



## Randall Park Workday

*Rick Grochoske*

Garden Oaks had a great workday at Randall Park on Saturday, May 17. More than 20 neighbors showed up to help get the park ready for September planting! Together, we accomplished the following tasks:

- Tilled the original soil next to 30th St.—four tillers were running most of day.
- Spread 35 cubic yards of compost mix (about four inches deep) on the entire area. Imagine how many wheel barrels that is!
- Tilled the compost into the existing soil. We now have a great planting bed waiting for planting day
- Installed a “dry creek” next to the sidewalk
- Set five boulders totaling more than 6,500 pounds—that’s 31/2 tons! The large rocks will serve as focal points in the park and discourage folks from driving around the berm.
- Cleaned the park to get ready to install a water sprinkler system.

We also received an unexpected visit by Horizon Landscaping. One of the owners, also a Houston Fire fighter, had stopped at the Sonic for a cold drink, and came by and asked if we needed any help. He volunteered to donate the water sprinkler materials (excluding the controller) to the Civic Club. This donation is valued at approximately \$1,000!

This project is open to all neighborhood volunteers, whether they want to help fund the project, or volunteer their sweat and labor at the workday.

If you have any questions, please contact Rick Grochoske at 713-864-8164.

*[For more information about the Randall Park landscaping development, please see Kelly Mathews’ article on page 16.]*

## Civic Club Meeting

*Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>*

The next Civic Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room. Come meet your neighbors and share your ideas. Also, enter the drawing for the monthly door prize.

Just Announced

**2004 Garden Oaks  
Home and Garden Tour**

Sunday, April 18, 2004

Your favorite neighborhood's most popular event is back and promises to be better than ever! Mark your calendars now for this can't miss event.

## Heard Under the Oak Tree

*Terry Jeanes*

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### Welcome to the Neighborhood

The following residents recently closed on their property:

**878 West 42<sup>nd</sup>**

**922 West 43<sup>rd</sup>**

Congratulations and we hope to see you at a Civic Club Meeting soon!

### Happy Birthday

Belated birthday wishes to the following:

**Michael Chaisson**, in April, who recently returned home from Canada for a quick visit with dad, **Billy**, and to update his driver's license since he recently turned 21.

**Linda Sparks**, new resident to Garden Oaks, blew out the candles on May 8th.

### Travels Here, There, and Everywhere

**Michael Froebel, John Deamer, and Cherry Wolfarth** just returned from a great trip to Hawaii. John & Michael enhanced their recent landscaping with plumerias brought back from the islands.

**Becky Jeanes** returned home from college just in time for a quick trip to Washington DC with mom **Terry**, before heading to Helsinki, Finland where she will be studying abroad and working for a Finnish architecture firm. Terry continued on with a tour of Boston and New York with her mom.

### Warm Thoughts and Wishes

Best wishes to **David Debien** who recently underwent surgery.

Warm wishes and positive thoughts for **the Slavik family** who suffered a damaging fire to their home in April.

Condolences to **Ed & Brenda de Alba** on the recent passing of Ed's father.

To highlight an event or acknowledge a special party, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or [jeanest@dpq.net](mailto:jeanest@dpq.net).

## Neighborhood Forum

*Joe Muscara, GardenOaks.org Webmaster*

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We are happy to announce a new feature of the Garden Oaks web site that we have been working on for awhile: the neighborhood discussion boards, or forums. Accessible through the "Involvement" section of the Garden Oaks web site, these web-based forums are available for residents to post messages and have discussions about any number of topics. I have already posted information about the forum setup in a "Welcome" forum, but will reiterate a few points here for those residents not yet familiar with the forum.

Those interested in joining the neighborhood forum must first register and be approved by an administrator in order to post messages. Anyone can read what is posted, however, without going through the initial registration process. We will approve anyone who is a Garden Oaks resident or property owner. All others will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Forum usernames must be clearly based on the user's real name. For example, my username is simply Joe Muscara, and the other moderator's username is Robert De Veau. No one should be anonymous in a neighborhood forum, as anonymity just allows for cowardice and crass remarks. Besides, we have to know who you are in order to approve you!

Your personal information will only be used to set up your account. You will determine what other users can see in your profile when you register, and you can update your profile at any time once your registration has been approved.

During the registration process, users will be asked to supply a location for themselves. All we ask that anyone provide here is his or her section number. When entering the information, simply type the word "section" and the number. For example, my Location says "Section 2". We don't need anything more specific than that, as we feel it is unnecessary to post your exact street address anywhere on the forum.

*Continued on page12*

# GO's July 4th Parade

*Brenda DeAlba*



**When:** Friday, July 4th

**Where:** Garden Oaks Elementary School Spark Park, 901 Sue Barnett  
9:00-10:00am—Parade time

**Time:** 8:30-9:00am—Pre-registration  
10:00-11:00am—Refreshments

Although all of the details have not been finalized as we go to press with the *June Gazette*, there *will* be a 4th of July parade! **Volunteers to help plan the event, register entrants, and serve as judges are still needed. Sponsors are also needed to assist with funding prizes and refreshments.** If you have a restored classic car or truck, and would like to be part of the parade, we'd love to have you join in the fun! Please contact Brenda de Alba at [brenda.p.dealba@exxonmobil.com](mailto:brenda.p.dealba@exxonmobil.com) or 713-694-5934.

There are six entry categories for the parade:

- Strollers
- Tricycles
- Wagons
- Youth bicycles
- Adult bicycles
- Group category

Strollers, tricycles, and wagons will follow the shorter parade route, and bicycles will travel the longer route. Every individual entry will receive a patriotic souvenir, and prizes will be awarded for different categories of decorations.

