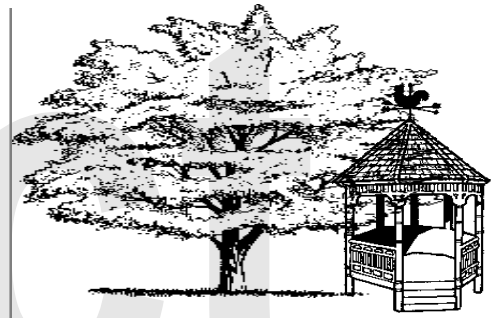


Garden Oaks Gazette



Old Wound

MARK SARANIE

The last two months have been a bit rough. One evening while finishing dinner, we heard what sounded like a small explosion. We have invested a lot into saving our water oak out front, and the first thought that came to us was, “The tree!” We were happy at first to see that the source of the noise had not come from the oak, but as our eyesight adjusted to the darkness and our noses were assaulted by the very fresh smell of pinesap, we saw that the pine tree had divested itself of a very large limb. It had simply snapped off, and a portion of it was blocking the street. As neighbors came outside looking for the source of the noise, we all gathered around the limb. My wife and I felt fortunate that no one had been out walking their dog just then, or that a car had not been passing by.

Resolve set in. I got the tree saw and tackled the task of cutting off just enough of this limb so that traffic could pass. It was 8:30 p.m. and shortly after beginning this evening task, a few neighbors pitched in and we got the job done. Two hours had gone by. Thanks guys!

The next morning I went out to survey the damage and saw that this limb had a very old wound that ran across the top of its entire length. The yardman mentioned that a lightning strike was possibly part of the tree’s history.

The tree was cleaned up later in the week, but it very heavy looking on one side—the side closest to the house. You can imagine the horrible thoughts running through our heads. Not a week later, after a good Texas shower, another large limb came down. I don’t recall the exact noise I made when I discovered this new development while looking out the front door with a toothbrush in my mouth, but I am sure it was loud.

We had the tree cleaned up to the point that symmetry was restored, and then we had other large limbs lightened up a bit and all the wounds painted over. As terrible as all this has been, at least the house can be seen from the road now, and the lawn now gets more sunlight which will help in eradicating a particularly pernicious weed that is

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Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, October 7th

The next civic club meeting will be October 7, at Garden Oaks Elementary school at 7:00 p.m. Attend the Civic Club meeting for a chance to meet your neighbors and share your ideas.

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Good-Bye Brink's Hardware

EMMETT DOHERTY

Garden Oaks Resident since 1982

After 42 years of dedicated service to our community, Brink's Hardware will lock its doors forever. I wish Mr. Smith, the owner, a wonderful retirement full of travel and activities that he never had time for when he was serving the community as a small business owner.

Think about the generations of Garden Oaks residents Brink's has served. Looking way back, I remember Brink's Hardware in a very old structure located where Taco Cabana is now. Anyone who ever went to Brink's knows that such buying experiences are increasingly rare. When you walked into the store, a uniformed employee would meet with you in less than 10 seconds, analyze your problem, advise you on the solution, and quickly have you back to work. The entire purchase may have taken 4 – 5 minutes. I have even seen customers leave their trucks running (with the a/c on, of course), and be in and out in a few minutes.

After 42 years, most businesses would have built up tremendous sellable goodwill value. Even the phone number would have value. Do you think that Home Depot and Lowe's killed all this value? It is amazing what all you can do with the endless supply of Wall Street money: You can change the texture of an entire community. We are becoming the victims of the Wal-Mart Syndrome. We are price shoppers, constantly sourcing cheap goods. Take a look at the Wal-Mart television commercials. They highlight one thing: buy for less. Don't be taken in by cheap businesses. Consider the time you have

saved by going to a small locally-owned retailer. The discount store savings become insignificant.

Now, the next time I want to purchase 8 pan head stainless #8 screws, I will have to go to a mega box store and spent 15 – 20 minutes to purchase a package of 24.

In life, everything has a beginning and an end. I hope that there is always a place in communities for old-fashioned hardware stores. I will miss Brink's Hardware.

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Civic Club Meeting Minutes - 09/02/03

LORI KENNEDY
Secretary

President Kenneth Santos called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. The July minutes were accepted as published.

Officer Reports

Treasurer – Treasurer Margie Dalton reported that the fees for the Sterling account have been refunded and will no longer be assessed on the account. She presented some information for changing banks and will continue to look into more options. Margie announced that she is engaged and will be moving out of the neighborhood. Congratulations, Margie. Thanks for everything you have done for the neighborhood - we'll miss you!

