

The Garden Oaks Gazette



Constable Program Campaign

The Garden Oaks Constable Program Campaign kicked off August 3rd at the 19 National Night Out parties held through out the neighborhood. The new contributor forms were available. For those who missed the form two options are available, the insert in this Gazette or visit the gardenoaks.org website.

The new program goal is for 318 minimum households to participate with \$140 annual fee or the \$15 per mos. draft option. (Higher participation will lead to a reduced fee.)

Campaign deadline December 1st.

Program benefits include

- 40 hrs of our own designated Harris County Constable
- Vacation Watch by Harris County Constable
- Security Check for Insurance Discount
- Alarm Contact/ Response by Harris County Constable

The Goal is for a quick response time to any and all concerns within our community.

Although we would prefer not to have to subsidize our city's police department, the fact of the matter is the need for the program is increasing. Recent events, more theft and violent crime within the community, gives rise to the need for added security in our community. The loss of 13+ district police officers that have

TERRY JEANES

moved to the downtown jail have less HPD officers to respond to activity in the city.

Officer Thomas Wood, Garden Oaks resident and HPD officer, states "...A Constable Program concentrated on our neighborhood will deter criminals from targeting our neighborhood and improve response times to emergency calls. We need the added security for the safety of our families and our homes. "

Ann Hamilton, Garden Oaks resident and recent crime victim states, "I had grown complacent, but we cannot take our security for granted. My advice? Be vigilant, take care of yourself and your family, and support the Constable Program."

The most recent violent act in the community occurring August 1st, following a shooting in Section 2 , the response time to the 911 Call made by the victims neighbor, who heard it happened, was 30 minutes by HPD. Now is the time to step up to the plate and join the efforts to bring our Constable Program back.

Upon receipt of funds, all funds will be held with Garden Oaks Civic Club in an escrow account until adequate participation is reached.

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CIVIC CLUB MEETING Tuesday, September 7th

The next Civic Club meeting will be on September 7th p.m. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria. Babysitting services are available at the meeting at a cost of \$1.00 per child. Hope to see you there!

Civic Club Officers

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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

JONATHAN LANZ
Gazette Editor

Hello Neighbors!

I am really excited to be able to help with the Editor's position. I've been told that filling Rebecca's shoes is going to be tough, so instead, I'll just bring my own shoes...

Whenever I sit at the computer to write articles, I look at great writers for inspiration, unfortunately I was not gifted with great writing. So I do what I do best, I write as if I were talking to you. A smart remark here, a corny joke there, and a little colorful story over there to make the factual data more interesting –that's why Big Fish is one of my favorite movies.

If you wonder about me, I will tell you that I was born in Mexico but left at a tender age of 3. My parents were the first missionaries to come out of Mexico into other Spanish speaking countries. We were fortunate to live in several countries such as the Dominican Republic, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela. I came to Houston in 1980, attended The University of St. Thomas and then went on to work for Exxon and Chase. After a long corporate career, I started my company Computer-Wiz here in Garden Oaks.

I have always lived in the Heights area but when it came time to purchase a home, Garden Oaks was the neighborhood for me. I am really looking forward to being an active contributor to our beautiful community. I am very proud to be a Gardinian or is it Gardenoakian?

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

Heard Under the Oak Tree

TERRY JEANES

Welcome to the Neighborhood

The following are new residents that recently closed on their properties:

1071 W 43rd 1047 W 43rd
978 W 42nd 404 W 31st
709 W 41st 528 W 32nd
1058 Gardenia
726 Garden Oaks Blvd.
717 Garden Oaks Blvd.

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

Belated Birthdays

Gracie Mulry 8/9 –Happy 3rd!
Emma Carvell 8/28 –Happy 3rd!
Trey Wood, August 19th
Matt Veech, August 22nd

Happy Birthday

Janice Walden, September 9th

Happy 20th Anniversary

Pat Buron & Shelly Rogers 8/5

International Student

Welcome to Ignacio "Nacho" de Haro, an exchange student from Madrid, Spain. Nacho will be spending the next 10 months with Rich and Rebecca Stark. Nacho is a junior and will be attending Lamar High School.

