

Well, I hear a storm coming again. Time to check on the dog.

Critter Corner

Casey and Mau Mau Farris

Hi Neighbors! August 6th is National Night Out so get your dog and come out to meet your neighbors—especially you newcomers. Houston is back in the NFL starting August 5th with the Texans’ first pre-season game and one neighborhood pooch has mastered the tailgate party. Nothing puts kitty in the proverbial dog-house like a urine spot on the carpet so this month we discuss the ideal litter box. Fall Migration is upon us so fill up those bird feeders.

Pet of the Month: “Mr. August” is Nickelodeon Harmon, a nine-year-old Golden Retriever. He lives in the 800 block of LaMonte with his family, Joan, Gary and Stephanie, as well as two cats, Boomerang and Candy Cookie. Nickelodeon was born a “tailgater.” His favorite spot is in the back of his dad’s pick-up. He is not harnessed in any way and it doesn’t matter if the truck is in the front yard, the back yard, or the parking lot of Home Depot. He will only leave his spot to eat, or take a nap indoors on really hot days, but the rest of the time he is quite content to watch the world from the bed of his Chevy. Keep on Truckin’ Nick!

Pet News: Ernie Speers (Beagle) got into a bag of dog food and gorged himself and ended up having his stomach pumped. Sheila and Meade (West Highland Terrier) Briones have a new addition to their family, Teddy, who is a four month-old poodle. Zim Aston (Lab/Rhodesian Mix) recently celebrated her birthday with family and friends. Whitey Rogers-Buran is doing well with his heartworm treatment. Jake (Staffordshire Terrier) and Pearl (Lab Mix) Sanchez-Menconi will soon start heartworm treatment and will also have to lay low for six weeks. Sally Davis (Tortoiseshell) died after a long battle with cancer; she was 18. Max Sadaune (Grey) recently died from kidney failure at the age of 16. Condolences to these families.

Critters 101: Outside the Box, Inappropriate Elimination

Inappropriate elimination can drive even the most loving pet owner crazy. It’s the number one reason cats are surrendered to shelters or pounds. The good news is house soiling problems can be prevented. Cat preferences for a desirable toilet are not unlike our own. It must be clean, private and easily accessible. They also have some requirements that are based on their survival instincts: It must contain an easily raked substrate and it must offer escape potential. This survival know-how is pre-programmed into your cat’s brain. Always base your decisions on what is most natural from the cat’s point of view. If kitty were to use the great outdoors, he would look for a soft, diggable substrate such as garden soil. There would be no artificial fragrance and, of course, no plastic liners. He would have plenty of room to sniff, dig, squat, and turn around. A clean spot would be selected each time – at least six inches from the last spot he used.

How do we meet these requirements indoors? Select a box that is at least 16 inches by 22 inches. Hooded or covered litter boxes are popular with consumers, but if cats did the shopping, they would be left on the shelves. Humans do not want to see or smell what kitty leaves behind and neither does kitty. The hooded litter box forces him to enter a cramped, cave-like structure that concentrates odors, creating an outhouse effect. Since the cat’s sense of smell is at least 14 times more sensitive than ours, this may be all it takes to send kitty in search of a fresher smelling toilet area.

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Summer Meals to Keep You Thin

Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD

Most of us do not want to spend our summers in the kitchen slaving over the stove. However, you don't want to fall prey to fast food or that hamburger and fries by the pool either. Your local supermarket offers aisles and aisles of fresh and fresh-packaged produce as well as ready-to-eat foods. Combine these together and you have a healthy meal in minutes with little or no cooking. Here are a few ideas to help make dinners quick, easy and healthy. If they go over well in your household, you can use them for meals on the run during the school year too.

Chicken Black Bean Mexi Wrap

- 4 large whole wheat tortillas
- 8 Tbsp. black bean dip (Guiltless Gourmet)
- 2 packages of Louis Rich pre cooked chicken strips (12 oz total)
- 1 red bell pepper (sliced)
- 1/2 c. roughly chopped cilantro
- 1/4 c. low fat shredded Sargento Mexican Style cheese

Spread 2 Tbsp. black bean dip on each tortilla. Add 3 oz of chicken (1/2 package) to each tortilla. Top with bell pepper, cilantro and cheese and wrap up. Can be heated in the oven or microwave if desired.

Yield: 4 servings

Serve with a can of Mexi corn.