Standing Committee Reports

Beautification – Chair Rick Grochoske reported there will be a planning meeting on 9/8/03 at 507 W 34th to discuss Randall park. Contact Rick at 713-864-8164 for more information or to volunteer.

GOCOP – Kenneth Santos reported the year-to-date crime total at 60. Contact Carl Waters at 713-864-1992 for more information or to volunteer.

GardenOaks.org – Co-chair Josh Hamilton reported that the server has been moved. The web site has been updated to reflect the homecoming information.

Gazette – Chair Rebecca Ferguson reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. Contact Rebecca at Gazette@GardenOaks.org regarding submissions.

Membership – Chair Chris Lindsay announced that the June mail-out was

successful and another 100 members joined the civic club. There are 467 household members for this year.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

4th of July Bike Parade – Ed De Alba reported there was a good turnout for the parade and they are looking to make next year's even better.

Home Tour 2004 – Trish Ricklefson reminded everyone about the naming contest for the home tour and party theme. The next home tour meeting is 9/9/03 at Kroger.

GO Cookbook – Josh Hamilton reported the cookbook still needs recipes; recipes may be posted at bbs.GardenOaks.org.

GO Homecoming – Robert De Veau reported the homecoming dance is Saturday 10/4/03 and the cost is \$25 per ticket. It was moved, seconded and passed to advance the committee \$1,500 for upfront expenses.

Other Reports

Garden Club – Robert De Veau reported the next meeting is 9/11/03 at 974 W. 42nd and is the annual plant swap. Contact Ed De Alba at 713-694-5934 for more information or to join.

GOMO – President Sam Stengler reported that the next GOMO meeting will be on 9/16/03 at the Kroger. There will be a plan review meeting immediately following this civic club meeting. The annual meeting will be in October with the next set of directors elected in November. GOMO will check into possible commercial use at 702 W. 39th.

New Business – Terry Jeanes is checking into other neighborhood professional patrol options. Kenneth Santos announced a chair is needed to head the nominating committee for 2004 elections and they should deliver a preliminary report next month. There has been a vagrant sleeping in Grant Park lately. An attorney from Exxon has called Terry Jeanes regarding the possibility selling of beer and wine at the service station; Terry referred them to GOMO. The Garden Guy is donating flowers to the yard-of-the-month winners.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Meeting refreshments were graciously provided by Terry Jeanes of ReMax/METRO.

Join the Garden Oaks List Serv. It's easy, it's fun, and best of all, it's free. Just go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Houston_GO/join

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

Download PDFs of recent Gazettes at

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

Trees in the Landscape

ROBERT DE VEAU
Garden Club Vice President

"The wonder is that we can see these trees and not wonder more"

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The importance of trees becomes apparent when one tries to imagine a world without them. Food for our tables and thoughts, cleaner air and water, and inspiration for our senses are but a few things trees give us. But they also give us an excuse to sit, close our eyes, and listen to the winds rustle through their leaves. Perhaps because of their constant presence, most of us rarely lend much thought to the importance of trees in our lives, communities, and histories. We may take them for granted, or see them as mere decorations. However, trees are a vital and nurturing force. They benefit our environment, provide us with medicines, and inspire myths and stories. One of the easiest ways to realize the importance of trees is to simply imagine our world without them.

In the Dr. Seuss tale *The Lorax*, the disappearance of trees bears dire environmental consequences. At the onset of the story, the landscape is beautiful and lush with shady groves, clean water, and ample home for wildlife. As the tale progresses and trees are cut down, the environment starts to sour. Animals flee for lack of food and shelter, the air becomes dark and dirty, and the water supply grows stale. So too, would our environment suffer if we uprooted our own trees.

Join us on Thursday, October 9, when the Garden Oaks garden club welcomes Heidi Sheesley of TreeSearch Farms. Heidi will take us through the

process of matching the appropriate tree to the site conditions. Once you have determined what species are appropriate, you must decide which of those you prefer. Do you want a shade tree or do you prefer fruit as well? Would you favor a flowering tree or one with attractive fall color? If you are planting near your home for energy conservation purposes, consider a deciduous tree. These trees provide shade in the summer while allowing the sun's warming rays to penetrate through bare branches during the winter.

Once you have identified your needs and wishes, your list of candidate trees will be short. What tree species are presently growing in our yards and neighborhood? Our tree expert will provide plenty of diversity for the landscape.

Last month, club members and guests enjoyed our annual plant swap. Eager to share garden excess, there was more than enough to go around. Attendees also left with plenty of newfound treasures to add to their gardens back home. Thank you to everyone who participated in the plant swap for making it such a success.