Miscellaneous

What sweet sounds are coming from the homes of Joe Muscara and Craig Lee who are busy practicing their piano lessons from GO very own Kenneth Santos. We look forward to being serenaded...

A special welcome aboard to our new editor, Jonathan Lanz. Thanks for joining in!

Remember highlight a special event, good deed, or achievement. Contact Terry Jeans at 713.812.9154 or jeanest@pdq.net

Only With Your Help

TREY WOOD
Civic Club President

Was that fun or what? I hope everybody had as much fun at his or her block's neighbors night out event as we did. And many thanks go out to Houston's new Fire Department Chief, Phil Boriskie, who took time out of his schedule to meet many of us that evening. What a great time it was to renew acquaintances with neighbors down the street who we may have not seen in awhile. More importantly, what a great opportunity it was to address some of the concerns touching upon Garden Oaks.

Obviously, one of the most important concerns is the issue of security in the neighborhood and steps we can take to help shore up these concerns. First and foremost, it is important to keep an eye out for one another and immediately report any suspicious activity in the neighborhood. Additionally, we should all consider whether Garden Oaks should institute a paid patrol of some sort. As you can see from this month's front-page article, our neighbor Terry Jeans has outlined some answers to the many questions raised about this topic. However, the ultimate answer of whether such a program comes to fruition is up to you. With the severe cut-backs that the Houston Police Department is experiencing, it is important to seriously consider whether we should "dig a little deeper" to protect our homes and families. This issue will be addressed in much greater detail at September's meeting, so everyone interested in voicing his or her opinion make sure and attend. Also, let me remind everyone that September's meeting will feature our State Senator John Whitmire.

Hopefully, he will be able to give us an additional update on the issues being tackled by the Legislature that affect us as homeowners within his district. Again, and as always, your opinion counts, but as a civic club we will not know it without your help.

Neighbors Night out



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I would like to start this month with a big thank you to all the families who opened their homes for National Night Out celebrations. Megan and Trent Salch, Craig and Peggy Kramer, Susan and Barry Morris, Bill and Amy Shaughnessy, Tiffany Hofbauer, Casey Jo Ferris, Michael and Susan Hunt, Amanda and Robert Carlin, Trey and Stacy Wood, Jim and Madelyn Browder, The McDaniel's and John and Cindy Bartos were among the many families serving as hosts for neighborhood festivities.

Violent crime has continued to be present in the neighborhood. As you may know on August 2, 2004 one of our neighbors was shot when he answered his backdoor around dusk. That along with the home invasions in May and the rape reported on the crime statistics for June are very unsettling. Please consider volunteering for the Citizens On Patrol program so we can make Garden Oaks a safer place to live.

June Crime Statistics

Rape (1):

300 block of W. 32nd St. on Monday, June 28 at 10:30 a.m. (residence).

Assault (1):

2900 block of N. Durham on Thursday, June 3 at 7:30 a.m. (location code was listed as unknown, but the address would indicate either Taco Cabana or Sonic).

Burglary (4):

- 600 block of W. 30th St. on Monday, June 14 at 10:00 a.m. (residence).
- 800 block of W. 41st St. on Wednesday, June 16 at 9:00 a.m. (residence).
- 300 block of W. 30th St. on Tuesday, June 22 at 12:39 p.m. (residence).

- 700 block of Sue Barnett on Tuesday, June 29 at 10:50 a.m. (garage).

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (3):

- 400 block of W. 31st St. on Tuesday, June 1 at 8:00 p.m. (driveway).
- 1000 block of W. 41st St. on Saturday, June 5 at 10:30 p.m. (driveway).
- 1400 block of Sue Barnett on Friday, June 11 at 4:30 p.m. (driveway).

Auto Theft (1):

3200 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on Friday, June 4 at 12:01 a.m. (unknown).

Narcotics (1):

4300 block of Apollo on Wednesday, June 23 at 3:35 p.m. (street).

Driving While Intoxicated (1):

1000 block of W. 43rd St. on Wednesday, June 30 at 11:55 p.m. (street).

