



Gazette Editor Needed

Joe Muscara

Wanted: A willing volunteer to take over the position of Editor for the Garden Oaks Gazette. No experience required.

A couple of months ago I discussed the possibility of moving on from my position as editor. After considering it over the past few months, I have decided that the March 2003 issue of the *Gazette* will be my last as editor. At that point, I will have been editor for exactly three years, which translates to 36 issues.

The only requirement is a willingness to learn how to edit, layout, and publish a monthly newsletter. While owning a computer isn't required, it probably would be helpful.

Passed on to me from the previous editor, Robert De Veau, is a stack of *Gazettes* dating back many years. Many of these predate the personal computer. I have no idea how these early *Gazettes* were done. In a prior life, I had done a small newsletter and I think it involved typewriters and paste, but I'm not actually sure. When you take over as editor, you get to inherit this stack of past *Gazettes* and add yours to it. When I reach in the pile to grab a copy from when Robert or someone else was editor, I'm always surprised at how far down they are.

Please note that this is a volunteer position. Once you get "up to speed" with it, it probably requires a few hours a month. However, how much time you spend is entirely up to you.

One of the nice things that you'll find when you take over as editor is that the publication is all yours. Looking back at issues by previous editors, you can see that the *Gazette* has always reflected the personality and interests of the editor. Some editors focused on community news, while others used it as a pulpit for their own political beliefs. How the *Gazette* will look when you are the editor will be entirely up to you.

We also need an ad director. This is also a volunteer position.

Holly Veech has done a fantastic job as ad director, but I understand other priorities are taking over in her life as well. Please contact Holly if you are interested in this position. She can give you all the details about what it takes. She can be reached at 713 861 8093 or GazetteAds@GardenOaks.org.

Being *Gazette* editor has been a fantastic opportunity for me. It began my involvement with the civic club, and led me to meet many of my neighbors here in Garden Oaks, most of whom I now consider to be good friends. I enjoyed putting out what I hope was a quality publication, and I appreciated the feedback I received from so many people (most of it, anyway!).

If I've sold you on being the next *Gazette* editor, please call me at 713 691 6833 or email me at Gazette@GardenOaks.org (the email address will become yours when you become editor).

Civic Club Meeting and Annual Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, December

3rd, 7:00 PM

GO Elementary

Please plan to join us at our annual potluck dinner. Last names from A-M should bring a meat dish or other casserole type entrée. Last names from N-Z should bring a side dish, vegetable dish or a dessert.

The 2003 Civic Club Officers and the 2003 Budget will be voted on at this meeting. See the meeting minutes for the slate of officers and the article by Margie Dalton for the proposed budget.

Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

This column takes on different meaning this month as a 125 year old oak was lost in our yard and we watch over the large "Garden Oaks" Oak in Friendship Garden at Lawrence & W. 30th after it was struck head on by an out of control driver. To those of you who lost trees due to our overly saturated ground, I sympathize. To those neighbors who offered condolences to us in our loss, thank you for your kind thoughts, hugs, and notes. All the more reason to plant for tomorrow.

Welcome new neighbors who recently closed on their properties.

4307 Alba	822 West 43 rd	967 Lamonte
408 West 30 th	931 Lamonte	923 West 43 rd
1059 West 42 nd	931 West 41 st	910 Lamonte
503 West 33 rd	419 West 30 th	519 West 31 st
801 West 31 st	212 West 33 rd	1010 Gardenia
914 West 41 st	1426 Sue Barnett	508 West 32 nd
714 Sue Barnett	701 West 31 st	

Welcome to the neighborhood and we hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon!

Happy November Birthdays to the following:

Holly Veech (8th)

Becky Jeanes (11th)

Sean McLean (13th)

Happy 1st to Lucy McLean. (25th)

Sheila Briones (14th)hope you enjoyed your Ireland birthday bash!

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Don't Become a Holiday Statistic

Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD

The holidays are quickly approaching. With this time of year come company parties, holiday goodies as well as the traditional family feast. When January 1st rolls around we often find ourselves with a few unwanted post-holiday pounds. Research has shown that the average person gains nearly 7 pounds between Halloween and New Year's Day.

