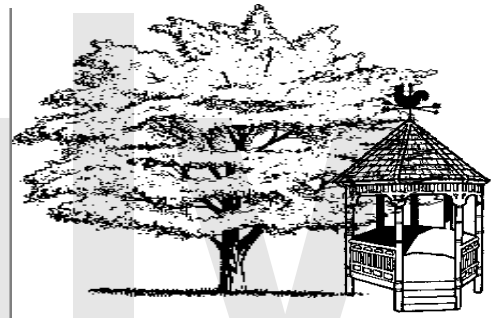


# Garden Oaks Gazette



## Preventing Crime in GO

JOE MUSCARA

No matter where you live, crime and security is always a concern, even when you live in an oasis like Garden Oaks. With the recent high-profile crimes that have occurred in Section One, this issue is on everyone's mind and has been elevated to a top priority. But what can you and I do to make our neighborhood a safer place?

The first thing you should do is to know your neighbors. That way, when you see something going on or someone in the area, you stand a better chance of knowing if they belong. If you are concerned about something you see, be a little nosy, but remember to keep your distance and respect your neighbor's privacy. Don't forget about your own safety as well (if your suspicions are right, you don't know how dangerous the person might be). Jot down descriptions and license plates of suspicious vehicles and descriptions of the people as well. However, remember that there are lots of contractors in GO and sometimes it is hard to tell who belongs and who does not. If you know your neighbors, you might also know if they are having work done. But if you don't know, the worst case is you wasted your time, the best is that you have info on who just robbed your neighbor and can help the police catch the crooks.

National Night Out is coming up in August, and it is a great way to get to know your neighbors, whether it's that new couple that moved in down the street, the family that

*Continued on page 11*

## Let Freedom Ring Bike Parade Honors Troops

JANICE VAN DYKE WALDEN

Join us on Saturday, July 3, at 9:00 A.M., as we honor our armed forces and celebrate Independence Day with the "Let Freedom Ring" parade at Rick Englert Spark Park, located at 901 Sue Barnett. Registration and line up begin at 8:30 a.m.

This year's parade proudly salutes the men and women serving the United States, protecting the freedom of Americans and others around the world.

Serving as Grand Marshal will be District A City Council Member Toni Lawrence. Lawrence will be leading a red, white and blue parade of wheels. There is also a place for pets and participants on foot. Also joining the parade will be Houston Fire Department's Engine 31, as well as Skipper Chris Skeen and the Sea Scouts Honor Guard of St. Stephens United Methodist Church, Ship 24.

Participants don't need to register ahead of time. Just come decorated in red, white, and blue at 8:30 A.M., and line up according to category:

- Strollers
- Tricycles
- Wagons
- Youth bicycles (5 and under, 6-10 yrs., 11-18 yrs.)
- Adult bicycles
- Group category
- On foot
- Pets
- Skaters

*Continued on page 12*

## In This Issue...

|                                         |    |
|-----------------------------------------|----|
| Preventing Crime in GO .....            | 1  |
| Let Freedom Ring - Bike Parade .....    | 1  |
| From the Editor's Desk .....            | 2  |
| Heard Under the Oak Tree .....          | 2  |
| Only With Your Help .....               | 3  |
| Yard of the Month .....                 | 3  |
| Civic Club Meeting Minutes - June ..... | 4  |
| Civic Club Meeting Minutes - May .....  | 5  |
| Notes from GOMO .....                   | 6  |
| Citizens on Patrol .....                | 6  |
| Membership Report .....                 | 7  |
| Neighborhood Constable Program .....    | 8  |
| Critter Corner .....                    | 8  |
| Picture Perfect Gardens .....           | 9  |
| How to Buy Cheap Computers .....        | 10 |
| Calendar .....                          | 14 |

### Civic Club Meeting

*Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>*

The next Civic Club meeting will be held on July 6 at 7:00 P.M. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria. Come out and meet your neighbors and share your ideas. Baby-sitting services are available at the meeting at a cost of \$1.00 per child. Hope to see you there!

## Civic Club Officers

**President Trey Wood**  
713 880 8462 403 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> St  
President@GardenOaks.org  
**Vice President Chris Lindsay**  
713 819 8412 938 Lamonte  
VicePresident@GardenOaks.org  
**Treasurer Mike Dishberger**  
713 695 7916 862 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St  
Treasurer@GardenOaks.org  
**Secretary Diane King**  
361 548 8495 (cell) 3310 Lawrence  
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  
**GardenOaks.org Joe Muscara**  
713 691 6833  
Webmaster@GardenOaks.org  
**Co-Chair Josh Hamilton**  
713 695 7347  
**Membership Chris Lindsay**  
713 819 8412  
Membership@GardenOaks.org  
**HomeTour Sheila Briones**  
713 861 8091  
HomeTour@GardenOaks.org

## Gazette Contacts

**Editor Rebecca Ferguson**  
713 686 5284 914 W. 43<sup>rd</sup>  
Gazette@GardenOaks.org  
**Assistant Editor Hector Willars**  
713 446 7766  
**Advertising Director Jackie Adams**  
713 862 5506  
GazetteAds@GardenOaks.org  
**Billing Mike Dishberger**  
713 695 7916  
**Delivery Amanda Carlin**  
713 263 1026 1010 LaMonte  
GazetteDelivery@GardenOaks.org

*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.*



## From the Editor's Desk



**REBECCA FERGUSON**  
Gazette Editor

I'm very pleased to announce that we have found a volunteer to take over the Gazette editor and advertising director's position. Jonathan Lanz has decided to take over both positions. He will take over as the ad director beginning with August's issue, and as editor beginning with September's issue. We all appreciate Jonathan's willingness to step up and get involved. I hope he finds this experience as rewarding as I have.

In other news, the summer seems to be shaping up nicely, and we're all getting ready to celebrate another Independence Day. Be sure and come out on the morning of July 3 to be a part of the parade festivities (see article on page 1). This will be a great opportunity to meet some new people and spend some quality time with friends and family.

Also, on July 6, the Civic Club will continue its discussion of new supplemental security programs for the neighborhood. If you have any suggestions for new programs, or if you just want to know more about the status of neighborhood security, please come out to the meeting at 7:00 P.M. I would really like to hear some ideas from more people in the neighborhood.

I hope everyone has a terrific Fourth of July.

Download recent Gazettes at  
<http://www.GardenOaks.org/>

Check out the Garden Oaks  
Neighborhood Forums at  
[www.GardenOaks.org](http://www.GardenOaks.org).

