



The Garden Oaks Gazette

A Safe Thing for Us All

MARK SARANIE

Remember the cool front that visited us for several days in August? Didn't it feel great? It evoked in me the same special feeling I get when fall makes its way into our neighborhood. Do you know the feeling I am referring to? It is one of those human feelings impossible to describe. It radiates from the heart and through the endless depths of the soul.

While walking the dogs on one of those cool days, along came this feeling I mentioned. Right on its heels were thoughts and images past of the many homes in our collective garden decked out for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The feeling intensified. Fall is my favorite season because of the holidays and this 'feeling.' Call it magic, or the return of a youthful spirit, but when it comes back, life is beautiful.

This beauty, though, can vanish in an instant if your property is violated by crime. An intrusion into our homes, garage, front or back yards can render this wonderful garden of ours less green looking and unhealthy.

It is no secret that crime exists in our neighborhood. The statistics appear in the Gazette every month, and while it is not a lot, it does not take much to shake any of us up. Having the Constable Patrol back in our collective garden is a safe thing for us all.

It makes good and sound economic sense to protect our families, homes, and our neighborhoods' wholesome culture.

In the coming weeks many neighbors will be out knocking on your doors, informing you of the Civic Clubs efforts to bring back the Constable Patrol program we shamefully lost many months ago due to lack of interest. They will have sign up sheets with them and will gladly take a check from you when you sign up.

Security in our neighborhood is not a given right. It is a collective and symbiotic effort needed to sustain the reasons we decided to live in Garden Oaks. Sure, we have HPD but response time can be very long. The Constable Patrol Program has many benefits, and the folks volunteering their time for this campaign will have all the details.

Come on. Sign up for safety's sake. It will be one of the best investments you will make for your family and your home. The holidays are coming and there is not a single one of us who wants our cherished family memories tarnished by a nefarious deed that, together, we can curb.

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CIVIC CLUB MEETING Tuesday, October 5th

The next Civic Club meeting will be on October 5th 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!

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From the Editor's Desk

JONATHAN LANZ
Gazette Editor

One issue down... many more down the road. I have to say that this month proved to be a challenge; I had articles and then revision to articles, ads and then changes to ads. I'm drowning in revisions! I was sorting through emails making sure that I published the revision of the revised with the final changes. It was like the Abbott and Costello "Who's on First" dialogue.

This maybe not be a good time to talk about my mental health; I wouldn't want to shock anyone, but I almost lost my sanity trying to get the October issue organized. I wish I had an Assistant Editor -hint!

That's the ticket, an *Assistant Editor is what the Gazette needs*, would you be interested? The duties are very simple: ensure that all the articles are in, follow up on missing articles, proof-read articles and make editorial corrections, and finally help with Gazette layout. The benefits are great! You get to work with me -big grin.

I use Microsoft Publisher to create the Gazette along with Adobe Photoshop to create artwork files. If you have experience using either software title that would be great but if you have no experience that is okay also.

Please contact me by calling my office between M-F, 9-6. If I'm not in leave a message and I'll make sure to call you.

Thank you for you support.

Jonathan

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:

939 W 43rd	1047 W 43rd
750 W 41st	834 W 41st
211 W 31st	863 Lamonte
	826 Lamonte

Candles are burning for:

10/9 Tina Sabuco, how many candles?
10/12 Michael Pandon, turns 15
10/28 Jack Runge, Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary:

10/6 Tony & Debbie Padon
20th Anniversary
10/9 Betsy & Gig Runge

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

St. Michael's
Episcopal Church

“On A Journey”
Tom Ehrich

Oct., 16th
8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
\$10.00 admission

Only With Your Help

TREY WOOD
Civic Club President

Home Tour Help

Can you believe we are already beginning to wind down the year? It's amazing how time flies. And before you know it, spring of **2006** will be upon us and we will be facing another Home Tour. But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves. There is still plenty of time before Garden Oak's most important fundraiser, but I am again asking for the help of one of our neighbors. I have contacted a number of individuals about the possibility of serving as Chair of the Home Tour Committee, but unfortunately other commitments have prevented them from doing so. So, I would like to ask that anyone who has a desire to serve his/her neighborhood in this most important function to please contact me.

Constable Program

Also, I would like to commend Terry Jeanes for the outstanding work that she has done in organizing the new Garden Oaks Constable Patrol Program. At the September meeting Terry indicated that she would like to receive enough commitments from neighbors to begin patrols in January. I believe that this is a realistic goal, so I would ask each of you to seriously consider, not only the importance security in Garden Oaks as a whole, but more importantly how important security is to you personally. The initial annual fee (only \$140 per year) is nominal when you consider what is at stake. And remember, the more people that contribute, the lower the fee will be in the future. So when a neighborhood volunteer contacts you about participating, please consider making a small investment in your family's security.