In other garden club news, someone has made off with our much-coveted "Yard of the Month" sign. It was last seen adorning the yard of our August honoree. If you have any information regarding its whereabouts, or if you know of a metal sign fabricator who could help us create a new sign, please contact Janet Cones at (713) 956-7340.

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 October 9 meeting will be hosted outside the neighborhood. For directions to this program or for more information about the Garden Oaks garden club, please call me at (713) 686-6012. We hope to see you at 7:00 p.m. on October 9.



*I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees.
I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues.
And I'm asking you sir, at the top of my lungs.
Oh please do not cut down another one.*

© Dr. Seuss, 1971

Garden Club Officers

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Vice President

Robert De Veau

713 686-6012

Secretary

Chris Lindsay

713 819-8412

Treasurer

Janet Cones

713 956-7340

Robert De Veau

Yard of the Month

Janet Cones

Sunshine

Susan Gunther

Phone Committee

Barbara Ballance

We Broke the Record!

CHRIS LINDSAY

It worked! As a result of our second mailed invoice to Garden Oaks residents, we received another 100 memberships—an additional \$2,500—over the summer. Our paid membership is now up to 467 households, which is a new record for our civic club! Thanks to all who joined, and to all who helped the membership committee stuff envelopes at the June meeting. Now, if we could just get to a nice round number like 500 memberships, that would be even better.

If you are not a dues-paying household, you can still join the civic club by filling out the form on the back of the *Gazette* and mailing it in. Remember that in a civic club, unlike homeowner's associations, yearly membership dues are *not* mandatory. Joining is voluntary; it just shows your commitment to your neighborhood. The amount you give is discretionary. While we recommend various levels of contributions (\$25, \$50 and \$75), the only real requirement is that a minimum of \$25.00 must be paid if you are going to vote on civic club matters. We appreciate whatever you are comfortable giving. All dues go toward civic club programs, such as Beautification, GO Citizens on Patrol, Home and Garden Tour, the *Gazette*, Membership Committee and our web site.

If you aren't sure if you have paid your dues for this year, please call me at 713-819-8412 or send me an email at membership@gardenoaks.org, and I will be happy to check the membership roster and let you know.

Remember that baby-sitting services are available at our monthly civic club meetings. The cost is just \$1 per child.

Pancake Breakfast

JESSICA MODAD

The Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary is gearing up for its first fundraiser of the year. The annual pancake breakfast will take place this year on Saturday, October 25, with the addition of a fun-run/walk. Proceeds from the pancake breakfast serve as donations to the Montessori program at Garden Oaks Elementary. There will be a fee associated with the fun run/walk (*look for flyers where you do your running around*).

Children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes while enjoying warm, delicious pancakes and participating in recreational activities.

Saturday, October 25, 2003

7:30 a.m. Fun Run/Walk

8-10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

This year Beth Stengler (president) and Kirsten Joel (vice presidents of programming) stepped down from the Friends of Montessori Board. They will be missed, and we thank them for their service, energy, and ideas that greatly benefited Friends of Montessori.

The board would also like to welcome our new officers: Gisele Rojo Andrews was voted in as President of Friends of Montessori and Betsy Runge was voted as the new Vice President of Programming.

Details concerning the pancake breakfast and fun run/walk will be appearing soon in our neighborhood.

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Citizens on Patrol

CARL WATERS, JR.

Woo, boo and scary howls. It's time for little ghosts and goblins to take over the streets of Garden Oaks. Here are some safety reminders for those of you who will be out partaking in the Halloween spirit. Costumes should be flame retardant and either light-colored or adorned with reflective tape. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult, and older children should go out with friends. Avoid eating any unwrapped treats until you can get home and inspect them. Only stop at houses with lights on, and remember that as a general rule, treating stops at around 9:00 p.m. in Garden Oaks. Have fun and be safe. Also, remember to set your clocks back before going to bed on October 25.

July Crime Statistics (7) Burglary (4)

800 block of W. 41st St. on Monday, July 7 at 4:00 a.m. (garage)

1000 block of Althea on Friday, July 11 at 11:00 p.m. (residence)

1000 block of Gardenia on Sunday, July 20 at 11:50 a.m. (residence)

500 block of W. 33rd St. on Wednesday, July 23 at 5:00 p.m. (residence)

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (1)
2900 block of N. Shepherd on Thursday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m. (parking lot)

Auto Theft (1)
3200 block of N. Shepherd on Monday, July 21 at 11:00 a.m. (restaurant parking lot)

Driving While Intoxicated (1)
2900 block of N. Durham on Sunday, July 13 at 1:52 a.m. (street)

Please contact me via the internet at GOCOP77018@AOL.com, or by telephone at 713-864-1992 for details about joining our program.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Call Them First, then Call Carl Waters to Report Neighborhood Crimes

HPD (Non-Emergency) - 713-222-3131
Precinct 1 Constable Dispatch - 713-755-7628
Crimes in Progress, Fire, or Ambulance - 911
All Other City Services - 311

Just GO Surf!