## Heard Under the Oak Tree

**TERRY JEANES**

### Welcome to the Neighborhood

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 938 W. 41 <sup>st</sup>  | 436 W. 30 <sup>th</sup> |
| 918 Gardenia             | 733 W. 38 <sup>th</sup> |
| 930 W. 42 <sup>nd</sup>  | 1523 Sue Barnett        |
| 507 W. 32 <sup>nd</sup>  | 4331 Apollo             |
| 1458 Sue Barnett         | 907 W. 41 <sup>st</sup> |
| 227 W. 30 <sup>th</sup>  | 1047 Althea             |
| 1030 Gardenia            | 955 Gardenia            |
| 1051 W. 42 <sup>nd</sup> | 511 W. 31 <sup>st</sup> |
| 1027 Gardenia            |                         |

Congratulations and we hope to see you at a Civic Club meeting soon.

### July Birthdays

Claire Elizabeth Balance will be one year old on July 2.

Happy 8<sup>th</sup> birthday to twins Sterling and Sean Walden.

### Belated June Birthdays

Stephen Wesley Syzdek (6/4)  
Rebecca Stark and Tina Parks Rowe (6/5)  
Stacey Wood (6/14)  
Christopher Lee (6/18)

### Happy Anniversary

Janice and Warren Walden celebrated their 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 6/22.

### Congratulations

Becky Jeanes, elected Student Body President at the Tulane School of Architecture.

### Safe Travels

Michael Chiasson, Christian band member, will be on tour this summer. Michael just returned from New Zealand and will be touring extensively up east following performances in Houston.

### In Memoriam

Long time resident Bob Scheffler, W. 42<sup>nd</sup>, passed away May 1. Our thoughts go to his family and children, Rolf and Bernie Scheffler.

*To highlight an event or achievement, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or [jeanest@pdq.net](mailto:jeanest@pdq.net).*

# Only With Your Help

TREY WOOD

Civic Club President

My neighbors continue to impress me. It seems at each monthly meeting I am being met with more and more kindness and concern for the many important issues facing Garden Oaks, and last month's meeting was one that truly moved me. From the giving spirit of our Civic Club, to the heartfelt testimonials touching on security concerns, I thank all of you who participated in what has been my favorite meeting to date.

First of all, I again want to thank the Home Tour Committee for the thought put into the recommendations made for distributing the funds from our home tour. The recommendations were discussed and the following are the results of the Civic Club's vote:

- \$1,000.00 to Garden Oaks Elementary
- \$500.00 to the Garden Oaks Garden Club
- \$1,000.00 ear-marked for the Beautification Committee
- \$500.00 ear-marked for GOCOP
- \$2,000.00 for the Civic Club general fund
- \$20,000.00 to be put toward some form of security patrol

The check for the Garden Club will be presented at next month's meeting and the check for the school will be presented at our September meeting. Since the other committees are part of the Civic Club, those distributions will be made from Civic Club funds upon recommendation and request of the committees.

Much of the discussion was centered around the recommendation that \$20,000.00 be allocated toward some form of security patrol. Thankfully, Terry Jeanes was in attendance and was able to answer a lot of questions about the previous Constable patrol program. I also want to thank one of Houston's finest,

and our own neighbor, Tommy Wood for sharing his thoughts on HPD responsiveness and other possibilities for security. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, many thanks to our neighbor, Ann Hamilton, for sharing with us the traumatic incident which she was forced to endure as a result of the senseless criminal activity of a truly disturbed individual.

The old Constable program cost Garden Oaks approximately \$45,000.00 per year. This amount has not gone down. Accordingly, while the \$20,000.00 is just a drop in the bucket, it is a start. GOMO has also indicated an interest in contributing to this amount, but most of the funds for such a program will still need to be borne by us. We discussed some tentative amounts of what it would cost us, but nothing has been set in stone. The more households that participate, the lower the cost to everyone. While participation will be voluntary, isn't your family's security worth a small amount each month? More details will be provided by Terry Jeanes at upcoming meetings.

Finally, this is a last call for all who are interested in the culvert program that I described in last month's issue. If you are interested in a new culvert under your driveway, and having that portion of the driveway repaved at a reduced cost, you may email a note to [President@GardenOaks.org](mailto:President@GardenOaks.org), indicating your interest in participating in this program. Please include your name, address, and phone number. You can also mail the enclosed form to me at 403 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> St., Houston, Texas 77018. A decision on moving forward with this proposal will be made in conjunction with the city in the next couple of months.

Remember, Garden Oaks is our home and it is up to us to defend it. Be aware of your surroundings, keep an eye out

for your neighbors, and report suspicious activity immediately. Just think, a security patrol response time will likely increase, and it will hopefully deter those who want to take what is ours. But we can only do this with your help.



## Garden Club Officers

**Ed de Alba**

*President*

713 694-5934

**Robert De Veau**

*Vice President/Treasurer*

713 686-6012

**Chris Lindsay**

*Secretary*

713 819-8412

**Susan Gunther**

*Correspondant*

**Brenda de Alba**

*Yard of the Month*

**Tina Nieto**

*Historian*

# Civic Club Meeting Minutes – June 01, 2004

DIANE KING  
*Secretary*

President Trey Wood called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

## Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May meeting were not published and so could not be approved. May and June minutes would be published together in the July Gazette.

## Guest Speaker

Due to the long agenda, Trey introduced this month's speaker at this point in the meeting. Duane Bohac, state representative for Garden Oaks and most of the northwest quadrant of Harris County, was our speaker. Duane and the members discussed state budget reconciliation efforts and he polled those in attendance on their preferences as to how to fund the state's share of public school finances. You can reach Rep. Bohac locally at 713-460-2800. His office is near Gessener and Clay Roads. He concluded his remarks by saying that he is primarily interested in local quality of life issues and that he works to make neighborhoods better and safer.

## Treasurer's Report

Mike Dishberger, treasurer, presented the monthly report. Revenues to date are \$39,000 more than expenses. The report was approved as submitted.

## Standing Committee Reports

**Beautification.** No report

**Citizens on Patrol.** Carl Waters, Jr., gave a summary of monthly crime statistics since March. One of the victims of the much-publicized Section One hostage taking and robbery assaults in mid-May spoke about what had happened to her. She described her ordeal and advocated for a re-institution of a paid constable program in the neighborhood.

**GardenOaks.org.** No report

**Gazette.** Rebecca expressed regret at having to leave her post as editor, and

invited anyone interested to contact her about taking. [As reported in the June Gazette, our editor, Rebecca Ferguson, will be resigning after the August edition due to other commitments.]

**Membership.** Chris Lindsay reported there were 365 recorded paid members for 2004. The goal is still 500 members for the year. Brenda de Alba volunteered that with memberships just received, there would now be 384 members. Shelly Rogers won this month's member door prize: dinner for two at Tony's Mexican Restaurant.