Not only does overindulgence add extra pounds, but also recent research suggests that it can trigger heart attacks in people with cardiovascular disease. A report from the American Heart Association shows that the risk of having a heart attack is four times greater after eating a large meal that is high in fat and calories. Unfortunately, this happens all too often during the holiday season. Here are some tactics to keep you from being a statistic!

- Don't go into a party or holiday meal starving. Eat a snack before you go and make sure it contains some protein: 1/2 a turkey sandwich, yogurt and piece of fruit or a can of water packed tuna.
- At a buffet, fill up on healthier foods such as turkey, lean cuts of beef, vegetables and fruit. And only go through the buffet line once!
- Ask the host or hostess if you can bring a dish or dessert. Then, bring one that is healthy.
- Instead of eating everything at Thanksgiving, choose the foods that are special to that holiday. For instance, eat some dressing, but pass on the mashed potatoes and rolls, which you can have anytime of year.
- Don't be overly concerned about losing weight during the holidays, if you can maintain, you will be ahead of the game.
- Plan some healthy family activities, such as a game of touch football, ice-skating or an evening walk.
- At parties, mingle and converse, rather than sticking by the food table.
- Wait for 20 minutes after a meal before deciding to eat dessert.
- Don't neglect your regular healthy routines, such as going to the gym.

Happy Holidays!

Virtual Winter Dream

Mark Saranie

My wife and I hope everyone has very Merry Christmas and a safe transition from the old year to the new. We also hope your Thanksgiving was warm and full of family and togetherness.

Time has flown by so quickly that every time the deadline for the *Gazette* is at hand I find myself here, typing away at the last minute. I missed last month's deadline because my article wound up trapped in a black hole in cyberspace called "undeliverable." It was my entire fault. I had not noticed that the e-mail address had changed. But it got me thinking that it would be neat to be able to jump through the phone line and e-mail oneself to Paris, or some really cool place. Just imagine all the stuff you would see blazing past you in those scant seconds. I think I would send me to some web site that would impress upon my brain cells all the knowledge about plants so that when I was out on a purchasing trip I would have instant access to every single detail about the species I was considering.

My all time first stop on this incredible virtual tour, however, would be to Butchart Gardens in Victoria, B.C. This unbelievably beautiful spot on our earth began as Jennie Butchart, the wife of Robert Pim Butchart, a portland cement manufacturer, took on the enormous task of converting an exhausted limestone quarry from a desolate hole in the ground to the astonishing gardens which live on there in her memory. There are four gardens simply labeled as: The Sunken Garden, The Rose Garden, The Italian Garden, and The Japanese Garden. Each garden is spectacular and immaculately kept. Something is always going on year round in the gardens so anytime you decide to visit your senses will surely be pleased. Visit www.butchartgardens.com for all the details.

Victoria itself is a wonderful trip back into time, what with the immense flowering baskets that adorn every light pole which line the brick sidewalks, the horse drawn carriages and high tea. The climate is perfect and the people are a delight to be around—everyone is so proper. But, back to reality. I visited Victoria many years ago and the sights, sounds and smells of those gardens are forever planted in my memory.

Garden Things for December

- The annual deck to garage flowerpot migration is about to begin. Water the pots ahead of time however. Cold weather does dry them out a lot quicker than during cooler days.
- Mulch where needed. The pine trees are dropping needles like mad and these are the perfect free mulch. The dog likes the thick mat I put down for him.
- Fertilize any winter color planted during the last few months.
- December is a great month for putting in pansies—fertilize these about every 6 weeks or so.
- Other things to put in include bulbs, agapanthus, crinum, freesia, irises, as well as cool weather veggies like green onions, garlic, cabbage, etc.
- Enjoy your winter.

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Guillaume "GEM" Morvan (Shepherd Park Plaza Resident)

Critter Corner

Casey and Mau Mau Farris

Hi Neighbors and Happy Holidays! The allure of Christmas – as most people know – is not restricted to the human species. Dogs and cats love Christmas! And why wouldn't they? It's the one time of year we actually bring a tree into the house. Not only that, but we cover it with all manner of dangly-things that glitter and sparkle and swing back and forth. Mau Mau has some advice for living with the pets and the tree. For pets, giving gifts knows no season, but we people are busy right now planning how to honor our loved ones (human and animal alike) with special gifts. While a new toy or cozy bed is sure to please your pet, remember the intangible gifts you can give. Our Pet of the Month is really giving of himself as he tries to shape a house full of babies together.