## Short Parade Route

The short parade route will begin at the Garden Oaks Elementary Spark Park, proceed north on Sue Barnett, circle the Gazebo Park from the east, and return south on Sue Barnett back to the Spark Park.

## Long Parade Route

The long parade route will follow the shorter route, but will continue west on the 800 block of W 41st St., turn right on Alba, turn right and continue east on the 800 block of W. 42nd St., and turn right on Sue Barnett before returning to the Spark Park.

Remember, registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Hope to see you there!

## Civic Club Officers

*President* **Kenneth Santos**  
713 686 6012 974 W. 42<sup>nd</sup>  
President@GardenOaks.org  
*Vice President* **Josh Hamilton**  
713 695 7347 858 Azalea  
VicePresident@GardenOaks.org  
*Treasurer* **Margie Dalton**  
713 705 0499 1063 W. 42<sup>nd</sup>  
Treasurer@GardenOaks.org  
*Secretary* **Lori Kennedy**  
713 691 6833 750 Sue Barnett  
Secretary@GardenOaks.org

## Committee Chairs

*Beautification* **Rick Grochoske**  
713 864 8164  
Beautification@GardenOaks.org  
*Citizens on Patrol* **Carl Waters, Jr.**  
713 864 1992  
GOCOP@GardenOaks.org  
*Constable Program* **Terry Jeanes**  
713 812 9154  
Constable@GardenOaks.org  
*Co-Chair* **Susan Saranie**  
713 861 7994  
GardenOaks.org **Joe Muscara**  
713 691 6833  
Webmaster@GardenOaks.org  
*Co-Chair* **Josh Hamilton**  
713 695 7347  
*Membership* **Chris Lindsay**  
713 819 8412  
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The *Garden Oaks Gazette* is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. Submission deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted. NO EXCEPTIONS. Publication of any article does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

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Guillaume "GEM" Morvan (Shepherd Park Plaza Resident)

## Minutes of the May 6, 2003 Civic Club Meeting

*Lori Kennedy, Secretary*

President Kenneth Santos called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. The March minutes were accepted as published.

### Officer Reports

*Treasurer* – Treasurer Margie Dalton reported the account balances are fine. Membership revenue and *Gazette* advertising income has still been good this month.

### Standing Committee Reports

*Beautification* – Chair Rick Grochoske reported there were two good workdays last month - a BIG thanks to all who helped! Craig Kraemer and Matt Rasher presented a landscape plan for the park at 30th and Durham. The plan was designed with a landscape architect and utilizes native plants. Section 1 has already begun fundraising efforts to raise money for purchasing the plants. Kelly Mathews hosted a fundraising party at her house and raised \$1565 for the park. Sean and Beth Jez have agreed to donate the other half of the cost for the water tap fees. The committee will contact Trees of Houston to discuss possible donations. The next workday is scheduled for May 17. Contact Rick Grochoske at 713-864-8164 for more information or to volunteer.

*GOCOP* - Chair Carl Waters reported the March crime statistics. There were eight reported crimes in March and nineteen so far this year. Contact Carl at 713-864-1992 for more information or to volunteer.

*GardenOaks.org* – Nothing to report.

*Gazette* – Chair Rebecca Ferguson announced that Jackie Adams is the new ad director. The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Contact Rebecca at Gazette@GardenOaks.org regarding submissions.

*Membership* – Chair Chris Lindsay announced there will be one more mail out for memberships in the next few weeks with the intent to encourage responses by July 4. They are working on a neighborhood phone directory and Jane Hamilton is organizing the cookbook project. Tina Sabuco won the door prize.

### Ad Hoc Committee Reports

*4th of July Bike Parade* - Sheila Briones reported that Brenda de Alba still needs volunteers to help with the parade (staffing tables, getting prizes, coordinating entries, etc.). The parade will start at the Spark Park and refreshments will be provided. Contact Brenda at 713-694-5934 for more

information or to volunteer.

*Home Tour* - Sheila Briones announced that she has volunteered to chair the committee for the 2004 home tour. The tour will be Sunday April 18, 2004, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. She has recruited many volunteers but others are still needed. The home/garden selection process will begin around September. This coming year the home tour and the Garden Club will partner with the GO Elementary School to involve the school kids in gardening projects; the school will be a scheduled stop on the tour. Terry Jeanes moved to allot \$2700 to the home tour committee to use as start up funds for the 2004 tour. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Other Reports**

*Constable* – Terry Jeanes announced that June 1 is still the “drop dead” date to restart the program. There is an insert in the May *Gazette* listing commitments received to date; if you are not listed, then your commitment hasn’t been recorded.

*Garden Club* – Vice President Robert DeVeau announced the Garden Club had a workday at Friendship Park and planted 2 camellias in memory of Christine Winkleman, a founding member. On May 17, they are having a neighborhood garden tour in lieu of their regular monthly meeting. The Garden Club is also creating a long-term partnership with GO Elementary School to encourage gardening for the kids, and it will include participation in the home tour next year. Contact Ed de Alba at 713-694-5934 for more information or to join.

*GOMO* - President Sam Stengler announced they have approved 20-30 plans over the last couple of months. Remodeling or rebuilding plans in Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 must be submitted to GOMO for review and approval of conformance with the deed restrictions; plans from Section 4 residents can be voluntarily submitted and reviewed. The next regular GOMO meeting is May 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Kroger on 34th.