Two other crimes were listed on the report. These crimes were committed in May. A residential burglary occurred on Monday, May 31st at 4:00 p.m. in the 200 block of W. 31st St. The other crime was a DWI arrest which occurred on Monday, May 24th at 8:43 p.m. in the 700 block of W. 42nd St. In addition to these crimes the Yahoo Computer web site contained several messages about cars being burglarized in section 3 the middle part of July.

If there is a silver lining to all of the information listed in this article it would be that year to date crime reported to HPD is down for 2003. Year to date 46 crimes have been reported via the HPD web site. Last year through June 54 crimes had been reported through the same source.

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

Reference Numbers

Emergency Services
911

HPD Non Emergency Services
713-884-2121

All other City Services
311

Plant Swap Helps Build a Better Flower Bed

He who shares the joy in what he's grown, Spreads joy abroad and doubles his own.

— Author unknown

The annual Garden Oaks Garden Club Plant Swap is an informal event for gardeners new and experienced alike. It's a chance to trade extras from your garden for goodies that others want to share. Above all, it's an opportunity to discuss *Aquilegia*, composting, and the red lily leaf beetle with someone whose eyes won't glaze over. The fun and festivities will take place at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 9th when we gather in the backyard at 319 W 34th St.

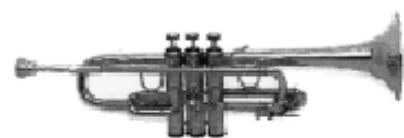
To trade, bring anything that you think another gardener might want. This includes mature plants, divisions, or seedlings of perennials, annuals, vegetables or herbs; rooted and unrooted cuttings, bulbs and such, shrubs and trees, seeds, and houseplants. You can bring many of the same plant or many different items. Don't overlook any garden tools, pots, books, and so on that you no longer want. Just be sure that all your plants are labeled clearly with at least the common name, color of bloom, and light requirements. Be sure to bring an extra box or flat for taking home your new treasures. Please don't bring anything to sell.

Our plant swaps are not the most organized events and I guess that's the way we like it. Folks come to the swap with plants they don't have the nerve or desire to throw away, plants they want to share. We're here to help them deal with their guilt and to give them the deadline or motivation they were looking for to dig things up and change things around. Maybe the plants have outlived their usefulness. Maybe they took over a corner (that can happen!) or they didn't fit into a color scheme or "they just never did anything for me."

ROBERT DE VEAU
Garden Club Vice President

This will be a "buffet-style" swap. You will be asked to sort your goodies according to category (flowers for shade, flowers for sun, shrubs and trees, vegetables and herbs, houseplants, etc.). After a brief description of what is available, the swap will begin. During each round, we will help ourselves to one plant each until everything is gone. This is not a money event. Nothing costs anything. It's about having a little too much of this and not enough of that. It's not scientific, although every once in a while we get someone who is 100 percent certain about the name of a plant (we like that!). It's just an informal way to exchange information, seeds and stories. It's a great way to come across old-fashioned plants we can't find in catalogues or plant stores.

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 Oak's Garden Club you may call me at (713) 686-6012. We meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. 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 2 workdays (spring and fall) when we add new plantings, replace the mulch and tidy up the beds. If you would like to participate in our plant swap, we invite you to visit with us at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 9th when we meet at 319 W 34th St.



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- 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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713 686 6012

Chris Lindsay, Secretary
713 819 8412

Susan Gunther, Correspondent

Brenda de Alba, Yard of the Month

Tina Nieto, Historian

★ ★

★ ★

**Yard Of
The Month**

★ ★

★ ★

**867 W. 41st
Street**

★ ★

★ ★

**Homeowner:
Maria Mercedes
Rodriguez**

★ ★

★ ★

Membership Report

With the recent completion of the Olympic games, maybe we can focus our attention to setting a record here at home—civic club memberships! The latest numbers have our membership numbers at 407 households, which is still below our record number last year of 468. Let's see if those who have been procrastinating will get busy and help us at least meet last year's number if not help to set a new record. Just fill out the membership form on the back of the Gazette, clip and mail with your check to the address listed, it is that simple.

