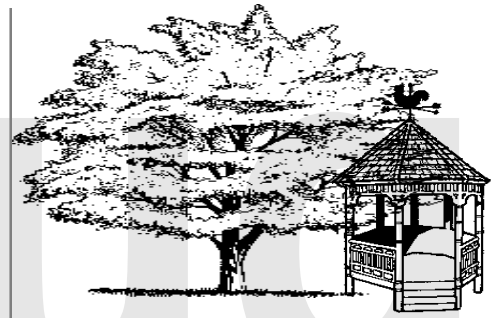


Garden Oaks Gazette



Garden Oaks as an Historical District?

TRISH RICKLEFSEN

We are currently in the exploratory stage of determining whether we can or want to try to establish Garden Oaks as an Historical District. Over the next few months, we will begin to assess community interest, support of the residents, and qualifying characteristics of our community.

Basic Requirements for Designation

The area must include at least 51% historic houses, buildings, structures, and objects over 50 years old, and must have the written approval from at least 67% of the landowners who own at least 51% of the land area.

Benefits of Historic District Designation

- Preserves and enhances neighborhood character
- Protects property investments and values
- Promotes restoration and revitalization
- Encourages pride of ownership
- Attracts homeowners who appreciate historic properties
- Encourages compatible infill construction

- Discourages demolition of historic properties
- Increases neighborhood visibility with city officials
- Property tax credits and abatements available for certain restoration projects
- Promotes and preserves our cultural and architectural heritage
- Preserves and protects an important piece of Houston's history
- Provides a unique sense of community
- Positions neighborhood to receive foundation grants
- Promotes awareness of neighborhood values
- Provides guidelines for compatible new construction
- Improves the quality of the neighborhood

What Qualifies?

Structures, buildings, homes, outbuildings, and objects will be eligible. Every house, building, outbuilding, structure, and historical object must be inventoried, indexed by address, and classified as to

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Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday, September 7th

The next Civic Club meeting will be held on September 7 at 7:00 P.M. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria. There will be no meeting in August due to National Night Out, which will be held on August 3. See page 5 for a list of some block parties.

Civic Club Officers

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From the Editor's Desk



REBECCA FERGUSON
Gazette Editor

So I guess this is it.

I must say that despite a few schedule crunches and a couple of letters to the editor, this has been a very positive experience. And as I have said a handful of times, I've met some wonderful people while working as the editor for this newsletter. Thanks for the laughs, you guys.

I have learned that there is a lot to be said for getting involved in the decision-making processes in our neighborhood. Doing so gives you a voice, and allows everyone involved to have a more encompassing view of the ideas and opinions that mould and shape the community we're all a part of. The monthly meetings are worth going to—it helps to have some new people bring some new ideas. Before I got involved with this volunteer work, I always figured that my involvement and attendance at the monthly meetings would be pointless. I've gotten several emails over the last year and a half from people with the same opinion. But our involvement is anything but pointless. It really is the only way to bring about any changes you may be seeking.

This has truly been a learning experience in so many ways.

I hope that our new editor has as good of an experience with this as I have.

I hope to see you all and continue to meet more of you throughout the neighborhood. It's really been a pleasure.

Heard Under the Oak Tree

TERRY JEANES

Welcome to the Neighborhood

The following new residents recently closed on their properties:

950 Althea 516 West 34th
1059 Gardenia 1030 Gardenia
855 West 42nd 974 Althea
416 W 30th 1543 Sue Barnett
3102 Lawrence 227 W 31st
729 West 42nd 713 West 41st
975 Lamonte

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

Happy Birthday

Warren Walden will celebrate on August 14.

Speedy Recovery

Tina Sabuco and **Tina Rowe Parks** are recovering from surgery. Hope things continue to go well.

Remember highlight a special event, good deed, or achievement contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or jeanest@pdq.net.



Only With Your Help

TREY WOOD

Civic Club President

Last Call for Culvert Interest. Ok, I know I said that last month, but this month I really mean it. At the end of August, I will present all of the information I have received to the City. They will then decide whether or not City Council Member Toni Lawrence's proposed pilot project for driveway/culvert replacement in Garden Oaks will move forward. The basics of the proposal are that the City will replace residents' culverts and the affected portion of their driveways at a cost of \$1000-\$1200. The purpose of this is to improve drainage by allowing a better flow of water under those driveways that have inadequate or non-existent culverts. This is all still in the investigatory stage, and expressing interest is in no way binding. If you are interested, please fill out the enclosed form and mail it to me, or send me an email at Presiden@GardenOaks.org. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and section number.

Security Program. I would like for all of you to seriously consider whether you want to contribute funds for a security patrol program. If so, you should also consider how much and how often you would like to contribute. This idea will not get off the ground until we have sufficient participation and funds to maintain the expense associated with this project. I encourage all of you to attend the Civic Club meeting on September 7 to share your ideas on this issue.