## Ad Hoc Committee Reports

**Garden Oaks Home Tour 2004.** Sheila Briones presented the recommendations from the 2004 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour Executive Committee. The first was to hold the tour every other year on even-numbered years. The second was to disperse the \$25,000 in profits from this year's tour as follows:

- \$20,000 for the Constable program, all sections, to be split among two years: \$10,000 for 2004 and \$10,000 for 2005
- \$2000 into Civic Club General funds
- \$1000 to Garden Oaks Elementary
- \$1000 to Beautification Committee
- \$500 to Garden Oaks Citizens on Patrol (GOCOP)
- \$500 to the Garden Club

**Railroad.** No report

## Other Reports

**Garden Club.** Ed De Alba. Anita Nelson gave an excellent presentation on water gardens at the May meeting. The June meeting's topic is bonsai and the location is 1802 Stacy Falls near East T. C. Jester.

**GOMO.** Sam Stengler. The next board meeting is June 16, at 7:00 p.m., in the Kroger upstairs meeting room on 43rd

St. Sam invited suggestions on ways to use approximately \$25,000 to \$40,000 in excess GOMO funds. Your suggestions need to be submitted in writing. Decisions will be made at the annual GOMO meeting in October.

## Unfinished (Old) Business

**Fourth of July Parade.** Sheila Briones announced that the parade is at 9:00 A.M., July 3, beginning at Rick Englert Spark Park. The planning committee needs volunteers and en route photographers.

**Culverts** [See related article in June Gazette, p.3.] Trey Wood said that our Councilwoman Toni Lawrence is interested in doing this pilot program in our neighborhood if there is enough interest. Members discussed possible conflicts with city-required minimum width of new or rebuilt driveways. Trey said he would investigate the possibility of an exemption with the culvert project, and that his findings would appear in an article in the July Gazette.

## New Business

**Frequency of Home Tour.** A motion was passed to accept the Home Tour's Executive Committee's recommendation to hold the home tour every other year in even-numbered years.

**Allocation of Home Tour Funds.** Each recommendation by the Home Tour's Executive Committee as to how to allocate the profits from this year's tour received a motion and was passed as recommended except for the first recommendation that \$20,000 go toward the Constable Program. [See individual recommendations above under Ad Hoc Committee Reports]. Following a lengthy discussion, the following motion was passed: The Home Tour Executive Committee's recommendation was amended and passed to show that the funds would be for a neighborhood security program for all sections. Terri

# Civic Club Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2004

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS LINDSAY

President Trey Wood called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The April meeting minutes were approved as published.

## **Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of Treasurer Mike Dishberger, Civic Club President Trey Wood presented the monthly treasurer's report with the caveat that it did not contain the total revenues raised by the 2004 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour. As presented Y-T-D income through May 1, 2004 is \$31,188 and Expenses \$19,923. The report was approved as submitted.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

**Beautification.** Chairman Rick Grochoske reported business as usual with the committee. He is pleased with the lawn service company that provides the mowing maintenance for the neighborhood green spaces. There has been a slight increase in the service charge this year, but Rick believes it is reasonable and the firm is providing good service.

**Citizens on Patrol.** Chairman Carl Waters stated that he had not received the monthly crime statistics from the police department for Garden Oaks so he could not provide a detailed report. He did mention that it is that time of year when "thieves with a yen for gardening" seem to crop up. (Yes, the pun was intended). He mentioned that a garden bench on the front lawn of a home in the 900 block of 41<sup>st</sup> St. was stolen. Please keep eyes open and call in suspicious activity. Carl reported on a very different type of nasty behavior in the neighborhood: pet-nappings. Seems this is a gang related initiation rite. Typically, girls will steal a pet; turn it over to the boys in the gang who then do terrible nasty things to the poor pets. So, please be aware and don't allow your pets to roam loose.

**GardenOaks.org.** No report.

**Membership.** Chair Chris Lindsay reported that membership numbers were okay. About on a pace as last year, which means we may not meet our goal of 500 household memberships for the year as last year we reached 467. The dollars collected from dues is about \$12,000.

**Garden Club.** The Garden Oaks Garden Club meets on the second Thursday of the month. For May the meeting will be held at 811 W. 41st Street at the home of Kelly Gould. The topic will be Water Ponds. Meetings are open to any resident, please come if you are interested in gardening or want to know more about it. Our club is made up of all level of gardeners, from the beginner to the Master Gardener. If you do decide to join dues are only \$10 per year.

**GOMO.** Sam Stengler reported that the lawsuit brought against GOMO had been dismissed. GOMO will have surplus revenues this year and will take requests from the Civic Club as to what programs or projects the club would like to have the money spent on. Requests should be submitted to Civic Club President Trey Wood or to Sam Stengler.

## **New Business**

**Frequency of Home Tour.** A suggestion made that the Civic Club consider hosting the Home Tour on an every other year schedule. Points considered during discussion were volunteerism and time. Having a tour every year is pretty arduous and uses a lot of volunteer time. Concerns about confusion or losing sponsorships by not doing annually are not true as we discovered this year. In fact, we had higher participation because we gave our sponsors a break last year when we didn't have a tour. A motion was made to refer this issue to the Home Tour Committee to discuss and to come back

to the Civic Club with a recommendation at the June meeting.

## **Old Business**

Trey Woods brought up the topic of the drainage program, which had been discussed by Council Member Toni Lawrence at last month's meeting. It was determined that Trey needed to gather more data, put it in the Gazette and survey the neighborhood as to how they feel about the issue.

**July 4th Parade.** Sheila Briones is heading up this committee. The actual day of the parade is going to be on Saturday, July 3. Registration is at 9:00 a.m. at the Rick Englert Spark Park, start time will be 10 a.m. Council Member Toni Lawrence will be our Grand Marshall.

**Fall Festival.** We discussed the possibility that if the Home Tour goes to an every other year schedule, then the Fall Festival would too, with it being held the year the Home Tour is not. We will decide this when the Home Tour comes back with their recommendation.

The door prize for the evening was won by Rick and Marie Grochoske, which were four tickets a box at the Sam Houston Race Park, donated by the Home Tour committee.

# Notes from GOMO

**SAM STENGLER**

It's getting to be that time of year again, time for the annual Members Meeting of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization, Inc. (GOMO). This year's meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 5, 2004, following October's Civic Club meeting, at Garden Oaks Elementary School, 901 Sue Barnett.

We will discuss the activities of the association during the past year, and our plans for the future.

In addition, we are expecting to have a significant year-end overage of funds collected over the past two years. GOMO's bylaws allow us, with the input and approval of the members, to disperse this overage back into the neighborhood (for support of neighborhood activities and programs to benefit the neighborhood generally). To do so, we need your help with suggestions on just what projects/activities/programs you'd like to have GOMO fund, either wholly or partially.