Pet of the Month: "Mr. December" is Max Schoenfield an eleven-year-old Golden Retriever. Max lives with his family in Section Four. The Schoenfield family has doubled recently and Max being the male head of household has taken a leadership role. A few weeks ago it was just Max, Sandy (Spaniel Mix) and Taz (Mancoon). Life was quiet and orderly. Then their mother, Kit, adopted a puppy named Penny (Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog) and two kittens, Spuds and Callie. Max immediately stepped up to the task and began showing everyone the ropes and keeping order. The household is running smoothly and we have Max to thank. Atta Boy Max!

Pet News: Biscuit (Yellow Lab Mix) and Dexter (St Bernard / Spaniel) have a new human baby boy, Tipton. Congratulations to the May Family! Zim Aston (Lab / Rhodesian) is having her house remodeled and since she is quite the flirt she just loves all the workmen around. You Go Girl! Jake (Pit Bull) and Pearl (Lab Mix) recently celebrated the wedding of their parents Monique and John Menconi. Sydney Farris (Border Collie / Blue Heeler) celebrated his 15th Birthday with the help of a few friends. Thirteen festive canines showed up with gifts and party hats. The Banana Mutt Cookies were a hit but the cake and ice cream were an even bigger hit. Clyde DeAlba (Border Collie) won the treat-eating contest at the GO Fall Festival and Keegan Sabuco / Arnold (Dachshund) won the costume contest.

Critters 101: Giving and Receiving – The Four-Legged Way

What gifts has your pet given you lately? Maybe the goofy face it makes during a good scratch gave you the best laugh of your day. Maybe a nudge from its wet nose and furry head comforted you at just the right time. Or perhaps a bright-eyed invitation got you out of bed or away from the TV and out on a healthy walk. Our pets give us loyalty, joy and comfort year-round and no doubt your pet is listed on your holiday shopping list. There are many toys, beds and accessories on the market but the best gifts you can give are the intangible ones.

First on the list is keeping your home safe for your pet during the season's festivities. Beware of bread dough. If a dog eats unbaked dough, the dough continues to rise inside its stomach and could cause severe problems. Do not put bowls of grapes, raisins and macadamia nuts on coffee tables or other surfaces your pet can access. Also put potpourri and candles out of reach. Never put gifts containing food or other temptingly aromatic items under the tree. Don't leave alcoholic

drinks unattended. An ounce of alcohol can poison small pets. Keep holly and mistletoe up high. These plants, along with poinsettia and Christmas cactus are poisonous. Keep holiday chocolates in the refrigerator or inside a closed pantry. Skip the table scraps and tidy up all the ribbons and bows and wrappings. Prevent the tree water from becoming an auxiliary water bowl. Pinesap and fertilizers may make the water poisonous. Stagnant tree water can also harbor bacteria. Pick pet safe ornaments. One tail swipe against the Christmas tree can cause glass ornaments to fall and shatter, leaving glass shards on the floor. Avoid using tinsel and never use edible ornaments that might tempt a hungry pet.

Another great gift is preventative healthcare including a thorough veterinary exam, heartworm protection and a consistent regimen of dental care. Or you could schedule extra grooming time each week. A bath with a quality pet shampoo and a good brushing to distribute natural oils, ear cleaning, and a few minutes of gentle massage are simple ways to help your pet feel its best.

Other winning gifts for canines are new activities like agility, freestyle obedience, becoming a therapy dog, fly ball, and mastering new tricks. The simplest gift of all is to take your dog hiking in the woods or to a park or run at the beach. Anything that involves physical activity and more time with you is sure to be a great gift for your dog.