Becoming Better Acquainted. Thank you to everyone who participated in our "Let Freedom Ring" parade. The turnout was great, and everyone had a wonderful time. This is another shining example of Garden Oaks residents striving to become better acquainted. With that in mind, I encourage all of you to participate in National Neighbors Night Out on August 3. If you block has not

organized a gathering, please do so. It can be a lot of fun, and it will give you a good excuse to finally talk to some of your neighbors. Knowing each other and sharing information is probably one of the most effective ways to reduce crime in our neighborhood, so get out there and mingle.

Download recent Gazettes at

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

Check out the Garden Oaks
Neighborhood Forums at
www.GardenOaks.org.

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Charity Golf Tournament

ALLISON COPONY

SLC Coordinator; Waltrip High School

The Transportation, Engineering and Design Academy (TED) of Waltrip High School will host its 1st Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, October 30, 2004. This charity tournament will be played at Jersey Meadow Golf Course, 8502 Rio Grande, Jersey Village, TX 77040.

The tournament will help raise funds for students to participate in field trips and offer scholarships for two seniors. While some field trips can be relatively inexpensive, there are others that charge an entrance fee, and there is always the cost for transportation. The academy would also like to honor two of its own with academy scholarships.

The public is encouraged to show its support in a number of ways. There is a need for golfers to play in the tournament. With the entry fee of \$70, golfers will each receive the cost of the green fee, cart, range balls, goodie bag, lunch, and a t-shirt. Additionally, corporate sponsors are being solicited to sponsor holes on the day of the tournament at \$100 a hole. For that amount, a sponsor will receive advertising at a hole and will be placed in the official program. Another important way to get involved is to participate in the silent auction. The auction still needs items to be donated, and of course we will need people to bid on these items. Finally, the tournament will offer prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. There will also be awards given for longest drive and straightest drive, and closest to the pin. Individuals and companies that donate prizes will be recognized in the program. Sponsors and players can sign up at the tournament website at www.tournevents.com/waltriph. For more information, see the website or contact Margaret Preston, Academy Principal, at mpreston@houstonisd.org.

Civic Club Meeting Minutes – July 06, 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 approved as published. June minutes were approved with the following corrections to minutes published in the July *Gazette*:

- Terry Jeanes' first name was misspelled.
- The first sentence ending on p.12 is corrected to read as follows: “[. . .] Terry Jeanes and others will investigate program options.”

Treasurer's Report

Mike Dishberger, treasurer, presented the monthly report. Revenue as of June 30 is more than \$27,000 greater than expenses. Mike said the Civic Club would still be well in the black at the end of this fiscal year. The report was approved as submitted.

Standing Committee Reports

Beautification. Rick Grochoske announced there would be an ad hoc workday on Saturday, July 10, at 8:00 A.M. at the rose garden on Lawrence at 34th to prune and lay additional mulch.

Citizens on Patrol. Carl Waters, Jr., gave a summary of monthly crime statistics for May. There were eleven reported incidents, including 3 burglaries, 5 burglaries of motor vehicles, 1 auto vandalism, and one DWI. Carl said that total crime reported was at or below the crimes level at the same time last year, but that his statistics only included reported crimes and only crimes reported to the Houston Police Department. Crimes reported to and investigated by the Harris County Sheriff's Department are not included in HPD statistics. Carl again sought Citizens on Patrol Volunteers and recounted an incident where their presence stopped a crime in

progress and resulted in perpetrators' being arrested. Jonathan Lanz, member [and new *Gazette* editor – see below], said there also had been some attempted car break-ins at the Garden Oaks Professional Building on Garden Oaks Blvd., and cars stolen from there as well. These incidents occurred in June.

There was a query about National Night Out in August. Trey encouraged neighbors to organize NNO block parties. Carl said any planned events would be published in the August *Gazette*, if planners submitted the information to him or the *Gazette* editor by the July 15 submission deadline.

GardenOaks.org. No report. Trey gave kudos to Joe Muscara for the continued good job with the GO online forum and the GO website.

Gazette. The *Gazette* has a new editor. Jonathan Lanz will work with Rebecca Ferguson on the August issue and will take over completely beginning with the September *Gazette*. Members congratulated John and expressed appreciation for volunteering to take over this very important job. John said he was looking forward to being editor, and only asked that everyone submitting items for publication honor the 15th of the month deadline.

Membership. No report.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Garden Oaks Home Tour 2004. Trey Wood made the initial call for names of volunteers to serve as the Garden Oaks Home Tour Chair for the 2006 tour. Trey will be appointing a chair at the end of the Civic Club year in October and asked that members begin considering who that might be.

Railroad. Craig Lee had no news to report but gave a summary of the issues related to the train noise concerns of

Garden Oaks residents. He emphasized that in the last 5-10 years, train traffic on the route that is just north of W 34th has more than doubled. Long-term plans regarding rail traffic in the Houston area will probably result in a decreased use of these tracks but they eventually may be used for commuter passenger transit routes. Craig said more details of the issues could be found in earlier 2004 issues of the *Gazette*. [Links to previous issues of the *Gazette* are at <http://www.gardenoaks.org/involvement/gazette.html>.]

Other Reports

Garden Club. Ed de Alba announced that photographing flowers and gardens will be the topic of the next meeting of the Garden Club on July 8, at 974 W. 42nd. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. The August meeting will be at John Ferguson's home, 407 W. 33rd. The topic will be soils and composting. All Garden Club meetings are open to anyone in the neighborhood.