TONY PADON

Chairman of the Board

Announcing the formation of the Garden Oaks Surf Club a.k.a GOSURE.

Looking for any and all surfing enthusiasts. We need a local tribe here in Garden Oaks that is ready to go on short notice, share a drive and a few bad jokes, paddle out, and later support each other's lies about how big it was and what everyone else missed. It could also involve making far fetched plans for exotic travel to remote surf destinations or discussing the merits of a one-of-a-kind, world class wave tank being planned for construction in Galveston.

Let's face it, if you like to surf and you have a relatively short hall pass due to an unlimited to-do list with house/family/work, you want to get down and get out in the water fast, and share the time and expense with someone else who likewise appreciates the urgency and importance of the situation. If you are interested, we can meet at my house (822 Lamonte Ln) and exchange the first round of lies and bad jokes and get this thing off the ground and into the water. I can be reached at 713-692-4266 (home), 832-453-1123 (cell), or at apadon@houston.rr.com.

Continued from page 1

gradually taking over several spots in the yard.

It goes without saying that having your trees examined can spare a lot of heart-ache and expense. I suppose that had someone actually climbed into the tree to inspect it, we would have known that the limb loss was a future possibility. Hindsight is so cruel. The problem was that from the ground, the limbs looked very sound. Tree ownership certainly comes with responsibility.

Another thing that has made the last two months a bit rough was the decision to hand over the baton to someone with the desire to continue the gardening column. I have contributed to the Garden Oaks *Gazette* for over three years and have enjoyed typing out every single word. I appreciate the tolerance from the editors for my usual tardiness, and I appreciated you, the readers. I can only hope that the small bits of information conveyed over these years have made gardening as much of a joy to you as it will continue to be for me. Anyhow, don't forget to get the kids involved.

Garden Things for October

- The Garden Club of Houston's Bulb and Plant Mart starts Thursday, October 9 and goes through Saturday, October 11, until 2:00 p.m. Watch for further details in the Chronicle. This particular event always signals the start of fall for me. I never miss it.
- I noticed the pecan cracking machines are in place again over at Canino's. This can mean one thing only: tree dandruff. Get ready for it, or use it as an excuse to start a compost pile.

- This is a great time to start planning your fall color and putting it in. Vast amounts of bulbs will be available at the above-mentioned Bulb Mart.
- Consider trying your hand at writing about gardening.
- See y'all. Thanks!

Fall Festival

MARY ZIMMERMANN

Garden Oaks Elementary PTA President

Garden Oaks Elementary is having a **Fall Festival** on Friday, November 14, from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. There will be moonwalks, face-painting, pumpkin-painting contests, sack races, raffle items, craft tables, a cake walk, and lots of games and food. Do come and join us!

Raffle Donations

We know that Garden Oaks has many talented residents who provide services and create beautiful art and decorative items. We are asking area merchants, establishments, and neighbors for items that the PTA can use in its raffle. Examples of raffle prizes are: admission tickets, gift certificates, specialty items, or cash donations. It is tax-deductible and a wonderful way to show your community support. You may send donations directly to the school at 901 Sue Barnett, Houston, Texas 77018, Attn: PTA Fall Festival Donations, or arrangements can be made for someone can pick them up. For the crafters out there, remember that Christmas is right around the corner! Tables are available for rental at the festival for \$25. Come and show off your stuff! For more information about the festival or to arrange a donation pick-up, contact Mary Zimmermann at 713-868-4110.



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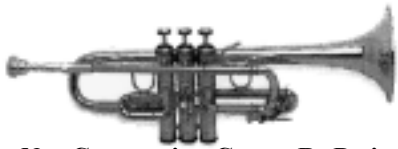
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Critter Corner

CASEY & MAU MAU FARRIS

October is a beautiful month here in Garden Oaks and just about everywhere else as well. I hope you have time to sit outside with your pets, enjoying the weather and a few games of chase or fetch. This month we will discuss that eternal game of chase, and our Pet of the Month is such a chaser he could have written the book. Mau Mau will explain an interesting fact about cat vision. And our backyard report has suggestions for keeping the mosquitoes at bay.