Crepe Myrtle

Basic Level

\$25.00 & \$5 for seniors

Magnolia

Intermediate Level

\$50.00 & \$10 for seniors

Golden Oak

Patron Level

\$75.00 & \$15 for seniors

Remember, unlike homeowner's associations where yearly membership dues are mandatory, we are a civic club. Joining is voluntary and shows your commitment to your neighborhood. The amount you give is also voluntary. While we suggest various levels of contributions a minimum of \$25.00 is needed if you are going to vote on civic club matters, other than that, what you give is really at your discretion. So whatever you feel comfortable in giving is appreciated. All dues go toward civic club programs, such as Beautification, GO Citizens on Patrol, Home and Garden Tour, the Gazette, Membership Committee and our Web Site.

Welcome Packets are available through the Membership Committee. We deliver the packets based upon notification from one of our neighborhood realtors that a house has sold in the neighborhood. We therefore miss a few who do not buy through a realtor. If you have moved into the neighborhood in the past few months and have not received a Welcome Packet, please contact me with your name, address, phone number and move-in date and a packet will be sent to you.

Correction notice: In the published listing of paid civic club members I left off two names, Melissa Becker and Margaret Rudd. I apologize for the oversight. Please notify me if you feel your name should have been listed at membership@gardenoaks.org.

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Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization

It's that time of year again: time for the annual Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization's (GOMO) Annual Members meeting. This year it will be held on October 5th 2004, immediately after the October Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting held in the Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria.

GOMO holds this meeting every October for you, the Members of GOMO, to be able to meet with the Directors and Officers of the company, and to hear how things went for GOMO and Garden Oaks during the past year.

In addition, this year we are also able to vote on what (if anything) GOMO will do with our surplus funds.

We are expecting to have an overage about \$30,000. Following is a list of suggestions that we have received from the neighborhood, which we will discuss and vote on during this meeting.

- Do nothing. Leave the surplus in the GOMO account.
- Give some/all of the surplus to the Garden Oaks Civic Club.
- Use the surplus as a down payment to buy one or more of the following properties:
 1. 203, 207, & 211 W 34th
 2. 615, & 619 W 30th
- Establish a college scholarship fund for deserving GO student(s)
- Assist in funding the Garden Oaks Constable Program with
 - 1.a dollar-for-dollar match of ever subscription received by the GO Civic Club, or
 - 2.a fixed amount donated to the cause
- Donate funds to the Garden Oaks Elementary school
- Donate funds to the GO Garden Club.

- Donate funds to Trish Rickelsen's effort to have GO designated as an "Historic District"
- Donate to GO parks
- Donate to upgrade neighborhood and street signage
- Any combination of the above.

These are the suggestions we have so far – we welcome any others that you may have.

I will publish GOMO's Director's recommendations in the October GO Gazette.

So, mark you calendars for that evening, and be prepared to come and help decide where this money goes!

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact one of your GOMO Directors listed elsewhere in this Gazette, or me, directly, at 281-773-3478, or 'sstengler@covad.net'.



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Anatomy of a Credit Report

One of the fundamental aspects of purchasing or refinancing a home is the credit information obtained on you by a lender. A credit report is basically divided into four sections: identifying information, credit history, public records and inquiries.

Identifying information is just that—information to identify you. It will include name variations (usually due to divorce) two or three different spellings of your name and the like. That is usually due to someone (creditor) reporting it that way. The variations will stay on your credit report and if it's reported wrong we leave it that way because it might mess up the link. Don't be too concerned with variations. Other information might include your current and previous addresses, date of birth, telephone numbers, driver's license numbers, your employer and your spouse's name.

The next section is your credit history. Sometimes the individual accounts are called trade lines. Each account will include the name of the creditor and the account number, which may be scrambled for security purposes. These entries will also include:

- When you opened the account
- The kind of credit (installment such as car or mortgage and revolving accounts which are typically department store and gasoline accounts)
- Whether the account is in your name or is a joint account
- How much you owe
- Fixed monthly payment
- Status of the account (open, inactive, closed, paid etc.)
- How well you've paid the account.