Any and all suggestions are welcome and will be considered. GOMO was created to benefit the neighborhood, and while enforcing deed restrictions is a whole lotta' fun, it's even better when we can give away cash to improve Garden Oaks.

We'd like these suggestions to be in writing, with your name and contact info if possible, in case the GOMO board has questions, or needs clarification from you. (We will entertain anonymous sugges-

tions, but please describe your idea thoroughly.) Send your ideas to any of the GOMO directors.

Our deadline for suggestions is August 1. We will discuss all viable suggestions at the two August GOMO meetings. The final list to be presented to the members in October will be listed in the September Gazette. Let's hear from you!

In other news, we are approaching our November GOMO meeting, where we will elect new directors and officers. We are still short one director for sections 2, 3, and 5. If you want to get involved with the neighborhood, this is a good place to start. Contact any of the GOMO Directors for more information. A nomination form listing director qualifications can be found at ([www.gardenoaks.org/involve-ment/gomo.html](http://www.gardenoaks.org/involve-ment/gomo.html)).

Finally, I wanted to thank Michael Froebel for his sharp-eyed correction of my June Gazette Article. As he stated, I was incorrect in asserting that GOMO requires property owners of all sections of Garden Oaks to submit plans for approval when remodeling/rebuilding on a GO property. In fact, Section 4 is not required to submit plans for approval, as section 4 property owners are not members of GOMO. However, GOMO will accept plans for review from a section 4 property owner and return the plans with GOMO's evaluation as to deed restriction compliance. Please contact any GOMO director for more information.

## GOMO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Section 1

**Tim Gunther**

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  
[gigrunge@houston.rr.com](mailto:gigrunge@houston.rr.com)

**Diane King**

Cell: 361-548-8495  
3310 Lawrence Houston, TX 77018  
[dianep2king@yahoo.com](mailto:dianep2king@yahoo.com)

### Section 2

**Sam Stengler**

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

**David Hoyer**

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

### Section 3

**Richard Stark**

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

**Mike Dishberger**

Home: 713-695-7916  
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  
[MalcolmTaylor@chevrontexaco.com](mailto:MalcolmTaylor@chevrontexaco.com)

**Blake Woods**

Home: 713-680-9277  
1023 W. 43<sup>rd</sup> St. Houston, TX 77018  
[bwoods@zieglercooper.com](mailto:bwoods@zieglercooper.com)

## Citizens on Patrol

**CARL WATERS, JR.**

The tag line from the old TV show Dragnet seems like an appropriate introduction to this month's article. "The following story is true only the names have been changed to protect the innocent."

As many of you know two of our neighborhood families were victims of very serious criminal activity. Their homes were invaded in the early morning hours of May 17 and 18. The incident on May 18 made the local news and was reported in the Chronicle the next day. The article included information that the fa-



Landscaping & Design, Inc.  
832-731-4642  
**Greener View**  
Bev Raney, Garden Oaks Resident

ther of the family worked for the Chronicle.

The story I am reporting came from the victim of the first invasion. She was brave enough to attend the June Civic Club meeting just two weeks after the attack and shared what happened to her. She stated her dog began barking around 2:00 or 2:30 in the morning. She stated at first she thought the dog was barking at itself in the window but then she decided something was wrong. About that time the light was turned on the bedroom. She saw a man who had covered his face with a bandana. She stated when he saw her he hit between the eyes, started cursing her and threatened her with a knife. She stated she fought with him until she decided it was better to cooperate. She too was handcuffed and he began to rummage through her home until he found her purse with credit and ATM cards. He threw something to her so she could cover up in and told her they were going to her bank. She stated she convinced him to let her put on some clothes for the trip which he allowed. She told him she could only get \$200.00 from her bank and he told her the limit was \$400.00, he knew because that was what he got when he did this the week before. When they left the bank he instructed her to drive him to industrial park at 34th and Yale. She was allowed to leave after he got out of the car. The victim stated he began apologizing on the way back from the bank claiming he was doing what he had to do to feed his kids. The good news from this story is that the robber was caught leaving the neighborhood following the invasion on the 18th. Authorities told me he confessed to both incidents. Hopefully he won't be back here anytime soon as he told arresting officers that he wanted to go back to prison.

There will be other articles in the Gazette this month which discuss the merits of resuming the Constable Program or looking at some other form of private security. The volunteers at Citizens on Patrol are not trained to intercede in criminal activity of this nature. As the

coordinator of the program I fully support the effort to find and fund a professional security program (Constable or private) for the neighborhood. Both programs can work together for a safer community.

### **April Crime Statistics (3)**

#### **Burglary (2)**

700 block of W. 39th St. on Tuesday, April 13th at 10:00 p.m. (garage)

700 block of W. 39th St. on Wednesday April 14th at 3:00 a.m. (residence)

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

1500 block of Sue Burnett on Friday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m. (vehicle was on a driveway)

The year to date total through April was 21 as compared to 31 through April 2003.

Here are a couple of items from the Yahoo Group computer bulletin board. A Section One resident reported her neighbor's car was broken into on the morning of June 1. A briefcase, day planner and some medical forms were stolen. In replies to this story it was reported that a home under renovation was broken into and \$3,000.00 worth of power tools belonging to the contractor were stolen. Also reported were two burglaries of the Mancuso Motorcycle Warehouse in which electronic device like computers were stolen.

**DON'T FORGET NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IS AUGUST 3RD.** Start making your plans for block parties and other activities to celebrate this annual crime prevention event.

Inquires about joining the Citizens on Patrol program can be sent to me via neighborhood website GardenOaks.org, to the COP email account at GOCOP77018@AOL.com. or by telephone at 713-864-1992.

#### **Reference Numbers**

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Emergency Services      | 911          |
| HPD Non-Emergency       | 713-884-2121 |
| All other City Services | 311          |

# Membership Report

**CHRIS LINDSAY**

Our membership number is getting better but it is not the best it can be or was for that matter. Thank you to all of our neighbors who have sent in their civic club dues for 2004. After checking the mailbox before writing this report on June 15th we now have 388 member households who have paid dues for this calendar year. We need just another 79 paid memberships to equal the number we had last year or another 112 to meet our target goal of 500 for this year. As required by our rules of operation, a complete list of paid members is printed on the insert in this month's Gazette. So, if you discover that your name is not listed, now is the time to get those checkbooks out, and fill in the blanks on the membership form on the back of the Gazette and mail! The dues rate is the same as last year:

**Basic Level** is the **Crepe Myrtle** \$25.00 (\$5.00 senior member)

**Intermediate Level** is the **Magnolia** \$50.00 (\$10.00 senior member)

**Patron Level** is the **Golden Oak** \$75.00 (\$15 senior member)

Unlike homeowner's associations where yearly membership dues are mandatory, we are a civic club. Joining is voluntary, as is the amount you donate. A minimum of \$25.00 is needed if you are going to vote on civic club matters, but other than that, what you give is at your discretion. We appreciate whatever you are comfortable giving. All dues go toward civic club programs, such as Beautification, Citizens on Patrol, Home & Garden Tour, the *Gazette*, Membership committee and our Web site.