Heavy Trash Pick-Up

Have you tried to drive down your street with oncoming traffic only to find that you have to pull over because someone's heavy trash is making safe passage impossible? Well, I have thought about it plenty, but one of our neighbors recently had the gumption to stand up and say, "This is not right!" I would like to remind all of you that **heavy trash pick-up is scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month**, so please be considerate and place items next to the curb as close to that day as possible. **City ordinance provides that heavy trash may be placed by the curb no earlier than the Friday before pick-up.** If you accumulate items for pick-up in advance of that day, please keep it in your back yard. If you place heavy trash in front of your house too far in advance, you could be subject to a fine from the City. Unfortunately, there are those who will ignore this request. If that is the case, then those wrongdoers should be reported by calling 311. During that call, they will give you a complaint number. Write down that number and do not lose it. You should also ask 311 for the number of Neighborhood Protection to follow up on the complaint. During your follow-up you will be asked for the complaint number. If you do not have it, they will not help you, hence the reason for writing down the complaint number. Remember, this is not just a matter of being considerate to our neighbors, but also a matter of civic pride. We can keep our streets safe and clean, but only with your help.

See "Letters to the Editor", page 12

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I was contacted in the middle of September by an officer from the Houston Police Department who asked about the status of our program. I assured her we were still out here trying to make a difference. Although she could not say when she did tell me that after the training manual was retooled HPD would resume training citizens so that COP program could continue.

As you will note below the number of crimes reported to HPD continued to climb. I have been involved in the COP program for 10 years and I do not ever remember a month with a crime total as high as this.

Here are a few safety reminders for those partaking in Halloween activities this year:

- Parents or older children should accompany youngsters while they are out trick or treating.
- Children should wear light colored costumes or place reflective tape on them.
- Consider face paint instead of a mask for better vision.
- Accept treats from people you know and do not enter homes of strangers.
- Check treats out at home before allowing your children to eat them. Don't eat any unwrapped treats.

JULY CRIME STATISTICS

Assault (1)

- 400 block of W. 34th St. July 12 at 1:00 a.m. (residence).

JULY CRIME STATISTICS (CONTINUED)

Burglary (11)

- 800 block of W. 31st St. on July 2 at 6:45 a.m. (residence).
- 3200 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on July 3 at 7:45 p.m. (church).
- 900 block of Lamonte Ln. on July 8 at 9:00 a.m. (garage).
- 700 block of W. 39th St. on July 8 at 11:50 p.m. (garage).
- 800 block of W. 31st St. on July 9 at 7:35 a.m. (residence).
- 700 block of Garden Oaks Blvd on July 14 at 5:59 p.m. (residence).
- 900 block of Sue Barnett on July 15 at 12:40 a.m. (elementary school).
- 800 block of W. 42nd St. on July 22 at 7:15 a.m. (residence).
- 400 block of W. 31st St. on July 24 at 2:00 a.m. (residence).
- 700 block of Sue Barnett on July 27 at 1:00 p.m. (vacant residence).
- 400 block of W. 31st St. on July 29 at 7:30 a.m. (residence).
- Burglary Motor Vehicle (6)
- 700 block of W. 41st St. on July 18 at 6:00 p.m. (driveway).
- 800 block of W. 43rd St. on July 19 at 1:00 a.m. (other parking lot).
- 2900 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on July 19 at 3:00 p.m. (discount store).
- 500 block of W. 30th St. on July 20 at 8:00 a.m. (driveway).
- 4300 block of Alba St. on July 21 at 12:30 a.m. (driveway).
- 2900 block of N. Shepherd Dr. on July 22 at 5:35 p.m. (other parking lot).

Auto Theft (1)

- 1500 block of Sue Barnett on July 1 at 9:00 p.m. (driveway).

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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

Landscape Basics will Make Your Yard, 'Home'

Creating a functional and attractive landscape can be rewarding in many ways. Unfortunately, so many landscape design articles and books abound that the task can be daunting. Simply choosing which information source to follow can drive you to hire a professional to make all the decisions. Somewhere between the glossy magazine pictures and a hired professional is the well-informed, creative homeowner: you.