Dear Mau Mau: *Can Cats and Christmas Trees make it in the same house?* V. Kollaja
The tree is the absolute best thing about the holidays. When I was young I loved to climb it and then all that wonderful crinkly paper, ribbons, bows, bags and tape underneath it. Over the years, I've trained my family to get our tree and set it up in a heavy base and we don't decorate it for a few days. Then we only decorate the top two thirds and we never use tinsel. My scratching pad and some kitty greens are laid nearby and I get lots of attention. Ahhh, Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year! *Mau Mau*

Backyard Report: If you hadn't noticed Garden Oaks is full of opossums. They live in stumps, attics, garages, road culverts, hollow trees, rock piles, crannies, and under buildings. They are non-aggressive and non-destructive. They will not harm people or pets. They are quiet and reclusive. They eat insects, snails and slugs. They are clean and always grooming. They are nocturnal and they do not hibernate. The opossum is the only North American marsupial meaning it carries its young in a pouch. If an opossum is 7-8 inches long (not counting the tail) it is old enough to be on its own. When cornered the opossum feigns dead or "plays possum" until the predator loses interest and then it goes on about its opossum business.

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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From Residents, To Residents

Grow Up!

Re: Where has our Constable Gone?

Terry and Susan have worked diligently to keep our Constable program alive. They have used kind reminders to our neighbors and subtle guilt trips in the *Gazette* to no avail.

Our message is simple: "Grow up and take care of yourselves!" Does your mother still do your laundry (don't I wish)? Does your Dad come over and mow the grass each Saturday? Then why should your neighbors pay for your security services?

Our family has paid its annual Constable dues and yet we now have no Constable service. Why? Because many of you, our neighbors, are not supporting the safety and well-being of our lovely neighborhood. This is not directed at the fixed income seniors or others with special needs in our midst. It is very specifically targeting any working homeowner in this area. It was bad enough supporting free-loaders when we had the Constable program. It is infuriating now that it has been cancelled.

Please consider the potential cost of permanently losing this program. We have spoken much of resale values as they relate to the crime statistics. As a parent of an infant and a toddler, I worry more about the real physical threats than the potential economic backlash. When you are contacted for support, please consider what really matters to you and your family and join our family in supporting our mutual safety.

Gwen Syzdek

Section Three Resident

Dog Etiquette in Garden Oaks

On a recent weekday evening (Thursday Nov. 7) I rode my bicycle in Garden Oaks, approximately between Apollo and Sue Barnett/Lamonte and 41st (I live on Althea near Apollo). Since it was already getting dark, I wore reflective clothing, and had working front and back lights. Naturally, I prefer these quiet neighborhood side streets over busy intersections on the main roads during rush hour traffic. However, caution still had to be exercised since a lot of walkers with and without dogs were out and about.

While riding West on 42nd I closed in on a lady walking 2 big black dogs, and gave them a wide berth expecting the unexpected from dogs. What I did **not** expect, was that the dogs were **not** on a leash and very obviously **not** under the control of the owner, since both charged at me, and one of them ran right into my front wheel. Needless to say I lost control quickly, narrowly managed to avoid a concrete driveway, and crashed into somebody's front yard. And no, I was **not** O.K., as the dog owner inquired/hoped for, but instead felt a very uncomfortable pain at my right side. I managed to continue my ride, rather uncomfortably.

The next day, my worst fears were confirmed when X-rays showed a fractured rib, which is a painful condition that takes several weeks to heal completely. Add medical expenses, minor bike damage, and some torn bicycle clothing, and it turned out to be a very expensive and painful experience, all because one irresponsible area resident decided to let her dogs run free on public roads. Considering that my injuries could have been significantly worse had I hit the raised

concrete portion of the driveway (despite wearing a helmet), I think the message to dog owners is clear: **You** are responsible for your dogs, and all damage or injury they cause, and it could be a costly walk with the dog(s) for **you**, apart from having to live with the knowledge that **your** carelessness caused considerable discomfort, pain and expense.

Please be considerate of others!

Michael Waldau
Section Five Resident

W. 43rd St. Truck Route (a/k/a Boom Box Drive)

When I was purchasing my home last year, I was in the real estate office and another customer asked where I was buying. I told her that the house was on W. 43rd St. She said, "who would want to live on 43rd?" I didn't realize what she was saying at the time, but I certainly do now. Garden Oaks is one of the neatest areas in Houston. But 43rd Street definitely has big problems.

Truck Route

W. 43rd Street between N. Shepherd and 290 only has a few blocks of commercial development. There are zero reasons that thru truck traffic should be allowed to shortcut through our subdivision. Since most of you don't live on W. 43rd it's probably not noticeable to you. Huge trucks of all kinds barrel along all day and all night. We need to put a stop to this by (1) having the city or highway department put up signs that say "No Thru Trucks" and (2) stay after the law enforcement agencies to enforce the rule. There are "No Thru Trucks" signs all over Houston in the better subdivisions. By doing this the noise level would be drastically reduced.