**Announcements**

Tina Sabuco announced an idea for a Garden Oaks prom/cotillion as a neighborhood social gathering and all around fun time. The prom would be dress-up attire from any or all decades, dinner, dancing and possibly even a “king” and “queen”, but no stealing of other neighborhood’s mascots! Tina will further investigate the idea and gather more information. Contact Tina if interested in helping.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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



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And, be sure and check out the  
 new Garden Oaks Neighborhood  
 Forums on the Garden Oaks web  
 site.

## Home Tour Partners with Garden Club and Garden Oaks Elementary

### *Sheila Briones, 2004 Home & Garden Tour Chair*

Across the country, schoolyard gardens have become compelling centerpieces for integrating gardening and science, nurturing creativity and providing raw materials for a host of projects. I am very proud that the 2004 Tour will be a part of *Achieving the Best in our Children (ABC's)*.

To open young eyes to the wonders of Mother Nature, the 2004 Home & Garden Tour Committee has partnered with the Garden Club to help cultivate and revive the gardens at Garden Oaks Elementary. The school's gardens have been selected as a stop on the 2004 Home and Garden Tour, scheduled for Sunday, April 18, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. The Garden club plans to revive and possibly begin new cultivation of the nine gardens scattered throughout the school grounds.

Garden Club vice president, Robert DeVeau, will serve as the liaison between the Home Tour committee and the elementary school, and has committed to researching and applying for grant money toward the development and expansion of the school gardens.

"It is our hope that these gardens will cultivate student creativity and open up their minds to the wonders that Mother Nature has to offer," says Robert.

This program will allow students to study the gardens and observe the amazing insect world, the migration of birds and butterflies, and the seasonal changes of plants. Through all of the excitement, students will find that learning is both fun and rewarding.

This outdoor classroom will become a vehicle for learning about not only science, but history, math, fine arts, social studies, and language arts as well. Working with the gardens will give the students opportunities to observe, predict, and analyze. These activities will also provide a springboard for creative writing, poetry, and art.

Garden Oaks Elementary principal, Jeff Amerson states, "Without question, the gardens not only provide a means for *what* is taught, but also for *how* concepts are taught through hands-on experience. Our job as educators is to teach concepts, as well as a love of learning. These garden-related learning experiences will help many of our students develop a love for nature and a thirst for knowledge that will last a lifetime."

The 2004 Tour currently needs volunteers to serve on the Executive Committee. There are also Chair openings in the following committees:

- **Graphics Committee** – in charge of developing all printed materials including posters, day-of-tour tickets, and pre-sale tickets.
- **Set Up Committee** – in charge of working with Tour home and garden owners with crowd flow and control.
- **Pre-sale Tickets & Poster Distribution Committee** – in charge of securing pre-sale ticket locations and distributing Tour posters to neighboring businesses.
- **Staffing/Volunteers Committee** – in charge of recruiting 100-125 volunteers to act as guides, ticket takers, and greeters at each Tour home and garden.
- **Concessions Committee** – in charge of securing ice chests, water, ice, and soft drinks for sale at each Tour Stop and Command Center.
- **Communications Committee** – in charge of calling/emailing reminders of upcoming Executive Committee meetings and is also in charge of “Tour Hotline” number.

Special thanks to the following people for stepping forward to Chair other essential committees:

- Tina Sabuco - Silent/Live Auction & Raffle Committee
- Trish Ricklefsen - Sponsor Party Committee
- Susan Saranie – Finance Committee
- Susan Kostelecky – Fundraising/Underwriting Committee
- Sandy Altman & Dian Austin – Command Center Committee
- Ann Best – Publicity Committee
- Debbie Padon – Docent Script Committee
- Brenda de Alba – Selection Committee
- Ed de Alba – Transportation Committee
- Terry Jeanes – Floral Arrangement Committee
- Michael Froebel & John Deermer – Volunteer Party Committee

In addition, the Selection Committee is looking for nominations for homes and gardens to be considered for the 2004 Tour. To nominate a home or garden, contact Brenda de Alba, Selection Committee Chair, at 713-694-5934 or [Brenda.p.DeAlba@exxonmobil.com](mailto:Brenda.p.DeAlba@exxonmobil.com).

To chair or join a committee, contact Sheila Briones, 2004 Tour Chair, at 713-861-8091 or [HomeTour@GardenOaks.org](mailto:HomeTour@GardenOaks.org).

Download PDFs of recent Gazettes at

<http://www.GardenOaks.org/>



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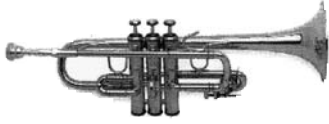
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## Citizens on Patrol

*Carl Waters, Jr.*

### Reported Crimes in May

A posting on the Garden Oaks List Serve from May 11 reported three men attempting to steal tools from homes in the 800 block of W. 43rd St. and the 800 block of Azalea. One man fled on foot, and the other two left in a green car. According to another posting from May 13, two Section One homes that are currently being remodeled were burglarized for tools and materials left behind by remodeling crews. A resident in the 800 block of Azalea called in and reported that his shed had been broken into Mother's Day weekend (perhaps this was the same burglary listed on the list serve). I will attempt to keep everyone posted on these incidents.

### Patrollers of the Month

Our patrollers of the month are Bob and Jo Bewley. Bob and Jo moved into their Section One home in August of 1996 and began patrolling in May of 1997. Bob works for the Information Technology division of Continental Airlines, and Jo does work for their church. When they are not patrolling (which they also refer to as their quality communication time), they are busy conducting missionary work in Honduras. According to Bob, the work is very rewarding, but they could use the volunteer services of any dentists or dental hygienists in the area. Congratulations Bob and Jo on being our patrollers of the month, and thank you for the six years you have been members of our program.