Shelley Rogers won the door prize at June's Civic Club meeting, a \$25 gift certificate to Tony's Mexican Restaurant. You too can be a winner—but you have to come to the meeting to win.

# Neighborhood Constable Program

TERRY JEANES

Due to increased concern among residents, and due to recent events in Section One, there is new interest in reviving some form of supplemental security. Some residents are interested in reviving the constable program, and others would like to look at some other professional security. Any new program will be used in addition to the Garden Oaks Citizens on Patrol program.

The former Constable Program was suspended in October of 2002, due to a lack of consistent support. The Constable Program provided a dedicated Harris County Constable to our subdivision, patrolling for 40 hours per week. Response time for area calls was generally much shorter than calling HPD. Deputy James and supporting officers apprehended two suspects breaking and entering a home in Section One, putting an end to a series of area break-ins. Vacation watches and home security checks were also provided for residents participating in the program.

A recent recommendation was made that \$10,000 from this year's Home & Garden Tour be designated as a financial offset to the constable program cost. A small group of volunteers stepped forward at the last meeting to investigate security options for the neighborhood. Key factors will be cost and methods of increasing participation within the community. Additional information will be provided at the next Civic Club meeting.

Volunteers and supporters are needed! For more information about financial support or community participation, please contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or [jeanest@pdq.net](mailto:jeanest@pdq.net). We look forward to making Garden Oaks an even safer, more wonderful place to live. Please join us, won't you?

# Critter Corner

CASEY AND MAU MAU FARRIS

Hi Neighbors! It sure is hot so this month we want to remind everyone to pay attention to the pets and keep them cool and hydrated. Mau Mau wants to talk about dry, flaky skin which our Pet of the Month knows nothing about because his coat is gorgeous. Our backyard report focuses on the herons that nest in Garden Oaks.

## Pet of the Month

"Mr. July" is Stanford Woods from Section V. Stanford lives with his father, Blake, and Cheetoe (orange Tabby). Stanford is a nine year old American Shorthair cat. He is a gorgeous fellow and his gray coat is thick, soft, and luxurious. Stanford is a big boy with a real easygoing personality. He has been dieting for the past year. When he first starting dieting he used to sit by his food bowl and yowl which was pretty tough on Dad but Stanford has lost 9 pounds so far. His favorite activities include talking, napping, and looking out the windows at his beautiful garden. He also drinks and bathes in the bathtub faucet. He was named after the corner of Stanford and Peden.

## Pet News

Lots of critters were displaced when the lots were cleared for the new Sandcastle homes on Wakefield. A 3-foot water moccasin took up residence in the Svec's pond on Sue Barnett. There is one black lab puppy left from the litter that neighborhood folks bottle fed. His name is Turbo. He is 4 ½ months old and is house trained. Please call Stacy Kelly at 713-654-8111. There are also lots of kittens available so if anyone is interested please contact me at the number listed below. We mourn the loss of Lilly (Siamese) Schmidt. She was 10 years old and an inside cat. Occasionally she would go outside with a family member for a little fresh air. One evening, in the blink of an eye, she was attacked and killed by loose dogs. We believe this has happened sev-

eral times in Section I. One of the dogs is a Dalmatian, another is a black Chow, and we are unsure about the third one. This is a devastating experience! Please do not let your dogs roam unrestricted and try to keep cats in your backyard or in the house at night. Last month Rudy Pospisil (Australian Shepherd) died peacefully in her sleep. She lived on Gardenia in Section V and took evening walks and attended block functions right up to the end. She will be sorely missed. Lola Arnold-Pruitt (Jack Russell) had a bout of pancreatitis and spent a few nights at the emergency room and vet. She is doing much better now.

## Critters 101

During the summer, lots of folks have their dogs shaved to help them stay cooler. Expert recommendations vary on whether to clip a dog's coat. The ASPCA suggests that trimming (not shaving) may help a double coated dog like a Chow, but leave at least one inch to provide insulation and protection from sunburn. Long-haired dogs with a single coat like Border Collies should not be clipped because a shorter coat may not be dense enough to protect them from the sun.

It is too hot for a pet to be left in the car for any length of time, even for a couple of minutes.

Only jog with your dog early in the morning or late in the evening, and take water along. If it is over 85 degrees, the dogs cannot cool themselves fast enough.

If your dog is outside put a fan out there with him, it will help cool him and keep the mosquitoes away. Also, keep water bowls clean and full of fresh water. Adding a few ice cubes and a slice of cold melon can help cool and hydrate a hot dog.

*Continued on page 12*



# Picture Perfect Gardens

**ROBERT DE VEAU**  
Garden Club Vice President

*"There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs."*

Ansel Adams

Ask most people who, in their opinion, is the greatest nature photographer in history and most will name Ansel Adams. Adams did not photograph wildlife, and very few of his images can be considered "macro." He never took a camera underwater or sat in a hide. He did not, in fact, practice most types of photography we associate with nature. Why then has his work made such a profound impression? Adams' greatness comes not from images relying on technique or subject, but rather on vision, on being able to portray a scene, to arrange its elements, and to present it in a way that evokes an emotional response and allows the viewer to experience not only a beautiful place, but also the awe-inspiring grandeur of nature.

To achieve such an effect, it is not enough to have an interesting subject, or to maintain sharp focus, or to calculate the perfect exposure – one must also be able to see a composition within a scene, to visualize it, as it would appear in the final print. One must be able to convey his or her own inspiration to the viewer. That is the essence of garden photography – learning to see, training the eye to recognize elements in a scene that can combine to produce an emotional reaction, and then capturing your own vision in a photograph.

On Thursday July 8, the Garden Club will teach you how to capture the beauty of the season in the garden. Dorothy Wong, amateur photographer, will be prepared to share her secrets for photographic success and will guide us through the process of creating beautiful images. She will share some of her work and dis-

cuss the "Picture Perfect Gardens" including subject selection, lighting, sharpness/focus and composition. Dorothy will also be prepared to discuss general maintenance, shutter speeds, aperture control, film speed, sensitivity and more.