The next section PUBLIC RECORDS is the part you want to be absolutely blank! The public records section is never a "good story".

If you have a public record reported in this section, you've had a serious problem such as a Bankruptcy, Tax Lien and or a Judgment.

The final section is the inquiries. That is a listing of everyone that has asked for your credit report in the past twelve months. Any time anyone gets into your report, it'll post an inquiry. You may not know that a large number of inquiries can impact your credit score, and if your score is marginal (less than 650) that could have a negative impact on your mortgage approval.

If you find a mistake on your credit report it is easily rectified by completing the proper forms from the particular credit bureau and can be rectified in 30 days. It is very important to protect your good credit rating and it is recommended that you check your credit report at least every twelve months.

Carla Rae Southard is the owner of Lighthouse Mortgage, a Garden Oaks based business operating in the Garden Oaks Professional Building. Carla can be reached for a free mortgage consultation by calling 713.692.9500 or via email carlarae@lighthousemtg.org

Hi Neighbors! All of the kids should be back in school so now is a good time to see if your pets need any schooling too. It is never too late to learn and you can teach an old dog new tricks. This month we are going to talk about becoming a Canine Good Citizen and how to pick a trainer for your pets. Our Pet of the Month is Miss Chloe Potts. Mau Mau is going to tell us what cats are trying to teach us humans and our backyard report focuses on those furry little caterpillars that sting.

Pet of the Month:

Miss September is Chloe Potts (Doberman/Rottweiler mix). She lives in Section IV with Susan, Darin, Erika, Camille, and Brianna. They also have an orange tabby named Oliver, some fish and two hamsters. Chloe is the first-born daughter of this family and she is twelve years old. Chloe loves the mountains and snow so all the girls went to Colorado this summer. Unfortunately she got hold of some chicken scraps thrown on the ground by previous campers and contracted E. coli. She got very sick very fast and they were in a remote area of the mountains. Susan got everybody in the car and called On Star who directed her to the nearest veterinarian. Chloe had to stay in the hospital a few days before they could return home. It was a close call but thankfully she is much better now. Chloe likes treats, lying in front of her dining room window and taking long walks. Sometimes her mother reads to her when they walk and



sometimes the whole family walks together. Three cheers for Chloe and Company!

Pet News: Lucinda Kurtas (human) is trying to catch an outside cat for spaying. So far the cat loves the trap; she sleeps on it and next to it but hasn't gone inside yet. Scout Peters (Rhodesian Ridgeback) attended his first NNO block party and he had a blast. Elvis and Seymour Sabuco-Arnold (Dachshunds) turned one in August and had a big party. About 20 dogs came and they all walked around the block and had hot dogs, of course! We discovered that Tucker Caldwell (Cairn terrier) puts both front feet in the water bowl when he drinks. His

mother said no wonder her house is always muddy.

Critters 101: The Canine Good Citizen: With a Little Practice Every Dog Can Be One

Socializing and training your dog takes practice. The more you practice the better you get and the better you get the more you practice. How can your dog learn to behave around other dogs if he doesn't get any practice? How can you expect him to walk nicely on a leash if he doesn't get any practice? Socializing and training are just as important as food and water for your pet. So, with a little practice your pet will behave better and get to be around you more and go more places and the more he is around you and the more places he goes, the better he will behave.

If you want your dog to be a good citizen, make sure these things are true:

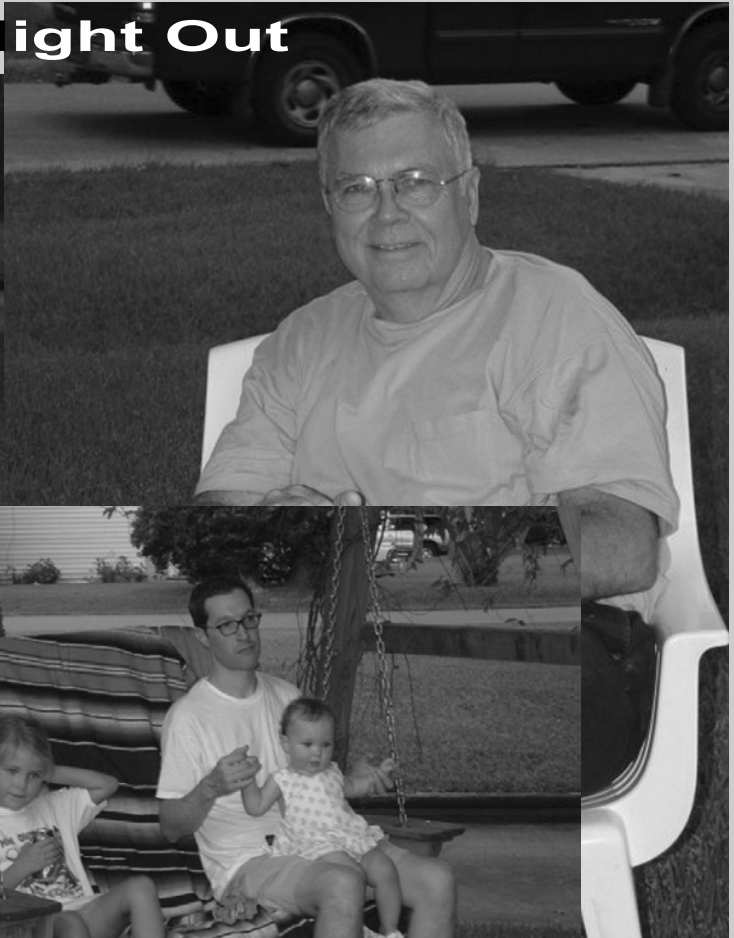
1. My dog is friendly to strangers.
2. My dog can sit politely while being petted.
3. My dog is groomed and healthy looking.
4. My dog can walk nicely on a leash.
5. My dog can behave and walk nicely through a crowded area.
6. My dog will sit, lay down and stay when I tell him to.
7. My dog will come when I call him.
8. My dog behaves nicely around other dogs.
9. My dog is comfortable around distractions and noises.
10. My dog can be away from me without getting upset and nervous.

If your pet is lacking in one or more of these areas then you should consider training. A good training class is a fun, social activity that helps your dog become a well-behaved, safe, and valued family member. You are already training your dog whether you realize it or not. Your canine friend is always learning – and this is true not only for puppies but also for older, adult dogs. If you do not teach your pet your rules, he will invent his own. Professional training for you and your pet allows caregivers to safely and humanely control their dog's behavior. Positive training enhances the bond between dog and owner, and helps ensure that your dog will respond happily to your instructions.

Although puppyhood is the best time to train and socialize dogs, older dogs can learn new tricks too. In fact, dogs of all ages can benefit from training. Dogs between 8 and 16 weeks should be enrolled in puppy classes. Regular classes are appropriate for dogs six months or older.

Continued page 12

Neighbors Night Out



GO—Historical District Designation Project

"Here is your country. Do not let anyone take it or its glory away from you. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance. The world, the future, and your children shall judge you accordingly as you deal with this sacred trust."

President Theodore Roosevelt, Antiquities Act of 1906

The founders and original developers of Garden Oaks had the vision and foresight to protect what they had created. The Mission Statement of the Garden Oaks Civic Club reads: *"The purpose of the Garden Oaks Civic Club shall be to maintain and promote the residential character of the Garden Oaks Subdivisions, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 and promote the civic and social welfare of the residents of Garden Oaks."*

Join us on October 5th and learn more about what it will take to designate Garden Oaks as a historical district. The City of Houston has adopted a Historic Preservation Ordinance, which recognizes and designates sites and areas in Houston, which are historically and architecturally important to our city's history. To date, City Council has designated 7 historical districts and 115 landmarks. With its distinct character, Garden Oaks is a unique historic community and worthy of designation. Come join us at the October 5th Civic Club Meeting to be held 7:00 p. m. at Garden Oaks Elementary. Randy Pace, Preservation Officer for the City of Houston will discuss the Preservation Ordinance as a tool for designating important historic areas and providing a process for maintaining the historic community and character of Garden Oaks.

Be a Volunteer! We are actively recruiting volunteers and Section Coordinators for the historical designation project.