### March Crime Statistics (8)

#### *Burglaries (6)*

1000 block of Gardenia on Saturday, March 1 at 10:00 a.m. (garage).  
900 block of W. 42nd St., on Friday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m. (residence).  
700 block of W. 42nd St., on Tuesday, March 25 at 5:00 a.m. (residence).  
800 block of Lamonte Ln., on Tuesday, March 25 at 11:00 a.m. (garage).  
800 block of Azalea on Thursday, March 27 at 7:10 a.m. (garage).  
4200 block of Apollo on Thursday, March 27 at 2:00 p.m. (residence).

#### *Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (1)*

900 block of W. 41st St., on Wednesday, March 19 at 10:00 p.m. (street).

#### *Auto Theft (1)*

800 block of W. 41st St., on Monday, March 10 at midnight (driveway).

These activities give us a total of nineteen crimes for the first quarter of 2003. Last year, twenty-three crimes were reported by March.

For more information about joining our program, please contact me at [GOCOP77018@aol.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@aol.com) or 713-864-1992. And remember, there is a \$25.00 gas card waiting for next person(s) who sign up to join!



**Emergency Phone Numbers  
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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

**Constable Report  
To Be or Not to Be...Continued  
Terry Jeanes and Susan Saranie**

Currently, we are approximately 100 members shy of our goal of 225 supporters for the reinstatement of our constable program. If you would like to participate in the draft program, please complete the constable form in this *Gazette* and send it in. The draft program is essential to the constable program, due to the fact that previous years have fallen short of the full year's commitment and contract. The program allows for a \$20 draft per month (\$240 per year).

The constable program will allow Garden Oaks residents such benefits as vacation watches, security evaluations (which also help reduce homeowners insurance), calls to the constable's office made by your alarm company if necessary, and overall faster response time for calls made to the constable's office. Whatever your contribution, please complete the insert immediately or download the form from the Garden Oaks website ([gardenoaks.org](http://gardenoaks.org)). We will report the outcome of the June 1 deadline at the June 6 Civic Club meeting. For more information, please contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or [jeanest@pdq.net](mailto:jeanest@pdq.net).

*[Please note that the pledge roster in this month's newsletter has not been updated since the May publication.]*

***Yard of the Month***

*The yard of the month belongs to Richard and Donia Kolodziejck at 507 W. 31st. Drive by and feast your eyes on this wide range of unusual and beautiful plants.*

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## Fifty Rings

Mark Saranie

Several weeks ago, I came home and found it impossible to park inside our gate. An old ash tree on the other side lost a rather large limb during a storm that had swept through earlier in the day. The next morning, I went outside to survey the situation and remove the limb as best I could manage. The ash tree was rendered horribly lopsided, and a very long branch was left arching over the house next door. Images of destruction loomed in my mind, as well as the difficulty our neighbor and we would experience waltzing around with our respective insurance companies. We had the ash removed a week later, impacting our bank account and the general look of the back yard. Before the stump was ground out, I counted fifty rings. I felt sick. Six days later, a major limb from the oak tree in the front yard fell across our driveway. (Thanks to the neighbors who attempted to move it so that we could enter the property. Talk about dead weight.) The tree removal crew from the week before came out to remove it and the stump. Events occurring in threes loomed large in my mind, and I remain fearful of losing more limbs. To aggravate my premonitions, a large cherry laurel collapsed over the fence at the intersection of the 610 loop and Ashland. Most of you in Section One who use that exit have probably seen it.

The sight of that cherry laurel and other limbs that began adorning the curbs of our neighborhood in May reminded me of an admonition from the tree expert we have used for years: "Trees in developed areas live far less than out in the open. At some point decline will set in."

The tree service we have used since moving to Garden Oaks specializes in saving trees—removal being the last course of action. However, they will not hesitate to suggest removal when it becomes necessary. Every year, they evaluate our trees, clean out mistletoe, trim up damage from over the year, and feed the oak. This collective grove we all live in needs our constant attention if our trees are going to flourish to their fullest, healthiest potential.

One of the biggest problems we confront with our trees is insufficient watering, especially now that the hot summer is setting in. Watering in the morning yields the best results because doing so allows time for the water to seep into the soil instead of evaporating. Our tree service has suggested digging eighteen-inch deep weep holes in the ground under our trees' drip zones. These are then filled with gravel and topped off with topsoil. Once the holes are filled, the grass is replaced on top. When the lawn is watered, moisture will be able to further penetrate the ground and be of more use to the tree rather than the lawn alone. Before digging this deep however, contact Texas One Call at 1-800-545-6005 at least 48 hours prior to any dig-

ging. Crews will come out to locate and mark where all manner of utility, gas, water, and sewer lines run to help avoid a terrible accident.

Caring for our trees will preserve the coveted uniqueness of our neighborhood. Nothing alters the appearance of our properties as quickly as the loss of a tree. The visual impact is as bad as missing a front tooth. Water smart, and water well.

**Garden Things for June**

- Last chance to prune and feed those azaleas. Finish this task before the middle of the month. Buds for next spring's show begin to slowly set.
- Fertilize your color beds.
- If you still have summer color waiting for a home in your garden, get these placed as soon as possible. A well-established plant will have better odds of surviving once the summer heat sets in.
- Late into the month, fertilize trees and shrubs. Any fertilizer with a 1:1:1 ratio will do.
- Start cutting your grass higher. This will keep moisture in the ground and shade the roots. Mulch those clippings and leaves—it is always a shame to see all the free grass food discarded on the side of the road.
- Be safe in your gardening. Hydrate yourself before going out to work in the heat, and drink water whenever you are thirsty. Don't forget about sunscreen, either.