Boom Boxes

When I was a kid, I remember that you could get into trouble for having glass pacs as mufflers on your car because they were too noisy. Loud mufflers pale in comparison to the noise intensity of the latest huge custom sound systems in cars these days. If you haven't ever seen one up close, some of them are about the size of a medium TV set. They are designed to blow music out the windows, I suppose to "entertain" the masses. I am surprised that they are allowed to sell them. The noise level is so intense that the driver of the car has to keep both front windows down or I assume he would blow up. There is a city ordinance that prohibits loud noises like this but unfortunately it is not being enforced. I have asked several HPD officers if they had ever given anyone a ticket for the boom box noise. None of the officers had. If somehow we could get the police officers to stake out at night on W.43rd not only would they get a lot of loud noise ordinance violators but get a few 70 mph speeders as well. I have made several calls to the retail cop shop over by the Walgreen's to no avail.

This is our part of Houston; we need to do whatever is necessary to remedy these problems. Remember, if the property value of the homes on 43rd street go down it affects the appraisal value of your home as well.

At this point, I am a committee of one that wants something done. The more help I get in the form of letters, emails etc., the more clout I will have when I confront HPD and city council. You can reach me at BillKIII@aol.com or write me at 862 W. 43rd St. 77018.

W.A. Kelly
Section Three



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Minutes of the November 5, 2002 Civic Club Meeting

Lori Kennedy, Secretary

President Kenneth Santos called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. The October minutes were accepted as published.

Officer Reports

Treasurer – Treasurer Margie Dalton reported that *Gazette* and membership revenue increased last month. The proposed 2003 budget was submitted and will be published in the December *Gazette* and voted on at the December meeting. There are no breakdowns for home tour (not expected to happen), constable (will be self-funding) or Deed Restrictions / GOMO (*ad hoc* committee work is completed) in next year's budget and overall the budget has an approximate \$2800 deficit. There was discussion re expenditures for individual committees. It was moved to amend the beautification budget to include a specific line item of a maximum of \$5000 budgeted for the park at 30th/Durham/Randal subject to applying for matching City of Houston funds, which if not approved then \$1500 would be removed from the beautification budget, and subject to finding a project manager to lead the project. The motion was seconded and passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Beautification – Chair Rick Grochoske reported that we are using a new lawn care service to care for our parks. Last month there was a work day at the Rose Garden. He is obtaining pricing estimates for refurbishing the existing neighborhood signs. Contact Rick 713.864.8164 for more information or to volunteer.

GOCOP - Chair Carl Waters reported the September crime statistics. Four new patrollers have signed up in the last couple of months, but 2 patrollers also left the program. Contact Carl at 713.864.1992 for more information or to volunteer.

GardenOaks.org – Co-Chair Joe Muscara reported that the website is up but it can still use more content.

Gazette – Chair Joe Muscara reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. The *Gazette* is looking for a new editor and new ad director. Contact Joe at Gazette@GardenOaks.org or Gazette@GardenOaks.net regarding *Gazette* submissions. If you know of someone who wants to advertise, please contact Holly Veech at 713.861.8093.

Membership – Chair Cherry Wolfarth announced that they are about 14 homes short of their 25% goal for the year. It was moved to accept the new membership levels as proposed by the membership committee: Crepe Myrtle, basic household membership, \$25.00 (\$5.00 for seniors); The Magnolia, intermediate level, \$50.00 (\$10.00 for seniors); and The Golden Oak, patron level, \$75.00 (\$15.00 for seniors). The motion was seconded and passed with the modification that seniors are defined as 65 and older. Brenda de Alba won the door prize.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Fall Festival – Margie Dalton reported that the Fall Festival was rescheduled and held on 11/3 because of the weather. Since it was still raining, the festival was

held under the school awnings and those who attended had a great time. Thanks to all of the corporate sponsors.

Other Reports

Constable Program – Terry Jeanes reported that the constable patrol was suspended as of 10/4. The constable program will now be a draft program and the new forms are ready. They will begin the program again once 225 supporters have committed and are anticipating reinstating the program at the beginning of the year. They will contact former supports first. Contact Terry at 713.812.9154 for more information or to support the constable program.