GOMO. Sam Stengler announced that the next board meeting is July 21 at 7:00 P.M., in the Kroger upstairs meeting room on W. 43rd St. Sam invited suggestions on ways to use approximately \$50,000 of GOMO funds that will be made available. [See Sam's article in the July *Gazette*.] He asked that suggestions be sent in writing, [You can hand deliver them at meetings, or send them to Sam at 710 Sue Barnett, or via email at ssstengler@covad.net.]. Plans for your construction and/or remodeling can be submitted for GOMO approval at board meetings or plan review meetings held at the conclusion of each Civic Club meeting.

Unfinished (Old) Business

Fourth of July Parade. Sheila Briones. The July 4th parade held July 3rd was a neighborhood success. Approximately

Continued on page 12

Citizens on Patrol

CARL WATERS, JR.

After a quiet March and April, criminals returned to the neighborhood with gusto in May, when eleven crimes were reported in the neighborhood. At the end of my monthly articles I always include contact information about joining the Citizens on Patrol program. I am going to continue to do this because the program needs more volunteers, but unfortunately I have to report the Houston Police Department has temporarily suspended training of new volunteers while it evaluates the Citizens on Patrol program along with its other community-based programs. The Community Services Unit of HPD has been dissolved and the COP program has now been incorporated into the Public Affairs Division. I will keep the community updated on the status of our program in upcoming articles.

The City of Houston and the Houston Police Department are having a financial crisis. In an effort to save money, Chief Hurtt has laid off the jailers at the City Jails and is replacing them with officers from the streets. I have been informed that the North Division, which provides patrols to our neighborhood, will be losing 13 officers to the City Jails. Currently there are no plans for a cadet class to replace them. This makes it even more imperative that we become more aware of who our neighbors are and who belongs around their homes. Calls for a crime in progress generate a higher priority with dispatchers than calls made after the crime is committed.

A good way to get to know your neighbors is through the National Night Out Program.

National Night Out, 'America's Night out Against Crime,' was introduced by the National Association of Town Watch in 1984. The program was the brainchild of Executive Director Matt A. Peskin. In an effort to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime

efforts, Peskin felt that a high-profile, high-impact type of crime prevention event was needed nationally. He noted that in a typical "crime watch community," only 5-7% of the residents were participating actively. He felt this percentage was too low. Subsequently, he proposed a national program which would be coordinated by local crime prevention agencies and organizations that would involve entire communities at one time. The first National Night Out was held on the first Tuesday in August of 1984. That first year, 400 communities in 23 states participated in National Night Out. Nationwide, 2.5 million Americans took part in 1984. The event has since grown to involve more than 34 million people in over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide. National Night Out 2004 will culminate on August 3. As of July 15, the following neighbors committed to volunteering their homes for block parties:

Megan and Trent Salch
3106 Lawrence; 713-864-1344

Craig and Peggy Kramer
705 W. 31st St; 713-869-0449

Susan and Barry Morris
303 W. 32nd St; 713-863-8553

Bill and Amy Shaughnessy
975 Gardenia; 713-957-1214

Tiffany Hofbauer
741 W. 38th St

The Morris's have indicated they will be having a theme party. Neighbors attending their party should prepare for "Sundaes on Tuesday," by bringing their favorite ice cream toppings to share. The National Night Out program suggests a 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. time frame, but you can adjust the start or end times to meet the needs of your block. If one of these parties is not near you, call your neighbors and start your own.

Please call or email me with your information and I will try to get it to HPD so

it can be included in the city's numbers for the program. You can also post your party information on one of the neighborhood computer bulletin board sites.

May Crime Statistics (11)

Robbery (3)

3000 block of N. Durham on Wednesday, May 12 at 11:15 p.m. (restaurant)
300 block of W. 32nd St. on Monday, May 17 at 2:45 a.m. (residence)
400 block of W. 31st St. on Tuesday, May 18 at 3:15 a.m. (residence)

Burglary (2)

500 block of W. 34th St. on Monday, May 3 at 9:15 p.m. (residence)
300 block of W. 33rd St. on Wednesday, May 12 at 2:45 p.m. (residence)

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (5)

700 block of the North Loop West on Saturday, May 1 at 2:30 a.m. (restaurant)
3400 N. Shepherd on Saturday, May 1 at 2:25 p.m. (driveway)
3200 block of N. Shepherd on Tuesday, May 18 at 5:15 p.m. (church parking lot)
1000 block of Althea on Tuesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. (parking lot?)
900 block of Sue Barnett on Thursday, May 20 at 8:00 a.m. (street)

Driving While Intoxicated (1)

700 block of W. 42nd St. on Monday, May 24 at 8:43 p.m. (street)

Year to date, the neighborhood is experiencing a decline in reported crimes. Through May of 2003 there had been 41 crimes reported. So far this year that number is only 34.

Inquires about joining the Citizens on Patrol program can be sent to me through www.GardenOaks.org, by email 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

Fertile Ground

ROBERT DE VEAU
Garden Club Vice President

"The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself."