**Garden Club Officers**

<i>President</i>	<b>Ed de Alba</b>	713 694-5934
<i>Vice President</i>	<b>Robert De Veau</b>	713 686-6012
<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Chris Lindsay</b>	713 819-8412
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Janet Cones</b>	713 956-7340
	<b>&amp; Robert De Veau</b>	
<i>Yard of the Month</i>	<b>Janet Cones</b>	
<i>Sunshine</i>	<b>Susan Gunther</b>	
<i>Phone Committee</i>	<b>Barbara Ballance</b>	

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## Ginger Can Spice up the Garden

*Robert De Veau, Garden Club VP*

Beth Galiano, member and past president (several times) of the Shepherd Park Plaza Garden Club has volunteered at Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens for thirteen years, where she grew and managed gingers for the annual Mercer March Mart. During this stint, she authored a booklet, "The Gingers of Mercer," and aptly earned the nickname, "The Ginger Lady."

On Thursday, June 12, Beth will share her love and knowledge of all things ginger. These plants enjoy a special position in the botanical kingdom, due to their elegant form and texture, sparkling color, and amazing symmetry. The word "ginger" conjures up images of an exotic oriental food flavoring. However, edible ginger is only one of approximately 1,300 species of the very diverse Zingiberaceae family.

Classed as an herbaceous perennial, gingers have enjoyed popularity as an ornamental plant in Asia and the Far East for centuries. Only recently have they become known as outstanding ornamentals in the U.S. As a group, gingers add outstanding exotic foliage and flowers to the landscape. Depending on the type of plant, gingers can thrive in partial shade, full sun, or full shade. Many also perform very well in containers, and are finding favor as interior landscape plants.

On Saturday, May 17, Garden Club members and their guests spent the morning touring six member gardens. Everyone had a great time and agreed that this would become an annual Garden Club event. Amidst a relaxed atmosphere, everyone was free to roam the yards of the six participants. Members and guests asked questions, shared cuttings, and expanded their knowledge base. Large or small, each garden suited the individual owner's taste, proving to be unique and full of surprises. Thank you to the Garden Club members who granted us an opportunity to share in their passion.

Garden Club meetings are open to all residents and

friends of Garden Oaks. If you would like to become a member of the Garden Club, annual dues are only \$10. Our June 12 program will be hosted at 319 W 34<sup>th</sup> St. For more information, you may call me at 713-686-6012. We hope to see you at 7:00 p.m. on June 12.

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*Continued from page 2*

For those of you who are familiar with the Garden Oaks List Serve, you know that users receive an email for each message posted. This is not the case with the new forums, but users do have the ability to "watch" a topic, and receive an email whenever someone posts a message in that particular topic.

A specific area in the forums is referred to as "Off-Topic Land." Here, people can discuss anything they want to their hearts' content. This area is reserved for topics that do not pertain to Garden Oaks, and if any topic in one of the GO-related forums veers away from GO, it will be redirected here.

Most importantly, have fun! You can post as much as you like, or not at all. If you've never seen or been part of a web forum, you're in for a treat. So come check it out, and don't forget to tell your neighbors!

For more information, please contact Joe Muscara at 713-691-6833 or [Webmaster@GardenOaks.org](mailto:Webmaster@GardenOaks.org).

## Notes from GOMO

*Sam Stengler and Donna Archer*

We thought we would take some time this month to provide some information regarding items about which we are frequently asked.

### **Fence Regulations**

The Garden Oaks deed restrictions do not regulate the type of fence, or the height of a fence. The restrictions only state, under "Architectural Restrictions" that "No fence, wall, hedge, nor any pergola, nor any detached structure for ornamental purposes shall be erected, grown, or maintained forward of the front building line of said lot without the consent of the Company."



### How does GOMO relate to the Garden Oaks Company and/or the former Board of Trustees?

This is often confusing, as there are numerous references to “the Company” throughout the deed restrictions. “The Company” referred to in the restrictions is the old Garden Oaks Company, owned by Mr. E. L. Crain, the original developer of Garden Oaks and several other neighborhoods in Houston. **GOMO is not the Garden Oaks Company, nor is it the Board of Trustees.** GOMO does not have the powers that are listed in the original deed restrictions as given to “the Company.” GOMO’s ability to enforce deed restrictions and assess the Transfer Assessment was given to it through the vote in favor of the Amendment A to the original restrictions. In addition, there are powers that the Texas Property Statutes give to GOMO, from sections 204, 201, and others, such as the ability to form an architectural control committee.

This means, among other things, that GOMO cannot grant variances, even in the specific instances mentioned in the restrictions where the original Company could grant them, such as with ‘unusual or irregular shaped lots’, or in the case of outbuildings being taller or having a greater number of stories than the residence.

Remember also, that GOMO can enforce deed restrictions in Sections One, Two, Three, and Five only. Though Section Four does have deed restrictions, the homeowners must be their own enforcement group until such time as they vote differently. GOMO will answer questions and give advice about building or remodeling plans for Section Four, but the organization can not pass or reject these plans.

### Tree Removal

Trees are not a part of Garden Oaks deed restrictions, but there is a new city policy regarding reforestation. If you have questions, call 311 for the City’s information department, and they will send you to the correct city department. As we learn more about this new city policy, we’ll report any information in the *Gazette*.

### Plans Recently Reviewed and Accepted

1054 Gardenia	231 W. 31 <sup>st</sup> St.
830 W. 42 <sup>nd</sup> St.	408 W. 32 <sup>nd</sup> St.
802 W. 31 <sup>st</sup> St.	823 W. 43 <sup>rd</sup> St.

GOMO’s next scheduled meeting is June 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at Kroger’s Signature store on W. 43<sup>rd</sup> St.