On Thursday, October 14th, the Garden Oaks Garden Club will welcome Todd Farber of Garden Guy, Inc when we convene at 507 W 33rd St. Todd has over 13 years of experience in landscape design. He is also known in the neighborhood as the donor of a flat of flowers to the Yard of the Month recipient. Todd will be teaching us the basics of home landscape design.

The first consideration in any landscaping project is deciding upon a **style**. It should match the style of your house but also be a reflection on your personality. Landscape styles include "formal", "informal", "English Garden", "formal/informal mix", "Oriental" and "woodland". If any landscape design trend were ever worth following, it would be the trend toward personalized gardens. Your landscape should be a reflection of what you like and how you want to express yourself.

After deciding the style of your landscape, next consider what you want the new landscape to do for your house and yard. The **function** of your landscape could be to create new areas for play and leisure, increase privacy, block the sun, wind or street noiseways, or to improve the view of your house. If you have large windows or French doors, think about how you can improve the views from the inside. You may also want to improve views from a porch, patio or a deck.

ROBERT DE VEAU
Garden Club Vice President

Or you can create an outdoor seating area if you don't already have one.

Landscaping is a lot of work and can cost a lot of money. For these reasons, most do-it-yourselfers go with a 3 to 5 year landscape plan. That way the work and cost can be spread out. A good plan is essential in landscaping. Without it, you'll end up wasting a lot of time and money.

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 hear more about the basics of home landscaping, we invite you to visit with us at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 14th, when we meet at 507 W 33rd St.

Upcoming Events

Meeting
Thursday October, 14th

Work Day
Saturday October 16th



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- 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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Susan Gunther, Correspondent

Brenda de Alba, Yard of the Month

Tina Nieto, Historian

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Yard Of The Month

311 W. 33rd St.

Homeowner:
Jim & Beth
Patterson

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Toni Lawrence visits her elementary school—Garden Oaks Elementary

By Jessica Modad

Garden Oaks Elementary School was stirring up the heat at their Wild Welcome Week the first week of school. Each morning children and school staff were greeted by Garden Oaks Volunteers, a group of parents and neighborhood members who joined together to support the school, the PTA and its programs. Volunteers showed up every morning in bright tie-dyed t-shirts to direct traffic, help children get to their new classrooms, and distribute school magnets and pencils, and ice cream sandwiches; making the kick-off week a memorable event for students, teachers, and parents.

However, the highlight of the week was a visit by City Council member Toni Lawrence. Mrs. Lawrence once attended Garden Oaks Elementary and was happy to see how the campus has progressed. Three fifth grade students; Ryan Spradley, Vamsi Klein and Catherine Tapia were her tour guides, prompted by students comments the council member told stories of the "old days" at Garden Oaks.

Council member Lawrence said she had Mrs. Erlich in rm. 13 for Kindergarten. The students looked at old pictures of the school and wondered where room 13 would have been today. Mrs. Lawrence told the students she used to live just four blocks from Garden Oaks Elementary. When she asked them how many years it had been since she was in school at Garden Oaks they shrugged. She joked, "You better not say 100 years ago!"

Next stop on the tour our new Wildlife Habitat created in the spring of 2004. Ryan Spradley from Mrs. Barbee's class spoke about the habitat and how each part of it helps supports something else, an example of a true ecosystem. He told how the habitat was made possible by the hard work of the students, teachers, parents and the community members. It was initially funded by a grant from the Wildlife Federation and grew through donations by the PTA and

community. As the first phase of the project gets rooted, more plans are in the works for a vegetable garden and fruit orchard. It has shown that nature makes a good laboratory for learning.

Vamsi Klein, from Mrs. Carson's class then took the Council member through the library where Mrs. Nance, the new librarian was giving a lesson. Mrs. Lawrence spoke of her fondness for Dr. Suess and how his books have meaning deeper than just the silly stories and characters. When Mrs. Lawrence asked the children what they knew about City Council one student replied, "It is a place where kids go when they are good!"

Council member Lawrence talked about her days as an English and History teacher citing that we can learn so much from what has happened before us. By the way, did you know that Garden Oaks Elementary School will be celebrating 65 years young in 2005?

Principal Jeff Amerson and the students presented council member Lawrence a school yearbook and Garden Oaks Volunteer T-Shirt. She commented on how much she liked the shirts and shared her fondness for tie-dye too. The students asked her to come back and teach them how to tie-dye one day. You can bet she will!