Roosevelt, 1937

Dirt is that concrete mass that has permanently adhered itself to the pot containing last year's poinsettia. Soil, on the other hand, is a living, breathing medium that works very hard providing your plants with a safe and nourishing home. Our ancestors in the south learned a very hard lesson by using their fields year after year for the same crops. Gradual decreases in field productions taught us that we must change how we treat the soil if we expect high returns. The same thing holds true in your gardens. If you treat the soil well, your garden will flourish.

The Garden Oaks Garden Club is honored to host John Ferguson of Nature's Way Resources on Thursday, August 12. John is an eminent speaker on the science of "soil health." For more than 30 years, John has been an active gardener and landscaper. For the last 25 years, he has been propagating and testing plants for landscape use in Houston area gardens. John has also been making and experimenting with compost for over 27 years to determine its use in gardens, yards and greenhouses, to determine its effectiveness in solving various ecological problems. Photographs of his home landscape and test gardens have been featured in several gardening books and in magazines such as "Better Homes and Gardens."

Soil health is an evolving (though certainly not new) concept that has steadily been gaining acceptance among farmers, practitioners, and scientists over the past few years. People understandably have different ideas on what it actually means. In the narrowest definition, soil health is the minimization of the number and activity of soil-borne plant disease

organisms and soil-borne insect pests. However, a broader definition that places the soil within a wider context is probably a wiser choice.

Healthy soil contains a combination of minerals, rock, water, air, organic matter (plant and animal residue), microorganisms (including bacteria, fungi, and protozoa), and a variety of insects and worms. This intricate web carries out a process that continually replenishes the soil and maintains long-term soil fertility.

Soil health is foundational for a natural and organic approach to landscape and garden care. Feeding the soil, rather than feeding the plant, is at the heart of organic agriculture and horticulture. Rather than considering only the major and minor elements required for the nutrition of plants, this approach considers the many factors of soil health and sustainable soil management.

Last month, Garden Club members and guests had a photo opportunity with Dorothy Wong, who shared her tips and tricks for photographing floral subjects. Dorothy praised the advent of the digital camera. Rather than waste a lot of film for one shot, the digital camera allows the user to delete the pictures that aren't pleasing and just print the ones which are. Many photo societies are becoming more accepting of digital print work.

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) when we add new plantings, replace the mulch and tidy up the beds. If you would like to learn more about soil health, we invite you to visit with us when we meet on Thursday, August 12 at 407 W 33rd St. at 7:00 P.M.

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

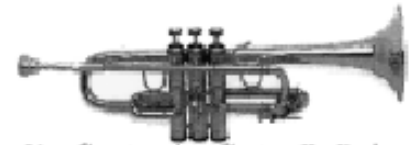
Correspondant

Brenda de Alba

Yard of the Month

Tina Nieto

Historian



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

See Our Work At:

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

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Constable/Security Program

August Neighbors Night Out & Commitment to Neighborhood Security

TERRY JEANES

With August as the month to commit to making Garden Oaks a safer place to live, now is the ideal time to kick off our efforts to strengthen neighborhood security. To address concerns voiced by many area residents and to seek support of a reactivated Constable Patrol Program, volunteers will be canvassing the neighborhood for support of the constable program. The generosity of the 2004 Home Tour committee for the proposal of a portion of 2004 tour proceeds (\$10,000 per year over the next 2 years) to assist in subsidizing the program is a significant gift to kickoff the reactivation of this vital neighborhood program. Now it is your turn to make your commitment via your support both in time and money. It will take the efforts of many as in all great community efforts such as the home tour and the passage of GOMO, to ensure the program's success. I have great faith in this community and its ability to get the job done!

The goal will be to keep the supporter cost under \$150 per year with 2 options for payment available, monthly draft or annual one time payment. In addition neighbors may adopt other neighbors and additional gifts may be made. The more supporters obtained the lower the cost for all. A goal of 350 supporting households will have 25% of the community providing the program...the more the merrier and thus the lower the cost to all. The good work of folks like you will help make this goal possible.

Volunteers, as well as supporters, will be needed. Watch for supporter forms as inserts in the Gazette, on line at www.gardenoaks.org, and to be arriving at your individual homes via mail and/or hand delivery. Support for reactivation of the program will require a minimum commitment and escrowing of these funds prior to the signing of the contract with the county. The program

will provide a dedicated law enforcement officer, Harris County Constable, for patrol of our neighborhood streets for 40 hours per week. In addition, vacation watches will be provided, home inspection for security checks for insurance discounts, and quicker response time. As Carl Waters, our GOCOP director pointed out at July's meeting, in excess of a dozen HPD officers have been removed from our district/area to offset the reorganization of jobs at the city jail. Now more than ever we need to stay on top of our community security. Additional program items will be provided, including a supporter handbook, phone stickers, as well as member profiles for emergency contact numbers will be held and provided to the patrolling officer to aide in contacting you should the need arise.

Now this is where you come in. Your financial support, and support via time to get the word out and help signup supporters are critical to this campaign. Section captains as well as volunteers for adopting blocks are needed. If you cannot do a whole block a portion would be appreciated. Simply call and materials will be delivered to you with instructions.