Garden Club – Robert De Veau reported the next meeting is at 1010 LaMonte and will be on sego palms. Ed de Alba reported that a truck ran into the oak tree in Friendship Garden and the Garden Club has spent about \$250 in evaluation and repair of the tree so far. Contact Janet Cones at 713.956.7340 for more information or to join.

Old Business

President Santos reported that it does not appear that there will be a home tour in 2003 since no one has volunteered to chair the committee and the idea of an event organizer was not well received. It is now almost too late to begin planning for the tour.

New Business

Shellye Arnold will act as a liaison with the City of Houston to monitor the Buffalo Bayou Project and report back to the Civic Club.

The Nominating Committee for the 2003 officers consisted of David Bell, Craig Lee, Terry Jeanes, and Sheila Briones. The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers: President – Kenneth Santos; Vice President – Josh Hamilton; Treasurer – Margie Dalton; and Secretary – Lori Kennedy. It was moved, seconded and passed to list this slate of officers for the December meeting. It appears that past committee chairs will remain in position except that Chris Lindsay will take over Membership and the *Gazette* is looking for a new editor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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




Diana Tarley-James
713-869-0456 Office
713-539-0569 Mobile
www.DianaTarley.com



Carlson Reporting

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Dear Garden Oaks Neighbors,

As we approach the New Year, I look back on all the great things that have happened in Garden Oaks ... and can only envision brighter things to come. I would like to thank those in the past, and now, who have worked so very hard at preserving our wonderful neighborhood. So, as I celebrate the New Year, I would like to raise my glass and toast our neighbors and friends who live here and have grown lives and homes in our beautiful Garden. Have a safe, prosperous, and a fine New Year!

Harry James, Builder

MERLE NORMAN
COSMETIC STUDIOS



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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.

Bravo & Farewell!

Cherry Wolfarth

Bravo to all of Garden Oaks for a record year in civic club membership!!! We hit the 25% participation mark – the goal we’ve been feverishly working towards all year. Thanks to all who helped get us over the hill in the final hours. I’d like to extend a very special thank you to committee member Michael Froebel, who has been a super person to have on the team. He always came through with help when needed and fiercely clung to that goal of 25%, pushing me beyond where I was willing to settle. It’s people like Michael that help make the work so rewarding. I’d also like to extend my thanks to committee member Chris Lindsay, who has agreed to take over my position as committee chairperson next year. We’re hoping that the mailed invoice for civic club dues (which should be arriving in your mailbox in the next month) will make her job easier. Good luck!

As I look back over the past year, I feel a sense of pride and gratitude for being able to serve the neighborhood I love so well... the place that welcomes me home (most) every night... the place that I can enjoy looking up into the grand old oaks watching those mighty trunks sway to the wind... the place where I can marvel at the many birds and little furry creatures around me... the place where my neighbors walk the streets with their dogs and kids smiling my way as we pass... and the place where I can go sit by my pond after a long day and be comforted by a safe & serene place. I do love this place called Garden Oaks!

When Will Our Constable Return?

Terry Jeanes & Susan Saranie

This depends on **you**, our Garden Oaks community! We are asking everyone to sign up for the automatic draft system for a mere \$20 per month. We need 225 commitments before the program can be reinstated. We need your commitment now. Whether you are a new or renewing member, please complete the enclosed form. Duplications will be avoided. Our program is on hold until the required number of commitments are reached. If you would like to volunteer to assist in this reinstatement effort, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 / jeanest@pdq.net or Susan Saranie at 713-861-7994. As a program supporter the benefits include security checks for insurance discounts, vacation watches, alarm responses by the constable office, and 40 hours per week of our own designated deputy. Ask any long term section one resident if the officer's presence makes a difference. Thank you for your support. We know you will make the difference!

November Yard of the Month

L. Cunningham 1054 West 41st

For all around beautiful color and inviting space

GOMO News

The first general election of Directors for the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization, Inc. (GOMO) was held on November 5, 2002. The following GOMO Members will be taking office on December 1st, 2002:

Section One:

Donna Archer
713-863-0532
Tim Gunther
713-861-1336

Section Two:

Sam Stengler
281-773-3478
Peter Kozak
713-692-5843
David Hoyer
713-699-8171

Section Three:

Richard Stark
713-691-1067
Mike Dishberger
713-695-7916

Unfortunately, Section Five no longer has a Director representing it. If anyone would like to run for Directorship of the GOMO Board for Section Five, please contact one of the Directors above for detailed qualifications and procedures.