Critters 101: Cut to the Chase

People who wonder why dogs chase cars are overlooking the real question: what would a dog do if he caught the car? Finding that answer will satisfy both questions.

Dogs chase cars for the same reasons they chase kids on bikes, cats, small animals, and other dogs: They are either playing a game or they are hunting. To a greater or lesser degree, chasing involves a dog's natural prey drive. If your dog is a herding breed, then your dog's nature to herd the moving object is even greater.

In most socialized, well-adjusted dogs, prey drive expresses itself as a canine tag game, in which the dogs take turns being "it." The object isn't necessarily to catch the other dog; the real fun is just running around. Chasing balls or Frisbees is another outlet for a dog's prey drive.

Dogs may play-fight as part of the game of tag, lunging or even snapping playfully at one another during the

chase. This form of play may extend to include cats, joggers, people riding on bicycles or skateboards, or cars. The intent is not to hurt or kill, but to engage the other creature (or thing) in a game. Until you have learned to control your dog's chasing instinct, do not let him off the leash. It is dangerous for him and the person or animal he is chasing.

A more serious form of chasing is the hunt. Some dogs have a higher prey drive than others. Sporting and herding dogs (such as terriers and hounds) have an enhanced prey drive, which means that they have the potential to chase and kill their prey. The sequence involves searching, stalking, chasing, catching, biting, killing, and eating. Such dangerous behavior is called predatory aggression, but it's not a disorder. Nor is it an indication of anger. It's a natural behavior that is triggered by movement. Predatory aggression has few warning signs and can be deadly to the victim. If your dog shows a heightened prey drive, he should be under your control at all times.

Pet of the Month

"Mr. October" is a chocolate Cocker Spaniel named Sam Zamora, and he turns two this month. He lives with a calico cat named Cleo and their humans in the 1300 block of Sue Barnett. Sam loves to play fetch and have his chest rubbed, but his car chasing is extraordinary. First of all, timing is everything. He has to break from his humans at just the right time, then he spies the car with a certain look and you know it's going to happen. Then he runs after the car full blast with all the humans chasing him...or are they chasing the car too? When the car is out of sight, Sam gets the humans to chase



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him a little more until everyone is out of breath. At this point, Sam runs to home base and waits there for the rest of the players. Sam doesn't get to chase cars as often as he would like, so when he gets the chance he goes at it with gusto. Happy Birthday Sammy Boy!

Pet News

Hope Wylie (Norwich terrier) passed away unexpectedly of an unknown internal injury. She was the cutest little thing and such a stinker. Every now and then she would get out of her yard, and as a result, she got to know most of her neighbors. She always liked to play chase for a little while before going home, and she loved to sit on her front porch. She brightened our lives and we will miss her.

Sparky Kershner (chow/Mexican wolf) had tumors removed from two feet and spent the weekend chewing her bandages. We wish her a speedy recovery.

A big welcome to the neighborhood for the Swick Family – Kane (black lab), Willie (black lab), Frank (flame point), and Charlie (orange tabby).

Please call or email what's going on with your pets, the neighborhood really wants to know.

Dear Mau Mau:

How good is a cat's vision? A. Kinton

Here is yet another fascinating aspect about cats. Our visual ability is about 10 times less than that of humans, but we possess a retina whose structure provides us with "movement detectors" to help us locate potential prey. We also have excellent night vision and are able to track prey in dark environments. *Mau Mau*

Backyard Report

Mosquitoes can be so bad this time of year, and to add insult to injury, they can be deadly now as well. Here are a few mosquito-fighting tactics that work.

Before you go outside, spray down with repellent. "Bengal" is a good spray repellent for humans as it is not sticky or stinky. Use only pet approved spray repellents on your pets. Citronella candles and foggers help as well.

Set up a couple of fans. Mosquitoes fly at about 3 mph, so a fan or two will keep them going. Keep them on your pets too if they stay outside.

Get rid of any standing water on your property. If you have a pond, mosquito "Dunks" available at plant nurseries will kill the eggs. I even put them in my front ditch when it has water in it.

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.



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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

October 2003

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Upcoming Events: - GO Elementary Fall Festival, 11/14 - Home and Garden Tour, 4/18			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Civic Club Meeting Garden Oaks Elementary 7:00 p.m.	8	9 Garden Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. (call Robert De Veau for location info)	10	11
12	13	14	15 Gazette Article Submission Deadline	16 Boss's Day	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Montessori Pancake Breakfast 7:30-10:00 a.m.
26	27 Daylight Savings Time Ends	28	29	30	31 Halloween	

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

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

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