An organizational meeting of volunteers to date held prior to printing of this issue will be reported on in the September Gazette as well as at the September meeting. In lieu of our August Civic Meeting we encourage you to hold a Neighbors Night Out gathering, whether a simple grouping of neighbors over cool drinks exchanging phone numbers or a themed affair, every opportunity to meet your neighbors make garden Oaks a stronger community. If you are hosting a Neighbors Night Out gathering, please let us know so constable information packets may be delivered to your gathering.

In addition, as the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO) will be taking requests for designation of their excess funds, we plan to make a request of GOMO and support of the members consider a gift to assist with the security program and in making Garden Oaks a safer place for all its residents.

To lend your financial support or time simply contact myself, Terry Jeanes 713-812-9154 or jeanest@pdq.net or via the gardenoaks.org website.

Have a happy and safe August. And always keep watch as you do make a difference!

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Trish Ricklefsen
Realtor
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Red, White & Blue Bicycle Parade Update

SHEILA BRIONES
2004 Parade Chairman

Despite the hot and muggy weather, Garden Oaks residents came out in hundreds to support this year's "Let Freedom Ring" bicycle parade held at the Rick Englert Spark Park on Saturday, July 3.

Garden Oaks's Civic Club President, Trey Wood, officially opened the festivities and welcomed everyone. District A City Council member Toni Lawrence was the Parade Marshall, and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Sea Scouts Honor Guard from St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, Ship 24, led the parade. They were followed by Toni Lawrence riding in a red Mercedes convertible driven by Trey Wood and Harley & Dottie Wood (family dogs). Next came the following vehicles:

- Harmony, the Hippo-pautomobile, driven by Sue Shefman
- A classic Unimog (military vehicle) with Warren Walden and his twin boys, Sean & Sterling, at the helm
- A 1972 Oldsmobile 442 driven by owner Doug Gavin
- A restored Studebaker truck driven by Jerry and his family
- Two art cars: the "BatWing," driven by Johnny J. Rojas, and a yellow "Child Advocates" Ferrari driven by Alan Leach
- Keller Williams – The Garden Group in a yellow Thunderbird with bicyclists Debbie Kotzur and Cookie Roberts following alongside
- The "Jolly Roger" Boat float entered by the Sea Scouts and driven by Rob Pelley

Rounding out the parade were 150 residents on tricycles, wagons, bicycles,

strollers, golf carts, as well as residents on foot and others accompanied by their pets.

After the parade, everyone gathered for the announcement of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each of the eleven categories. Congratulations to all the winners! A list of winners is available on the Garden Oaks website at www.gardenoaks.org.

Many thanks go to the following individuals and businesses for their support:

- **Keller Williams – The Garden Group** for their generous gift of \$250, which helped underwrite the parade
- **Tom and Judy Wurth**, Garden Oaks residents, for donating two gift certificates for their shop, the Urban Bicycle Gallery, located at 1212 Durham
- **Toby Lister** for donating a \$50 gift certificate for two downtown establishments, Dean's Credit Clothing and Clark's Recording Studio, both located at Main and Preston
- **Pat Buron, Shannon King, and Janice Walden**, our "official parade photographers." View the photographs at: www.gardenoaks.org.
- **Beto Anaya and Allison Hutson** for providing eight cases of Ozarka water
- **Eddie "Balloon Man" Mijares** for his balloon creations
- **Tina Sabuco**, owner of ARTS ALIVE!, for her help as the "official parade announcer" and for the use of her sound system
- **Diane Austin, Sandy Altman, and Blake Woods**; our trio of judges

- **Chris Skeen**, Skipper of the Sea Scouts, assistant **Chris Leavitt**, and Honor Guard members **James Skeen, Kristen Robertson, and Michelle Riley**
- **Garden Oaks Civic Club** for their financial support
- **Bryan Taylor**, President of the Art Cars group, who got the word out to all Art Car members
- **Barbara Harville**, Chief of Staff of Toni Lawrence's office

Special thanks go to all of the volunteers who offered their time and services to help make the parade a tremendous success:

Registration Table

- Janice Walden, *bicycle parade co-chair*
- Susan Gavin
- Rita Hartman
- Angela Winston

Parade Route Marshals

- Pete & Joan Baron
- Robert Carlin
- Ed & Brenda de Alba
- Wayne Forster
- Herb Kellner
- Tina Nieto
- Shelley Rogers

Category Marshals

- David Bell
- Casey Farris
- Jan Forster
- Charlotte & Ralph Hayes
- Charlie & Jane Kelso Winter
- Jesse Lopez
- Susan Saranie
- Rich & Rebecca Stark
- Stacey Wood

Don't forget to view the parade photos at www.gardenoaks.org.

Woodlands Divers are Athens Bound

CATHERINE KRUPPA

In June, eleven US divers qualified for the Olympic Team at the USA Diving Olympic Trials.

5 of those divers train at the Woodlands Athletic Center: Troy Dumais, Justin Dumais, Justin Wilcock, Kimiko Soldati, and Laura Wilkinson. Laura earned a gold medal in platform diving at the 2000 games. Troy finished sixth in the individual springboard in Sydney and fourth in synchronized springboard in Sydney. The other three divers will be first timers at this year's Olympic Games.