The next General Meeting of the GOMO Members is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th, 2003, at approximately 8 PM, or directly after the Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting. The Meeting will be held at the Garden Oaks Elementary School, in the same room as the CC meeting, unless otherwise announced.

The next Director's meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2002, 7 PM at a place to be determined (though it will likely be at the Kroger on W. 43rd).

If you have a problem, question, or concern about GOMO or the Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions, please contact a Director listed above.

For a copy of the deed restrictions for your section, visit the Garden Oaks web site at <http://www.gardenoaks.org> or contact any of the above GOMO directors. Please be sure to include your section number or your address in correspondence.

To All GOMO Members:

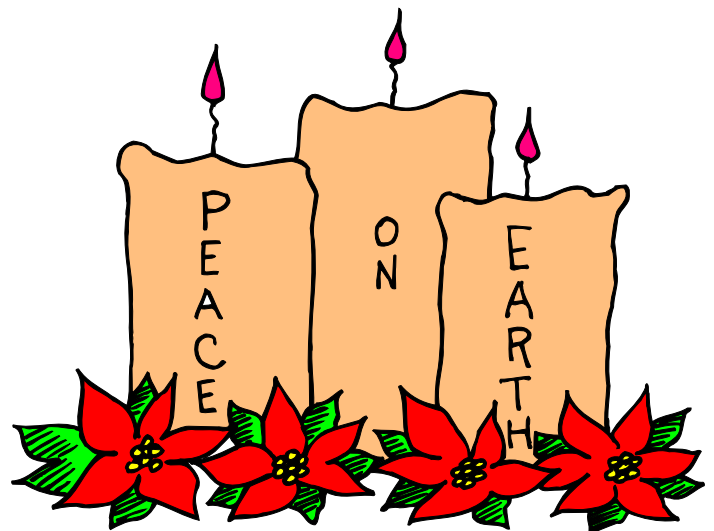
A lawsuit has been filed against the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization, Inc. (GOMO), and several individuals associated with the balloting effort that created GOMO for Section One of the Garden Oaks subdivision.

The suit is alleging irregularities in the ballots and the balloting process.

GOMO has retained counsel in this matter, and is denying the allegations.

We will keep you informed of the progress of this suit.

The Board of Directors, Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization, Inc.



Citizens on Patrol

Carl Waters, Jr.

Happy Holidays everyone.

As mentioned in last month's article the COP program is pleased to announce the addition of 4 new members. Trained and ready to patrol are Section 1 resident Marie Grochoske, Section 3 residents Judy and Tom Worth and Section 4 resident Pamela Murphy. Welcome one and all! But of course with good news there is usually some bad news. Two of our members have left the program. Citing a time conflict, three and a half year veteran Randy Pruitt left the program in late October. We will miss Randy and his dedication to the program. Randy patrolled 236 hours in the 30 months he was with us. We wish him well and would love to have him back in the future if his schedule allows for it. Also taking temporary leave from the program is veteran patroller and base station operator V. D. Kelly. V. D. has been a mainstay of the program since its inception. He has stepped aside for a while to battle some health problems. Here's to a speedy recovery, V. D. We'll miss you.

I mentioned the hours of service we received from both Mr. Kelly and Mr. Pruitt; I would also like to congratulate two patrollers who earned patrol service awards recently. Jo Bewley and Amy Shaughnessy both earned their 85 hour T-shirts and 100 hour jackets this year. Thank you both for the time you have committed to this program.

September Crime Statistics (6)

Aggravated Assault (1)

600 block of W. Thirty-fourth St. on Saturday, September 14 at 5:30 a.m. The location code provided by HPD indicated it occurred at a hospital. I don't know if the address or the code was wrong.

Burglary (2)

1000 block of W. Forty-first St. on Wednesday, September 25 at 8:00 p.m. (garage).

1000 block of W. Forty-third St on Monday, September 30 at 8:30 a.m. (residence).