Last month, club members and guests spent a fascinating evening with Ray Gonzalez, former past president of the Houston Bonsai Society and curator of over 300 bonsai plants, as he taught attendees how to create our own bonsai. To begin with, the tree and the pot form a single harmonious unit where the shape, texture and color of one, compliments the other. Then the tree must be shaped. It is not enough just to plant a tree in a pot and allow nature to take its course – the result would look nothing like a tree and would look very short-lived. Every branch and twig of a bonsai is shaped or eliminated until the chosen image is achieved. From then on, the image is maintained and improved by a constant regime of pruning and trimming.

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.

For more information about the Garden Oaks Garden Club, call me at 713-686-6012. We meet on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. Most meetings feature a guest speaker followed by a brief business meeting. In addition, the Garden Club is responsible for the maintenance of Friendship Garden, and we conduct two workdays (spring and fall) dedicated to adding new plantings, replacing the mulch, and tidying up the beds.

If you would like to learn more about garden photography, we invite you to visit with us at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, July 8 when we meet at 974 W 42<sup>nd</sup> St.

**termite terrace studios**  
www.t2studios.com



web design  
consulting &  
development

Joe Muscara  
joe@t2studios.com 713 691 6833



**GREENWOOD KING PROPERTIES**

*If you are thinking of buying or selling a home, call your neighbor – I know Garden Oaks!*

1801 HEIGHTS BLVD.  
832.476.4123  
deanna@greenwoodking.com

**DEANNA ZUGHERI**  
www.GardenOaksHomes.com

**Bone Voyage**  
Pet Sitting Services



1047 Gardenia Drive  
Garden Oaks, USA

**713-688-6363**

**Casey Farris**  
Owner/Pet Lover  
www.goDOGusa.com

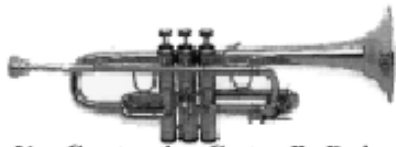


**MALDONADO LANDSCAPING**  
Lawn Service & Tree Trimming  
"Also Picket Fence Installation"  
Fully Insured

Servello Maldonado  
(713) 640-1465 P.O. Box 230459  
Pager (713) 813-6666 Houston, TX 77223-0459

# How to Buy Cheap Computers

JONATHAN LANZ



New Construction\*Custom Re-Design  
Renovations\*Lots/Build-to-Suit

See Our Work At:

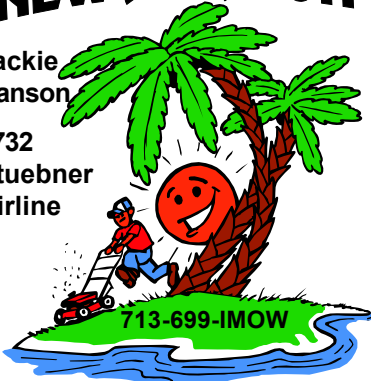
729 W. 39<sup>th</sup> St 1043 Gardenia  
705 W. 39<sup>th</sup> St 701 Garden Oaks Blvd  
718 W. 41<sup>st</sup> St 713 Garden Oaks Blvd  
721 W. 41<sup>st</sup> St 1026 Althea  
818 W. 41<sup>st</sup> St 1030 Althea  
858 W. 41<sup>st</sup> St 4232 Apollo  
862 W. 41<sup>st</sup> St 815 Azalea  
970 W. 41<sup>st</sup> St 855 Azalea  
718 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St 839 Lamonte  
847 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St 1325 Sue Barnett  
870 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St 1458 Sue Barnett  
823 W. 43<sup>rd</sup> St 1506 Sue Barnett  
975 Gardenia 1575 Sue Barnett

**HARRY JAMES BUILDING & DESIGN**  
(713) 695-7007  
www.harryjamesbuilder.com

## NEW HORIZON

Jackie  
Hanson

5732  
Stuebner  
Airline



713-699-IMOW

## LANDSCAPING



HOUSTON  
RESIDENTIAL  
SERVICES

PAINTING \* SIDING  
DOORS \* WINDOWS  
DECKS \* FENCES

713-705-7644

Picking out a PC can be a daunting task if you're not familiar with what the various features are and how they can help you. You may run into a situation where you are being pressured by a sales clerk to buy something that you do not even need. This article will guide you through the PC buying process so that you are better informed when deciding what you need. Throughout this article we will focus on the needs of people who use their computer for word processing, internet, and email (WPIE). If you use it for more advanced things we will sum up the differences at the end.

### Processors

One of the biggest myths in the consumer PC market is that everyone needs a faster processor. The truth is, people were doing word processing, surfing the web, and sending email when processors only reached 1 GHz. so if WPIE is all you want to use your PC for, you don't really need a top-of-the-line system.

There is a drastic price increase between top-notch processors, and those considered to be only 80% as good. This price increase can be as much as 2-300%. It is difficult to justify the increased cost for only a small increase in performance. When deciding which processor to buy, your best solution will be to pick the slowest processor available. You will save money, and you will have all the speed you need. Any processor above 1.5 GHz should be more than adequate for typical home use of WPIE.

### Processor Brands

#### Intel

Intel is the most widely-known processor manufacturer, but they aren't necessarily the best. Intel knows that big numbers are impressive, so they focus on developing faster processors rather than better processors. Intel's processors perform well in streaming multime-

dia applications, but they do not perform quite as well in office or productivity applications.

Under the Intel name there are two main consumer lines: the Pentium, and the Celeron. The major difference between these two is the fact that the Celerons contain less internal cache. Internal cache is like temporary storage within the processor itself; it gives the processor a shorter time between command executions. If you were using your computer just for WPIE, a Celeron should be sufficient. You would want the Pentium if you wanted to do more multimedia type work or if you wanted to play games.

#### AMD

AMD is a lesser known brand, but they are a better choice for the typical WPIE user because AMD performs better for productivity or office based applications like word processing, web browsing, and email. AMDs are also typically cheaper than Intels.

One thing that often confuses people is how AMD names their products. AMD's chips are not as fast as Intel's, but they are more efficient. So instead of calling their processor an "Athlon 1.7 GHz" like Intel does, AMD names them like "Athlon 2400." Unofficially, that means that the chip performs like an Intel 2.4GHz, even if it only runs at 2GHz or slower. So while AMDs are technically slower, they can outperform Intels at higher speeds.

### Memory or RAM

RAM is something that you do not want to skimp on. While you should choose a slower processor, you want as much RAM as you can get. RAM is your computer's temporary memory. Think of it like your desk space. The larger your desk is, the more you can work on simultaneously. If you run out of desk space you'll need to be shuffling papers

*Continued on page 13*

# Preventing Crime in GO

Continued from page 1

for whatever reason you haven't met yet, or maybe it's you who are the new people on the street. In any case, then you will know who belongs and who doesn't when you see things going on.