Catherine has worked with these divers for the last year and a half to help prepare them for the Olympic Trials and ultimately for the Olympic Games. Although these are elite athletes, they have similar nutritional challenges as the rest of America.

Justin Wilcock started thinking of food more as fuel for his body than for merely pleasure. "Knowing that I can go into a competition confident that I will be healthy from a nutrition standpoint gives me that much more confidence that I will be ready for that peak performance. As we know my eating habits didn't have a huge affect on my weight, but it did affect my energy and overall feelings about being in shape and ready for competition. I really like what Catherine said about thinking of the food that we eat as the fuel for our bodies. Because of this, I think twice before fueling my body with things that will not aid in my training. This has helped me to cut back on sweets."

For these divers, training is their full-time job, but this sport is not a high calorie burner. The divers are judged by their diving skills as well as how their body appears in the air. "Working with Catherine has truly helped me understand how to get the most 'punch' for my calories. She really helped me with choices and variety. She made it so easy to see

that eating smart and lean is a simple life-style choice," said Kimiko.

A big challenge that these divers face is international travel. Many athletes become comfortable with certain foods prior to competition and they may be hard to access in other countries. This is especially true for Laura who is a vegetarian. For each of her trips we would brainstorm on the protein sources that would be available to her in that country and then she brings food with her to supplement such as protein bars, protein shakes and canned tuna. "I learned a lot more about how to eat when we travel. Especially traveling internationally. Catherine helped us plan ahead and put more thought into how and what we eat when we are on trips. My attention to nutrition this year is so important. I would hate to train my whole life for something like the Olympic Games and have a slack in my eating affect my performance negatively. Nutrition has become just as important to my training as any other aspect (weights, conditioning, etc.)," said Kimiko.


To learn more about the 2004 US Olympic Diving Team, go to <http://www.nbcolympics.com/diving/5017424/detail.html>. The Athens Games begin on August 13 – be sure to cheer our divers on as they go for the gold!



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Critter Corner

CASEY & MAU MAU FARRIS

Hi Neighbors! This month we are going to talk about feline overpopulation. We urge you to look at the yellow flyer in this issue. It explains the neighborhood organization called "Cat Catchers." Our Pet of the Month is a dashing duo from Section IV. Mau has a few comments on when to spay/neuter your feline. I found a snake in my backyard so you may have some too. Our backyard report will tell you all about it.

Pet of the Month

Messrs. August is a pair of felines from Section IV. Charlie (orange Tabby) and Whitester (Siamese mix) Hess. Charlie, now age four, was adopted from one of the Adopt a Pet days at Petsmart. Whitester, now age two, was adopted from the Siamese Rescue Organization. Whitester is a big Daddy's boy and likes to open doors, play hide and seek, chew on dark shoelaces and growl like a dog. Charlie is very social; he likes company, and likes to talk and spoon, but when he is not loving on someone, his parents say he is a bit of an instigator. Charlie has a nervous twitch when he gets excited and loves to watch the squirrels. They live with their parents, Ryan and Leah, and a Black Lab mix named Georgia and a Dalmatian mix named MooHoo. Charlie and Whitester are purrfect examples of great pets from rescue situations.

Pet News

At the end of June we said goodbye to Holly St. John (Miniature Schnauzer). She was sweet little girl who loved to be held. Pepper Hammond (Miniature Schnauzer) also passed away. Pepper lived a long, happy life even though she suffered with diabetes for many years. Recently, during a break in all that rain we had, I saw Nickelodeon (Golden Retriever) walking his daddy down 42nd Street, where he found a mud puddle that was just big enough for him to roll in and get completely wet and muddy with total glee upon his face. Bonnie and Clyde

Owens (Border Collies) are at it again—winning ribbons, that is. Recently, Clyde won third place in the US Disc Dog National Championship in Del Mar, CA. He got to stay in a hotel with an elevator. They will both compete at the Unified Frisbee Dog contest in Colorado in August. We welcome Zoë Murata (Lab mix) and Xena Bunge (Sheep dog mix) to the neighborhood. Zoë is quite social and has met quite a few neighbors. Nuala Bullen (Staffordshire Terrier) is on a diet.

Critters 101: Feline Overpopulation and the Solution

Many of us have encountered stray cats slinking through our backyards, roaming parking lots, or hanging out near dumpsters. Some of us have found our garages or bushes being used as nurseries by mother cats and their new kittens.

Unwanted cat litters create the feral colonies of cats. There is no such thing as a stray cat; any more than there are native ferals. Feral cats are simply unwanted, abandoned, domesticated house cats once owned by human beings. Some people assume if they move off their pets will survive. This is not true; many die ugly deaths from starvation, disease, and abuse. Other people just don't get around to spaying/neutering their pets and allow them to roam outside where they can breed.

Feral cat colonies grow very rapidly. Kittens start breeding at four months of age and have 2-3 litters per year. If for some reason the female does not conceive during a heat cycle she will stay in heat until she conceives. Two breeding cats over a seven year period can be responsible for 420,000 cats.