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (2)

1000 block of Lamonte Ln. on Thursday, September 5 at 11:00 p.m. (driveway).

500 block of W. Thirty-fourth St. on Sunday, September 8 at 10:00 a.m. (driveway).

Auto Theft (1)

1000 block of W. Forty-first St. on Friday, September 13 at 11:00 p.m. (driveway).

Also appearing on the September crime report was the burglary of residence in 4200 block of Apollo which occurred on Tuesday, August 27. I changed the numbers on my master list to reflect that event in August.

Please contact me via the Internet at GOCOP77018@AOL.com, the Garden Oaks web site or by telephone 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 Dept. (non-emergency)	713-222-3131
Precinct One Constable Dispatch	713-755-7628
All Other City Services	311

Proposed 2003 Civic Club Budget

Margie Dalton, Treasurer

Committee	Income	Expenses	Net
Beautification	\$900	\$5000* \$3495** \$1505 [†]	-\$9100
GardenOaks.com	\$0	\$300	-\$300
Gazette	\$11600	\$11600	\$0
General	\$200	\$400	-\$200
GO COP	\$800	\$600	\$200
Membership	\$7320	\$2195	\$5125
Total	\$20820	\$25095	-\$4275

Notes:

Constable program will be self-funding.

It has not been determined if Home Tour will occur.

GOMO is now a separate entity, and thus not reported here.

* all parks

**milk jug park

[†] to be drawn from general funds, only if a matching fund program is initiated

From the Real President

Kenneth Santos

A year ago I accepted the nomination to serve as the President of the Garden Oaks Civic Association. I have always been involved with Garden Oaks, but always as a rather distant participant. I would help out with the workdays at the parks or make a donation to the Home Tour for their auction, but that was about the extent of my involvement. I felt that I was involved and doing enough. I believed I knew how my neighborhood worked and that was good enough for me. I took a lot for granted.

I learned a lot this past year. I didn't realize how much work and effort goes into making this great neighborhood function. I didn't know of how much time individuals give of themselves to make their cause, their belief in a great neighborhood, remain a reality. I didn't realize how much our neighborhood functions through involvement.

I witnessed a tireless group of individuals work extremely hard to get GOMO established. Even when it looked as if it wasn't going to happen, they persevered and got their cause accomplished. In just a few short months a group of residents put together a successful Fall Festival and even though the weather didn't cooperate, the day was a most pleasant one. The membership committee worked hard this year to get the welcome packets completed and to increase membership. Through their efforts, the Civic Club has gained a considerable increase of paid members.

All of these individuals and many others believe in giving of themselves to make their neighborhood, your neighborhood, a better place. Their devotion has made me more aware of how important it is to be involved and how fortunate I am to be part of it.

To those I have had the opportunity to work with, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your involvement with the Civic Club and Garden Oaks and for helping me. The officers and committee chairs have made this past year a most enjoyable one and without their input, support and assistance this year could have been a trying one.

I would also like to thank all of you who take the time to attend our monthly Civic Club meetings. Just attending these meetings shows your concern for Garden Oaks. To those of you who have thought about attending, but haven't, please reconsider. The meetings are many times informative and it is a good forum for asking questions and making suggestions. It is also a great place to meet new friends.

I wish you all very Happy Holidays.

Garden Club Officers

<i>President</i> Janet Cones	713 956 7340
<i>Vice President</i> Holly Veech	713 861 8093
<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	

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

December 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Civic Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. G.O. Elem.	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day
8	9	10	11	12 Garden Club Meeting 7:00 P.M. 974 W 42 nd	13	14
15 Gazette Article Deadline	16	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice
22	23	24	25 Christmas	26 First Day of Kwanzaa Boxing Day (Canada)	27	28
29 "If your head is wax, don't walk in the sun." -Benjamin Franklin	30	31 New Year's Eve	Upcoming events Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, January 7 th Make sure your Civic Club committee meeting or event gets on the calendar! Email the editor at Gazette@GardenOaks.org with your information.			

**Thanks to all of you that paid your 2002 Civic Club Membership dues.
You helped us meet our 25% membership goal for 2002.**

We are no longer taking dues for 2002, but watch for new ways to help your Civic Club & neighborhood in the January 2003 issue of the *Gazette*.