Chunky Shrimp Gazpacho

- 3 c. water
- 1 pound peeled and deveined medium-size fresh shrimp (can buy precooked shrimp)
- 1/2 medium-size purple onion
- 1 small yellow squash
- 1 medium-size green pepper
- 3 (14 oz) cans no-salt-added diced tomatoes
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp dried tarragon
- 3 T. picante sauce

Bring 3 cups water to a boil in a medium saucepan. Add shrimp; cook 3-5 minutes or until shrimp turn pink. Drain and rinse under cold water. While shrimp cook, chop onion, squash, and pepper; place in a large bowl. Add cooked shrimp, tomatoes, herbs, and picante sauce to vegetable mixture, stirring well. Cover and chill.

Yield: 4 (1 3/4 c.) servings

Serve with bagged salad with Naturally Fresh Fat Free Balsamic Vinaigrette and foccacia bread. Boost the nutrition of the salad by adding raw vegetables from the salad bar.

If you don't even have time for that, check out the frozen food section of the

grocery store. Not only has the cooking been done for you, but there are many low fat options to choose from. Here are some of my favorites.

Amy's Organic Vegetable Lasagna. There is plenty of spinach and cheese in this generous portion. Some of my clients claim that they can not eat restaurant lasagna anymore because it is not as good as Amy's. Serve with a bag of low fat Caesar salad mix.

Ortega Skillet Fajitas. Not only has the meat been seasoned, cooked and sliced, but also have the onions and peppers. Add whole wheat, fat free flour or corn tortillas and salsa and you are finished. Serve with fat free refried beans.

Boston Market's Turkey Breast Medallions with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy. If you are looking for that home cooked meal, here you have it. This national restaurant chain offers frozen dinners too. Serve with Mann's Broccoly Wokly. This is a bag of broccoli florets found near the bagged salad that you can throw in the microwave for 4-5 minutes and have steamed broccoli.

Continued from page 7

Cats are genetically inclined to seek out an easily raked substrate in which to eliminate. If kitty is not selecting the litter box as his preferred area, then something is wrong. Perhaps he has a urinary tract or intestinal disorder that makes elimination uncontrollable or painful. He may be associating the litter box with his discomfort and is avoiding it. So, always rule out any health considerations by taking kitty to the veterinarian. All cats six months or older should be spayed or neutered to prevent urine marking. If the problem is not kitty's health or hormones, then perhaps the litter box is the problem. Is he eliminating near the litter box but not in it? If so, this may indicate that he intended to use the box, but for some reason he just couldn't bring himself to get into it. Usually this is because it is too dirty. Cats are not going to voluntarily step into moist or dirty litter that they will later have to clean off their paws or fur. A box that seems clean to you may not be clean enough for your cat. What is not offensive to us may be unbearable to them. Remember it is kitty's preferences, not yours, that count when it comes to the litter box.

Dear Mau Mau: Are tortoiseshell cats always female? *B. Duncan*

Tortoiseshell and related colors like Calico are the result of a sex-linked gene and require two X chromosomes to appear. Generally speaking, these colors will only appear in females. Very rarely, these colors may appear in male cats, but these males are genetically abnormal (they have XXY instead of the normal XY) and are almost always infertile. Just another fascinating feline fact. *Mau Mau*

Migratory Report: The Fall Migration starts mid to late summer so clean and fill those feeders. Put your binoculars and field guide near the window. You may have already noticed the burnt orange and black Orchard Orioles filling our trees.

Casey's Comments: Run, romp, and play daily.

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.

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Northwest Hospital.

Please call 713-867-2095.

FOR YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

**Memorial Hermann
Northwest Hospital**

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713.222.CARE

www.memorialhermann.org

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.

Delivery Volunteers Needed

We need people who can fill in for regular volunteers who are on vacation or otherwise unavailable, as well as those who are interested in taking over a delivery route.

For more information, contact Amanda Carlin at 713 263 1026 or Amanda.Dalton@CFISD.net.

Useful Numbers

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

August 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"If I create thoughts instead of children, I am still part of humanity." - Vincent Van Gogh				1	2	3
4	5	6 National Night Out	7	8 Garden Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. 811 W. 41st	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 Gazette Article Deadline	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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) _____ = \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO Garden Oaks Civic Club
 Mail completed form and payment to PO Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206