Shelters spend \$50 million (mostly your tax dollars) each year to euthanize 15 million dogs and cats. **All because people don't spay and neuter their pets.** SNAP assists with the costs of spaying/neutering, as well as other vets

Continued on page 12

Disc Golf in Houston

KENT BRAY

I would like to introduce you to a wonderful sport. I was introduced to **disc golf** in March of 1995 while on vacation in Austin. When I was first asked if I wanted to play, I imagined throwing Frisbees at trees or at the flag poles on a public golf course. I find that that's what most people envision. I soon learned that the game is played on actual disc golf courses with eighteen (or sometimes nine) specialized entrapment devices, or "baskets" as most people call them, and with actual "golf discs."

I immediately knew that this was something I would like to do more often. Unfortunately, I found that the Houston area was not a hot bed of disc golf activity. I lived in the Humble area at the time, and had to really do some searching before I eventually found a 9-hole course in the Woodlands and a soon-to-be completed 18-hole course at Tom Bass Regional Park. I also managed to track down a couple places that sold discs and equipment, although neither store was near a course. By the end of 1995, another 18-hole basket course was installed in Agnes Moffitt Park. In 1997, the City Of Houston installed several 9-hole courses in area parks (one of which is in TC Jester Park, north of the pool), and one more 18-hole course at MacGregor Park near U of H. The Texas State Disc Golf Championship is held annually (Oct 23-24 this year) at Tom Bass Park, which has two championship caliber courses now.

Disc golf is a great game for families because anyone can play, regardless of age. It is also very affordable: discs range in price from \$8-\$18. The higher priced discs are made of a specialized, more durable plastic. Since the courses are located in public parks, they are free of charge. This means that once you have your own discs, you can play anytime and not spend a dime on anything but refreshments, which are a must in

summertime. For these reasons, it's also a great sport for school age kids, because they can hop on their bikes and go play with their buddies or by themselves. Disc golf is also great for competition. There are several leagues put on by the local club year round and there are tournaments locally or in the state virtually every weekend of the year that anyone can enter. There are also divisions in these tournaments that range from recreational to professional, providing competition for all skill levels.

One of my favorite things about disc golf is playing new courses. When I'm out of town on business or to visit, I always look at the national course directory to find courses where I'm going and I always take my discs with me. This is something fun to do when you have a break on a business trip and it's a great way to get some exercise after sitting in a conference room all day. When I travel a great distance by car, I always check to see if there are any courses on the way. It's a good way to get out and stretch your legs on a long trip.

If you have any questions, please send me an e-mail at kent@chumleyrep.com. I can give you more information about where to find discs. I even have a big box of used discs and would be happy to give one to anyone who asks. I will also be happy to give pointers or even meet you at the TC Jester course for a round to get you started. I even have a few world championships videos that I will loan out with the promise that they will be returned within a few days. You can also find out more information about disc golf at <http://www.hfds.org> (Houston Flying Disc Society), and at <http://www.pdga.com> (Professional Disc Golf Association).

Thanks for reading my article and I hope I've given you something that you can enjoy for a long time to come.

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Garden Oaks as an Historical District

Continued from page 1

whether it is “contributing” (C), “potentially contributing” (PC), or “noncontributing” (N) to the district. These classifications can be summarized as follows:

- Contributing - 100% original in design and materials
- Potentially Contributing - original building with reversible incompatible alterations
- Noncontributing - newer buildings (less than 50 years old)

Both “C” and “PC” buildings count toward City of Houston historic district status. The task of taking inventory is best accomplished through group “block walks”—the more eyes the better for seeing and classifying miscellaneous historical details.

Historic District Criteria

The Proposed City Historic District must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Possess character, interest, or value as a visible reminder of the development, heritage, and cultural and ethnic diversity of the city, state, or nation
- Location of a significant local, state, or national event
- Identified with a person who, or group or event that, contributed significantly to the cultural or historical development of the city, state, or nation
- Exemplify a particular architectural style or building type important to the city
- Best remaining examples of an architectural style or building type in a neighborhood
- Identified as the work of a person or group whose work has influenced the heritage of the city, state, or nation

- Specific evidence exists that unique archaeological resources are present
- Has value as a significant element of community sentiment or public pride

The majority of buildings, structures, or objects are over 50 years old will be designated as a historic district, unless it is found that the building, structure, object, site, or area is of extraordinary importance to the city, state or nation for reasons not based on age.

Does your home or business qualify?

If you think your Garden Oaks home, garage, church, school, or business might qualify, please let me know.

Mark your calendars for the October Civic Club meeting. Lynn Edmundson, founder of Historic Houston, will be speaking to us about the Historical District Designation process and the Historic Houston Salvage Warehouse.

If you are willing to support this endeavor, please contact me at 336 W. 31st Street, Houston, Texas 77018, 281.733.1003, or trish-metro@kw.com.

Meeting Minutes

Continued from page 4

150 people (and pets) participated in eleven categories. Houston City council member Toni Lawrence served as grand marshal and rode in a red Mercedes.

Allocation of Home Tour Funds.