In addition, GOMO will have an election for Section Directors immediately after the July Civic Club meeting.

## GOMO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Section 1

#### Donna Archer (2005)

Home: 713-863-0532  
 Cell: 281-435-9970  
 503 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> St Houston, TX 77018  
[dwright8@houston.rr.com](mailto:dwright8@houston.rr.com)

#### Tim Gunther (2004)

Home: 713-861-1336  
 336 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> St Houston, TX 77018  
[timothy\\_gunther@msn.com](mailto:timothy_gunther@msn.com)

#### Louis “Gig” Runge

Home: 713-869-5623  
 236 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> St Houston, TX 77018

### Section 2

#### Sam Stengler (2005)

Home: 713-694-5566  
 Cell: 281-773-3478  
 710 Sue Barnett Houston, TX 77018  
[sstengler@covad.net](mailto:sstengler@covad.net)

#### David Hoyer (2004)

Home: 713-699-8171  
 720 W. 43<sup>rd</sup> St Houston, TX 77018  
[choyer849@cs.com](mailto:choyer849@cs.com)

### Section 3

#### Richard Stark (2005)

Home: 713-691-1067  
 1335 Sue Barnett Houston, TX 77018  
[rstark@lucascareers.com](mailto:rstark@lucascareers.com)

#### Mike Dishberger (2004)

Home: 713-695-7916  
 Office: 713-864-9190  
 862 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St Houston, TX 77018  
[dishberger@aol.com](mailto:dishberger@aol.com)

### Section 5

#### Malcolm Taylor

Home: 713-956-8872  
 1030 W. 41<sup>st</sup> St Houston, TX 77018

## Critter Corner

### *Casey and Mau Mau Farris*

June is the month for marriage and love, and that brings to mind the continuous debate about whether dogs have emotions. In addition to addressing ideas of canine love and emotion this month, Mau Mau wants to talk about his “knead” for love too. Our Pet of the Month is a canine Casanova, and our backyard report focuses on what’s to love about Love Bugs.

#### **Critters 101: Second that Emotion**

Even among humans, there is little agreement on what emotion is or how it works, so the subject of animal emotion is a difficult one. Until recently, many scientists believed that animals responded mechanically to whatever stimuli they were confronted with. Today, more scientists are accepting the idea that animals actually experience emotions, and there is increasing evidence that birds, reptiles, and fish experience some kind of emotional activity as well. For the pet owner, the emotion is obvious: of course your animal loves you—you see it in its eyes.

Over the years, dogs have evolved from backyard protectors to bedroom blanket-stealers. Their roles have changed from skilled hunters to cherished companions. Do dogs really love us? Despite the lack of a common language, dogs certainly seem like they are capable of conveying love to us. There is little scientific proof to quantify or analyze this emotional display, but many of the really important things in life, such as joy, loyalty and happiness, can not be measured scientifically. I say if anybody loves us, certainly our dogs do.

Some believe that a dog’s love is the purest form of love there is. When you come home, a dog greets you with a wagging tail, and is truly happy to see you. It doesn’t want to go out or be fed. It just wants to be with you—no attachments, no expectations. Dogs live in the present, without worrying about the past or fearing the future. Nor are they judgmental—dogs don’t care what car you drive, what job you have, or what you look like. Because dogs are more cued to nonverbal communication

like body posturing, facial expressions, voice tones, and odor, they are more honest in their reactions and displays of affection. Dogs don’t fake love. If people could love like dogs, we could truly grasp the concept of unconditional love. The real question is: do we love our dogs as deeply as they love us? How many people leave their dogs versus how many dogs leave their people?

#### **Pet News**

Condolences to the Christ family on the loss of Jesse (Greyhound). Jesse will be sorely missed. Seiko Antinoff (Shepherd mix) has been under the weather with a bad back, but is doing much better now. The Folk household welcomes a new Great Pyrenees male named Chevy. Moohoo Hess (Dalmatian) graduated from obedience school and is now helping her parents plant vegetables. Molly Land (Australian Shepherd) is being tested for allergies and can’t have any treats for a while. The Hoyer’s have a new addition, C.J. (Yorkie-Poo). Believe it or not, two neighbors saw a peacock crossing the street in the 700 block of W. 41<sup>st</sup> before it flew in a tree. Bear Lee (Australian Shepherd) and Roxie Vicknair (Rottweiler) have a new human baby girl named Ava LaNore Vicknair. Sydney Farris (Border Collie mix) got a load of sand in his backyard and is spending his days digging and spreading the sand all through the house.

#### **Pet of the Month**

“Mr. June” is a 13 year-old Doberman Pinscher named Edris Pradt. He is tall, dark and handsome with floppy ears and a very long nose. He has lived with his mother Rebecca in Section V since he was a puppy. Edris is sweet, sensitive, and loving. His favorite activities include watching TV, snacking, and smooching.

#### **Dear Mau Mau...**

*Why do cats knead? A. Kinton*

Helloooo, it’s a sign of happiness. Adult cats knead as a throwback to their kittenhoods. Kittens knead at their mother’s teats to increase the flow of milk. Haven’t you heard that people who knead people are the luckiest people in the world?! *Mau Mau*

**Backyard Report**

It's love bug season again. Love bugs are small flies that are usually in the process of mating when they swarm over the roads. Of the two, the large one is the female and the small one is the male. The female drags the male around with her. Love bugs spread to Texas from South America in the 1940s. When they are no longer swarming about, it means that the adult female has laid eggs in the grass clippings and died. The larvae then play a key role in our recycling program, because they help break down organic material as they feed. After several months, the larvae will mature, and they will hatch again in the fall. The swarms are often very dense on the roads between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm because they are attracted to the hot engines and exhaust fumes. However, the car seems to be their biggest enemy. In general, love bugs are beneficial and harmless, and they are only around for a few weeks. So, drive with your mouth closed, keep your car washed and oh yea, Fly United.