TRISH RICKELFSEN

We need database coordinators for documenting inventory, block-walkers, and photographers. You can do as much or as little as you want and according to your own schedule. If you would like to help, please call or e-mail today.

For more information about the Garden Oaks Historical Designation Project, go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Houston_GO or contact Trish Ricklefsen at 281.733.1003 or via e-mail at: trish-metro@kw.com. Read the City of Houston Preservation Ordinance at: <http://www.ci.houston.tx.us/codes/chapters31to35.htm> (Click on Chapter 33 VII) - Subscribe and chat about designation and other neighborhood news at: http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/Houston_GO.

Neighbors Night out



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Trish Ricklefsen

Realtor

The sign of the times....

Constable Program Campaign

The goal a minimum of 318 households.

Deadline for the campaign is December 1, 2004.

Act now! We need you today! See the Contributor form within this Gazette or visit www.gardenoaks.org download a form there. If you wish to encourage your neighbors or a few friends, please send them a contributor form. You can make a difference. Everyone is needed!

In addition Volunteers are needed in the form of Sections Captains, Block Captains, Block Walkers, Phone folks, we can use you small job or large. Contact Terry Jeanes 713-812-9154 or jeanest@pdq.net. Or you may contact your section coordinator.

Section One – Megan and Trent Salch - 713-864-1344 – 3104 Lawrence

Section 2,3,4 - Needed

Section 5 – Carlos Rios - carlosrios_93@yahoo.com - W. 41st.

We will be acknowledging all supporters within the next few months Gazette. So complete your form ASAP and send it in so we can include you in our next printing!

Constable Program Contact for added questions or concerns....Terry Jeanes 713-812-9154 or jeanest@pdq.net.

See Insert
For
Sign-up options

Critter Corner, *Continued*

It is essential that the dog trainer you select uses humane training techniques that encourage appropriate behavior through such positive reinforcement as food, attention, play, or praise. Look for a trainer who ignores undesirable responses or withholds rewards until the dog behaves appropriately. A recommendation from a friend, neighbor, veterinarian, groomer, or humane society is a good place to start. Don't assume that a trainer's membership in a dog trainer association qualifies him as a suitable instructor. Not all associations' membership criteria will meet your expectations. Also, because no government agency regulates or licenses trainers, it's that much more important to investigate their qualifications before enrolling in a class. Find out how many years of experience they have, how they were educated, and what training methods they use. Ask prospective trainers for several references from clients who completed the classes. Ask the trainer if you can observe a class in session before signing up.

Dogs are living creatures, not robots. They have good days and not-so-good days, just as people do. Sometimes they concentrate better than other times. Do not expect a dog of any age to obey every command every single time.

Dear Mau Mau: *What do cats teach humans?* N. Niemstck

We felines are great teachers and you humans could learn a lot from us as we understand the innate pleasures of life. From a cat one learns grace, silence, and contentment. We are not snobbish or aloof; we just don't make any bones about how we really feel. We endure the company of others until it is boring, and not one second longer. We prefer our own serene company to second-class companionship or clumsy attempts at affection. *Mau Mau*

Backyard Report: Sydney (Border Collie mix) and I were chatting with some neighbors and were alerted to a stinging caterpillar amongst the oak trees. Asps or puss moths in the caterpillar stage are teardrop-shaped and have a flannel-like appearance and venomous spines. Their color varies from yellow or gray to reddish-brown, or a mixture of colors. They lay their eggs on oaks, pecan, elm and hackberry trees. They do not damage the trees but they are a hazard to children and gardeners. Intense, throbbing pain develops immediately or within five minutes of contact with the caterpillar. Other symptoms include headaches, nausea, vomiting, and respiratory stress. Pain usually subsides within an hour and spots disappear in a day or so. An ice pack should be applied to the site of the sting, and oral antihistamines can help relieve the itching and burning sensations.

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.

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

Deeds 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

Neighbors Night Out



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-Shirt \$15.00 each or \$10.00 Member Price

Quantity/Size: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XLarge _____ XXLarge _____ \$ _____ Total

© 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

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