The next thing you can do is get involved with GO Citizens on Patrol. They are always looking for volunteers. If you have some time you could spare, it's a great way to help and to see what is going on in the neighborhood. Maybe you are a stay at home parent and could do this while the kids are at school, perhaps even with another stay at home parent. This way you can put your social time to good use for the entire community. You'll be visiting with friends and helping the community at the same time. There are also a lot of you such as students, retirees, etc., who have schedules that can work well with the GOCOP program to patrol during hours that aren't normally covered. See Carl Waters' article elsewhere in this Gazette for information on how to join.

Probably the biggest thing we can do to prevent crime is to hire a paid patroller for the neighborhood. You may remember that Garden Oaks had a paid Harris County Constable patrol the neighborhood. There is now a proposal for some of the proceeds from this year's Home and Garden Tour to go towards a paid patroller program (in addition to GOCOP which is volunteer only). Options that are being considered are hiring an off-duty HPD officer or using the Harris County Constable like we did previously. The nice thing about the Constable is that they come with a marked patrol car. For an off-duty HPD officer we would want to work something out like magnetic signs for the car so everyone, especially the crooks, knows who they are and that the neighborhood has an armed patroller.


While the proposal to use the Home Tour proceeds is a promising one, a renewed Paid Security Patrol Program stands a

good chance of running into the same problems that killed the Constable Program last time, just not as quickly. Previously, most residents were informed about the program by inserts that were run in the Gazette. These inserts allowed you to sign up by paying all at once or paying slightly more per year by a monthly bank draft. Experience has shown us that there are two problems with this method. First, not everyone paid attention to what was in the Gazette, perhaps thinking the insert was some advertisement or not reading the Gazette at all. Second, anyone who joins the program by the single payment needs to be contacted in a year to pay again. On top of that, if they joined towards the latter part of the year, they may feel that getting 'hit up' to pay at the start of the next year is too soon. Instead of getting a year of coverage, they might feel that they didn't get their money's worth because their money is really covering the continuous shortfall in the program. This points to another problem with the yearly contribution. When the program was running low, all of the available money was inevitably used to pay for "this month." The yearly contributions did not provide a continual revenue source. Often money was "borrowed" from the yearly contributions that had already been made to pay for the current month. In so doing, this left a shortage for the rest of the year. For example, if there were half as many contributors as were needed for a full year and they all paid the one-time fee, the money would be used to cover the first six months. If no one else joined, there would be no more money for the rest of the year, even though that is what the contributors paid for.

For the program to be successful this time, a few changes should be made. Once it has been agreed upon what type of paid patroller is the best deal for the neighborhood, the first thing that needs

Continued on next page

For all of Your  
Printing & Bookbinding  
Needs

 **O.D.'s Printing**  
*Neighbor helping neighbor*

**Oscar D. Ochoa**  
Owner

8924 Emmott Road  
713-896-0052

Since 1913  
Houston's Finest  
Specialty Department Store  
"in the Heights"

**Kaplan's • Ben Hur**

Visit our website!  
[www.kaplansbenhur.com](http://www.kaplansbenhur.com)

Mon - Sat                      2125 Yale  
10:00 - 6:00                    713-861-2121

Volunteers Help  
Build A  
Stronger  
Community.

Make a difference in  
someone's life...become a  
volunteer at Memorial Hermann  
Northwest Hospital.

Please call 713-867-2095.

FOR YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

**Memorial Hermann  
Northwest Hospital**

1635 North Loop West • 713.867.2000

713.222.CARE

[www.memorialhermann.org](http://www.memorialhermann.org)

*Continued from previous page*

to be done is to mail the membership sign up form to all homes in Garden Oaks. A group of volunteers can stuff and label envelopes, and this can even be done during a civic club meeting. After the initial mailing, the committee should then mail the membership form to all unsigned residents at least once a year (maybe a few times the first year to get going) as well as include it in new resident welcome packets. The membership form should offer only the draft option, as it is the best and only way to keep the Paid Patroller Program viable for years to come by providing continual, monthly income.

Why should you sign up to pay for the program by bank draft? Simply stated, by having you and everyone else pay by draft, it will reduce the work required for the long term and, more importantly, keep the program running over the course of years, not months. Once the number of members needed to sustain the paid patroller program is achieved, the committee just needs to maintain the level of paid members. Otherwise, the committee will have a constant battle to collect money throughout the year and re-sign members each year. And don't worry, you can leave the program if you need to, and drafts won't begin until there are enough to sustain the program.

As the number of members increases, the cost of membership can be reduced and/or we can add more paid patrollers. Ideally, with all 1500 or so homes in Garden Oaks joining at \$10/month (this amount is probably lower than it will be initially), that would be \$15000/month or \$180000/year, more than enough for 3 paid patrollers, covering 120 out of 168 hours in a week. More likely, the program will start at around \$20/month, and would require 250 homes to make \$60000/year. These are conservative numbers; I am leaving out the contribution from the Home Tour and I have rounded up the cost of the patroller. But by putting every member on the draft program and waiting until there are

enough members to sustain the program, we will have a paid patroller for years to come and a committee that doesn't have to kill itself all the time trying to get people who will pay.

So what are you going to do about preventing crime in Garden Oaks?

## Let Freedom Ring

---

*Continued from page 1*

Judging for the best in each category will be held before the parade, with winners receiving prizes and first, second, and third place ribbons after the parade.

The parade will follow two routes: a short one for wee ones from Rick Englert Spark Park to Gazebo Park and back, and a longer route from Rick Englert Spark Park to Alba on West 41<sup>st</sup> and back on West 42<sup>nd</sup>. If you don't plan to be in the parade, get out your lawn chair, and watch it at the park or along the parade route.

Refreshments will be served after the parade, with plenty of Ozarka water provided by Beto Anaya. Other sponsors of the event are the Garden Oaks Civic Club and Keller Williams Realty, the Garden Group.

Volunteers are needed to serve as judges, parade marshals and photographers. For more information or to volunteer, please contact parade chairperson Sheila Briones, at 713-861-8091 or [sbriones@hotmail.com](mailto:sbriones@hotmail.com). Hope to see you at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, July 3!

## Minutes

---

*Continued from page 4*

Jeanes and others investigate program options. If you are interested in procuring a neighborhood security program, please contact Terri.

## Announcements

The next Civic Club meeting will be July 6, 2004, at 7:00 P.M.

Thanks to Terri Jeanes for the refreshments.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 P.M.