Sheila Briones, chair of Garden Oaks Home Tour 2004, presented a check for \$500 to the Garden Oaks Garden Club. She reported that a \$1000 check would be sent to Garden Oaks Elementary School. Other allocations did not require checks as funds for those club categories

[beautification, GOCOP, and Security program] are maintained within the general Civic Club funds.

Culverts. Trey Wood reported that new driveways constructed as a result of new culverts would not have to meet the city’s twelve-foot minimum width. “The city does not have to meet its own codes,” according to what city officials told Trey. Trey encouraged those who would like to have an improved culvert to contact him. Knowing the level of interest is the first step in the process of having the possibility of the city doing the work for residents at a reduced cost that would be partially borne by residents and partially funded by city and/or federal funds through the city. He encouraged folks on streets with drainage issues to discuss this with each other to make sure as many people as possible that might be interested be made aware of this possible opportunity.

Security program. Terry Jeanes reported that using off-duty police officers would be cost prohibitive, because they would require that cars be provided them for the work. To restart a 40-hour per week constable patrol program will cost \$4,445/month, \$53,340 per year. A four-month campaign to get households to pledge \$140 per year paid annually or \$180 per year if drafted monthly will begin August 3 coinciding with National Night Out. Approximately one fourth of all homes in Garden Oaks will need to participate in order to fund this program that will serve all residents. There will be an organizational meeting within two weeks at the Kroger store on W. 43rd. Section and block captains are needed to move the program campaign forward on this fast track. Program supporters would be listed in the *Gazette*, and it would be promoted in New Neighbor Packets, in *Gazette* inserts, and with Civic Club invoices. Annual renewal would be invoiced 90 days prior to contract renewal.

New Business

A motion passed to send Toni Lawrence a floral arrangement as token apprecia-

tion for her having served as grand marshal of the July 4th parade.

Announcements

National Night Out is August 3. The next Civic Club meeting will be Tuesday, September 7, at 7 pm.

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

Thanks to Terry Jeanes for the refreshments. Thirty-one people attended the meeting.

Critter Corner

Continued from page 10

and organizations. Please call 713-863-0010 for more information. Every single spay/neuter helps stamp out this problem.

It is your responsibility to have your pets spayed/neutered. Besides helping the overpopulation problem it also makes your pets healthier. **If you are feeding an "outside cat" then it is your responsibility to get it spayed/neutered.**

There are several feral colonies in and around Garden Oaks. A potential problem exists anywhere there is a non-altered cat. Cat Catchers is a Garden Oaks group of volunteers, operating on donations. They want to educate the neighborhood about the feline overpopulation problem and assist folks in getting their "outside" cats spayed/neutered. If you are feeding outside cats that are not spayed/neutered or you know of someone who is, please contact one of the members of Cat Catchers (see yellow flyer in this newsletter). Cat Catchers will assist in getting cats spayed/neutered and released back to their territory. Please donate to Cat Catchers; they are making Garden Oaks a better place to live – one cat at a time!

STOP THE NEGLECT AND ABUSE – PLEASE SPAY/NEUTER

Dear Mau Mau

What age is best to spay/neuter my cat? C. Holdcraft

Well, it depends on if you are an outside cat or an inside cat. There are two schools of thought on the subject. Some vets say 5-6 months is the earliest a cat should be spayed/neutered. Some say 6-14 weeks at the earliest. Outside cats should be done as early as possible so we don't have more precious kittens to worry about. Inside cats should consult their own doctors. Almost 16 years ago, during the November kitten season, I was born in a garage and the Houston SPCA neutered me at the age of three months. Then I spent four days snuggled in bed with my new human mother. She says for every kitten saved, hundreds are not saved. I say okay, whatever, can you open the curtains a little wider, the sun is peeking through.

- Mau Mau

Backyard Report: I recently spotted a snake in my backyard. If I have them then you probably do too. It is a Texas Brown snake, which is very common and found throughout Harris County. Babies are the size of an earthworm and the adults can grow to thirteen inches long and they range from brown to tan to brick red. The top of the head and the corners of the mouth are darker in color which makes them seem larger and more dangerous than they really are. In fact, these snakes are completely harmless, but they will feign aggressiveness to defend themselves. This usually involves coiling up, raising the head, striking out repeatedly at anything that gets too close, and vibrating the tail. This is just an act to get larger animals to leave them alone. They generally strike with their mouths closed, and their mouths aren't large enough to grab human skin even if they tried. These snakes can be found anywhere there is a cool, dark, and moist bit of soil – like nicely mulched landscaping. Texas Brown snakes eat a wide variety of in-

sects, including snails and slugs, making them a gardener's friend.

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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August 2004

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1	2	3 National Night Out 7:00-10:00 P.M.	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Garden Club Meeting 407 W. 33rd St. 7:00 P.M.	13 Olympic Games Begin	14
15 Gazette Article Submission Deadline	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Upcoming Events: 09/7 Civic Club Meeting to discuss security program options in Garden Oaks 10/5 Civic Club Meeting to discuss Garden Oaks as an Historical District 10/30 Charity Golf Tournament (see page 3)			

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

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