*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 713-688-6363.*

## **Furniture Drive Update**

### **Shana Tatum**

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The Garden Oaks Furniture drive held the morning of April 26 was a huge success. I received many phone calls and emails from people wanting to know how to donate, and what kinds of items we could collect. Initially, we had not anticipated such an enthusiastic response. In the end, however, we had two commercial trucks full of quality furniture and many other household items. The Furniture Bank was extremely pleased with our neighborhood drive, and is developing new ideas for collection through neighborhood drives.

*Continued on page 17*

## **Tax-Deductible Fees for Obese Americans**

*Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD*

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The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released the Revenue Ruling 2002-19 last spring, stating that "weight loss programs may be tax-deductible when prescribed by a physician for the treatment of disease."

Americans diagnosed as obese by a physician may deduct health club fees as medical expenses on their income tax returns. Membership fees can also be paid through a "health flexible spending arrangement" offered through your employer. Under this plan, members are allowed to spend part of their salary, tax-free, on medical expenses.

The IRS will review a number of factors to determine whether or not a health club offering a weight loss program is automatically a provider. Factors include location of the club, types of activities offered, services included in the membership fee, and whether or not the taxpayer would be able to safely fulfill their exercise needs without having to join a facility. Expenses such as nutrition counseling and other healthcare services are also covered if a doctor assigns services for the treatment of a medical condition, including obesity. The IRS uses clinical guidelines to determine if a person is obese. According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's clinical guidelines, people with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or greater are considered obese. Physicians calculate the BMI to determine a person's total fat content by dividing an individual's body weight, in kilograms, by the square of his or her height in meters.

Summer is the perfect time to start up an exercise program. Due to the hot weather in Houston, an air-conditioned gym is a great place to be. Studies show that people eat better when they are exercising regularly. You will think twice about eating that doughnut when you know that it will take 30 minutes on the treadmill to burn it off.

*Catherine Kruppa, MS, RD, LD is the registered dietitian at The Houstonian Club. For more information, contact Catherine at 713-316-2707 or [ckruppa@houstonian.com](mailto:ckruppa@houstonian.com).*

## Randall Park Fundraiser A Success!

*Kelly Mathews*

On the first Saturday in May, Garden Oaks section 1A hosted a cookout to raise funds to landscape Randall Park. For those of you who do not know where Randall Park is, it is at the intersection of 30<sup>th</sup>, Durham, and Randall St. The city of Houston permanently closed access from Randall St. to Durham last year. As many of you remember, prior to the permanent closing, there were large “milk jug barriers erected to temporarily close Randall St. Now, there is a turnaround at the end of Randall St., and 30<sup>th</sup> St. has one-way access to Durham. A large mound of dirt was left to discourage the adventurous from ignoring the closing and accessing Durham over the curbs. Currently, the large mound of dirt, or berm, is covered with a natural Texas covering (that most people would call weeds), but it will soon be something to be proud of.

Earlier this year, a group of dedicated volunteers, including Matt Roesler, Susan Adkins, Craig Kramer, and Rick Grochoske of the Beautification Committee, joined together to obtain plans to landscape the berm and surrounding area of Randall Park. As the plans were coming together, the committee was ready for the next step: funding. The committee presented their plan at the Garden Oaks Civic Club and two important pledges were obtained. Terry Jeanes, ReMax realtor specializing in Garden Oaks, and the Garden Oaks Garden Club each pledged to match \$500 of funds raised by the residents of Garden Oaks. This was included in the minutes of the Civic Club meeting in the March Gazette.

Mr. Kelly Mathews read the Gazette, looked at me and said “Want to have a fundraiser?” I agreed and we went to work. (As some of you may have noticed, the person writing this article is also Kelly Mathews. I happen to be married to Mr. Kelly Mathews – yes, you are reading correctly, we are Kelly and Kelly Mathews which is very difficult to differentiate in print, hence the “Mr.” Kelly Mathews!)

Laura May, Garden Oaks Section 1A resident designed a beautiful invitation and printed them for all residents of Garden Oaks Section 1A. Laura, Jim Sawyer, Garden Oaks Section 1A resident, and I passed the invitation out to our neighbors. The Randall Park Committee put the invitation on the Garden Oaks list serve to extend the invitation to the entire Garden Oaks neighborhood.

In the meantime, I approached several local businesses to request prizes to raffle off at the cookout. Please show your thanks to the following businesses who graciously contributed:

**Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services** – 2 pet services and a pet treat package

**Brink’s Ace Hardware** – Wheelbarrow

**Texadelphia** – Gift Certificate

**Collina’s** – Gift Certificate

**Gabby’s** – Gift Certificate

In addition to these wonderful contributions from our local businesses, Doug and Laura Fletcher, Garden Oaks Section 1A residents, contributed four gift certificates to popular Houston restaurants to the raffle.

As the day of the cookout arrived, several neighbors arrived early to help set up for the large crowd we expected. A special thanks goes to Sean and Beth Jez for the large tables to hold all of the side dishes, and Doug and Laura Fletcher and Carl and Leslie Waters for their help setting up.

As neighbors began to arrive from all over the neighborhood, we sold raffle tickets and took names for the volunteer list to help implement the landscape plan later this year. Matt Roesler brought the schematic of the landscape plan with descriptions of the plants and an estimated budget for everyone to see. As the evening began to draw to a close, we did a quick calculation of the donations. Just before the raffle, we had raised \$975.00! We made an announcement that the raffle would start in 10 minutes and that we were \$25.00 away from raising enough money to obtain both matching funds from Terry Jeanes and the Garden Oaks Garden Club.