## Critter Corner

---

*Continued from page 8*

### Dear Mau Mau

*What can I do about my cat's dandruff? S. Collins*

There are many causes of flaky dry skin but poor diet, low humidity and not enough grooming only add to the problem. Have your vet rule out any serious problems and make sure you are feeding your kitty a high quality natural diet. Cheap, grocery store brands just don't have enough vitamins, minerals and the right fats to create a nice coat. Fish oil and flax seed oil add lots of essential fatty acids which will quickly show up as sleek fur. Safflower oil can also help. Add about ½ teaspoon at each meal. Start brushing your friend frequently. At first you will probably notice more dandruff as you brush because you will be pulling it off the skin to the surface. But after a few days, the dandruff will be lessened and may even disappear as the oils are distributed better over the whole coat.

*-Mau Mau*

### Backyard Report

Have you noticed the rather large, stork-like birds around the neighborhood? These are Yellow Crowned Night Herons. They have been spotted in all sections of Garden Oaks and at least one nest has been spotted in Section 1A. The first time I saw one, I was walking Sydney on Apollo and it flew right past my head. I saw it was large and had orange feet. I thought it was a duck until it landed and we were able to study one another. Herons are long-legged, generally long-necked and long-billed birds.

They are carnivorous and often hunt for fish, frogs, lizards, and insects in our ditches and ponds. They are solitary feeders but can roost in colonies. After courtship, mating and nest building 3-5 eggs are laid. Incubation lasts 21-25 days. Both parents build the nest in trees and feed the young. The fledglings will be ready to leave the nest after 25 days.

*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. If you have any questions or pet news, please contact Casey at [Casey@goDOGusa.com](mailto:Casey@goDOGusa.com), or call 713-688-6363.*

## Cheap Computers

*Continued from page 11*

around a lot and that will take time. Your computer is the same way. Without enough RAM, it will use your much slower hard drive for temporary storage, and that will slow down performance.

RAM is also very cheap right now, so it doesn't hurt to buy more. However a computer manufacturer will often overcharge you for more RAM, so we recommend buying the minimum amount of RAM and then buying extra at another store and installing it yourself. Installing RAM isn't as hard as you think; you literally cannot put it in backwards so it's hard to mess things up. Installing it yourself could save you \$50 or more, so it's definitely worth looking into. The only caveat for this is that you can't mix and match RAM—all of your RAM must be the same kind. When you order or buy a new chip, make sure you know what type of RAM you have. The brand name isn't important; just know the actual type, such as "PC133 SDRAM."

There are also different types of RAM, SDRAM, RDRAM, and DDR SDRAM. Some RAM is faster than other RAM and so it performs better. For WPIE you do not need fast RAM and SDRAM, which is now the slowest,

should be good enough for you. However most new computers are coming with DDR RAM now, which is much faster, so this choice will likely be taken out of your hands. If you have the option, however, choose the least expensive one.

The minimum amount of RAM you should have is 256MB, ideally you'd want as much as 512MB if you can afford it.

### Hard Drives

Hard drives are your computer's permanent storage. How large of a hard drive you have dictates how many MP3s you can have, or how many hours of digital video you can store. A hard drive of 40GB should be sufficient for a WPIE user, even one with MP3s, but if you have a lot of MP3s (think thousands) and even small amounts of digital video you'll want more. A 60 or 80 GB hard drive should be enough for just about anyone who doesn't do digital video.

There are also different hard drive speeds, 5400 is the slowest, but you can find them up to 15000 RPMs. A faster hard drive is nice if you have large files that you frequently load or if you do CD burning. Most people just need 7200 RPMs.

### Video Cards

Video cards are very important for gamers and people who do digital video or who want to watch DVDs on their PC. If you're not one of these people, a 32MB video card will be enough.

### Sound Cards

An inexpensive sound card is really all most people need. It will have a high-quality audio output that will be fine for playing music. That is just about all you'll need it for. People who are really into games or into mixing their own music may want something better.

### Network Cards and Modems

Nearly all new computers come with a modem and a network card. Your primary concern will be whether you want a wireless network or a wired network.

In other words, if you have broadband Cable or DSL, do you want to have to run a cable from your cable outlet or phone jack to your computer, or do you want it to be wireless? This will all depend on your home setup. If you go the wireless route, you should get 802.11b wireless equipment.

### Peripheral Equipment

These items are primarily a matter of personal preference. A "multimedia" keyboard with "quick access" buttons, however, is generally regarded as a waste of money, because most people don't really use them. We also recommend buying an optical mouse because they are more durable. Now is the time to splurge a bit: after buying your inexpensive processor, RAM, and sound card, you can afford to buy yourself a nice LCD monitor.

When buying a printer, remember to look at cartridge cost. Some printers are inexpensive (around \$50), but their cartridges can cost up to \$30. You will save more money if you buy an ink-jet refill kit.

### Things Not to Buy

We recommend not buying zip drives or any other removable media drive. Instead, CD burners are cheaper and better if you want to remove large files. With most burners, you can burn 700MB of data in minute or two.

Do not pay for extra software such as MP3 players that you can get for free. Use websites like [www.downloads.com](http://www.downloads.com) to access many freeware programs that the computer manufacturer might try to charge you for.

Often, you will not want to buy any extras (such as zip drives or even digital cameras) from your computer manufacturer as part of a package deal. You can find the same items elsewhere for much less.

### 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

Toni Lawrence (District A)

713-247-2010

Dwayne Bohac

713-460-2800

John Whitmire

713-864-8701

# July 2004

Sunday    Monday    Tuesday    Wednesday    Thursday    Friday    Saturday

|                                                                                                                                                 |    |                                                      |                                     |                                                                        |    |                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Upcoming events:</b><br>-National Night Out – 08/03<br><br><i>Be sure and email dates of events to the editor at Gazette@GardenOaks.org.</i> |    |                                                      |                                     | 1                                                                      | 2  | 3                                                        |
| 4<br><br>Independence Day                                                                                                                       | 5  | 6<br><br>Civic Club Meeting<br>GO Elem.<br>7:00 P.M. | 7                                   | 8<br><br>Garden Club Meeting<br>974 W 42 <sup>nd</sup> St<br>7:00 P.M. | 9  | 10<br><br>"Let Freedom Ring"<br>Bike Parade<br>9:00 A.M. |
| 11                                                                                                                                              | 12 | 13                                                   | 14                                  | 15<br><br>Gazette Article Submission Deadline                          | 16 | 17                                                       |
| 18                                                                                                                                              | 19 | 20                                                   | 21<br><br>GOMO Meeting<br>7:00 P.M. | 22                                                                     | 23 | 24                                                       |
| 25                                                                                                                                              | 26 | 27                                                   | 28                                  | 29                                                                     | 30 | 31                                                       |

### 2004 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