After the announcement, we had to delay the raffle for



30 minutes instead of 10 minutes due to the outpouring of donations. As the raffle began, we calculated the total raised at \$1,565! Thank you to the following residents who contributed so generously to the Randall Park Fund:

- |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Matthew and Laura May               | Jeanne Mathews          |
| Sean and Beth Jez                   | Olympia Ammon           |
| April Lummus                        | Leslie Ryan             |
| Skip and Sally Blechle              | Gary and Susan Adkins   |
| Susan Smallwood                     | Craig Dilley            |
| Jeffery and Laura Bream             | Velma Holdren           |
| Jimmy and Barbara Sawyer            | John Gregory            |
| Gary William                        | Doug and Laura Fletcher |
| Mike and Amber Currie               | Matt and Judy Roesler   |
| Louie and Janie Martinez            | Kelly and Kelly Mathews |
| Craig and Peggy Kramer              | Cathy Kershner          |
| Shelley Rogers                      |                         |
| Donna Archer and Bob Wright         |                         |
| Rick and Dominique Kasischke        |                         |
| Carrie Scott and Cynthia Sheffield  |                         |
| Steve Hartranet and David DeShurley |                         |

We now had the funds to purchase plants but we were missing one crucial element...water. The Tuesday after the cookout was the May Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting. The Randall Park Committee asked me to join them at the meeting to present the funds. Just prior to the meeting, we received our copy of the May Gazette and read that Mike Dishberger offered to underwrite half of the water tap cost for Randall Park. Upon hearing this, Sean and Beth Jez, Garden Oaks Section 1A residents, offered to underwrite the other half!

So...as of the writing of this article, we have raised funds to purchase the plants and trees in the landscape plan and we have two generous donations that grant us access to water. We still need to raise additional funds for an irrigation system this summer. Anyone who is interested in contributing, please feel free to send a check payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club–Randall Park. Please send your contribution to: PO Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206.

If you are interested in contributing your time, please contact me at [kellymathews@houston.rr.com](mailto:kellymathews@houston.rr.com) and I will add your name to our volunteer list. Our current plans

are to have a workday in May to prepare the berm and surrounding area for planting. We anticipate installing the water tap and irrigation system in June or July – any expertise in installation is appreciated! The planting is planned for September so there is plenty of opportunities to join in!

Once again, a sincere thank you to all of our corporate sponsors, the matching funds partners, and the neighbors who contributed so generously to the Randall Park Project!

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*Continued from page 15*

I feel so blessed to live in a place filled with such caring neighbors, and would like to thank some of those kind folks for making a difference to so many families.

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cari Gardner                     | Lou Anne and Jim Taylor |
| Mr. Craig                        | Sharon Rauch            |
| Holly Arnold                     | Stacey Christ           |
| Andy Diaz                        | Cherry Wolfarth         |
| Mr. and Mrs. Garza               | Mike Dishberger         |
| Art and Julianne Barkley         |                         |
| Debbie and Nathan Kvinge         |                         |
| Jane and Charlie Kelso Winter    |                         |
| Lori Kennedy and Joe Muscara     |                         |
| Ernest Fruge and Christine Adams |                         |

I also would like to thank Jimenez Contract Services and McCoy Furniture for donating the labor and trucks for pickup and delivery, and my friends at International Interior Design Association (IIDA) for providing the volunteers to assist with collection. Thanks also to Chris Lindsey for her help with a reminder mailing.

The Furniture Bank collects and distributes home furnishings to those in need or to people who have recently found housing through a social service agency. They also provide furniture to clients of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA) and partner social service agencies. If you are interested in making a donation, call 713-842-9771. Frequently donated items include beds, dressers, mattresses, sofas, tables, dishes, place mats, blankets, lamps and pictures.

Thanks again to everyone who contributed to the Garden Oaks Furniture Drive's success. I hope to make this an annual spring event.

# June 2003

### 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

Dwayne Bohac  
713 460 2800

John Whitmire  
713 864 8701

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Constable Draft Program Deadline	2	3 Civic Club Meeting GO Elem. 7:00 p.m.	4 GOMO Meeting Kroger's on W. 43rd 7:00 p.m.	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Garden Club Meeting 319 W. 34th 7:00 p.m.	13	14 Flag Day
15 Gazette Article Deadline Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21 First Day of Summer (Like it wasn't hot already)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	<b>Upcoming Events:</b> - 4th of July Parade – July 4, 2003 - Home and Garden Tour – April 18, 2004				

### 2003 Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(A) Annual Dues**

- \$25.00 Crepe Myrtle (Basic)     
  \$50.00 Magnolia (Intermediate)     
  \$75.00 Golden Oak (Patron)  
 Senior Citizen \$5.00     
  Senior Citizen \$10.00     
  Senior Citizen \$15.00

**(B) Garden Oaks T-Shirts \$15.00 each or \$10.00 Member Price**

Quantity/Size: Small \_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_ Large \_\_\_ XLarge \_\_\_ XXLarge \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

**(C) Contribution to Garden Club \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Are you a \_\_\_ new or \_\_\_ renewing member? Do you \_\_\_ own or \_\_\_ rent your house?  
 Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (A)+ \_\_\_\_\_ (B)+ \_\_\_\_\_ (C)=\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

If we publish a Neighborhood Directory, may we include your Contact Information?  
 ( ) Yes ( ) No

Make checks payable to: Garden Oaks Civic Club  
 Mail form and check to: PO Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206