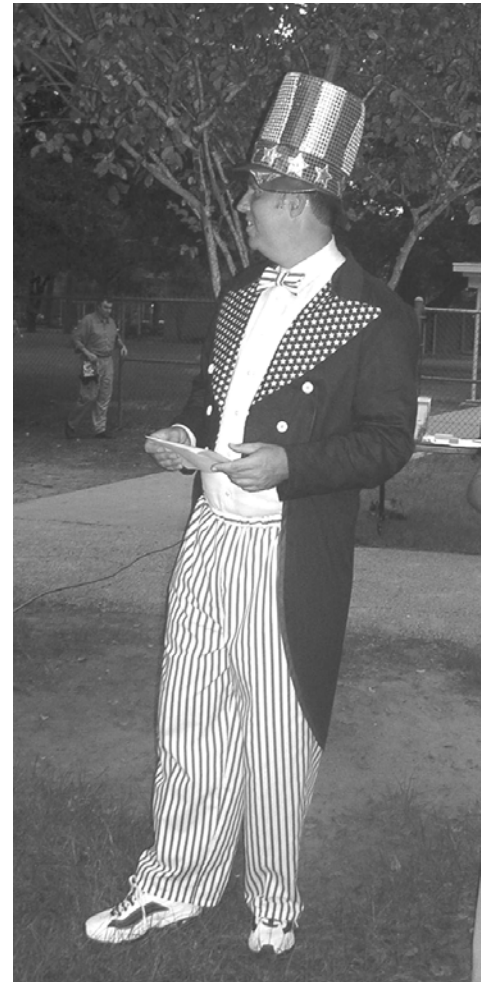
Garden Oaks Elementary will be hosting Montessori Parent Education Night this year on Tuesday, October 5th as well as its annual fall festival on October 22nd beginning at 1:00 pm until 4:00pm. Tables are available for \$25.00 for crafters.

For more information, contact Garden Oaks Elementary at 713.696.2930.

Media contact:

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Civic Club Meeting Minutes, Sept. 7th, 2004

President Trey Wood called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Minutes of the July meeting were approved as published.

Special Presentations: Sheila Briones, chair of the 2004 Home Tour, presented a \$1000 check to Garden Oaks Elementary School. Jeff Amerson, principal and Garden Oaks resident, accepted the donation to the school. The funds were from home tour net proceeds and were part of a group of recommended donations of the proceeds made by the Home Tour Executive Committee. Ed de Alba, president of the Garden Oaks Garden Club, presented a check in the amount of \$500, as a gift from the Garden Club to the school.

Speaker: State Senator John Whitmire spoke to members for approximately thirty minutes on various issues that will be before the legislative session that begins in early 2005. Senator Whitmire primarily addressed public school finance and criminal justice issues.

Annual Budget: Trey requested committee chairs to prepare their 2005 budgets in time for the annual meeting in November.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Dishberger, treasurer, presented an oral report. He projected there would be approximately sixty thousand dollars in the club bank account at the end of the year..

Standing Committee Reports

- A. Beautification. No report.
- B. Citizens on Patrol. Carl Waters, Jr. The City of Houston is no longer training citizens-on-patrol volunteers. However, the north division storefront police station will be available to work with anyone interested in being a neighborhood citizen-on-patrol. Eighteen crimes were reported in July, seven of them occurring on Thursdays. A shooting occurred at 38th and Shepherd August 2. Carl chairs the Positive Citizen Interaction Group, which meets the third Tuesday of each month to exchange information on neighborhood security and other issues involving relations with law enforcement. Although incidences of crime in Garden Oaks have been running at or below the 2003 rate, coupled with the citywide reduction in the number of police officers on the street, there has been a "gradual erosion of our safety."
- C. GardenOaks.org. No report.
- D. Gazette. The new editor, Jonathan Lanz re-introduced himself to the club, who congratulated him on the *Gazette's* new look. He thanked Oscar Ochoa for giving two \$25.00 gift certificates to Tony's Mexican restaurant to *Gazette* deliverers Karen Fleeger and Johnny Gonzales for delivering the September newsletter..
- E. Membership. Chris Lindsay. There are 408 club members to date for 2004. This month Matt and Gwen Reed won a gift certificate to the new Double Dave's pizza restaurant.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

- A. Garden Oaks Home Tour 2004. No report. Trey made another call for names of possible chairs of the Garden Oaks Home Tour 2006 committee.
- B. Railroad. No report.

Continued Page 8

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Civic Club Meeting Minutes, Sept. 7th, 2004, Cont.

Other Reports

- A. *Garden Club. Ed DeAlba.* The club is hosting a plant swap at 319 W. 34th at the September meeting.
- B. *GOMO – Sam Stengler.* Sam reminded everyone that the annual meeting of GOMO will take place immediately after the October 5 civic club meeting. Flyers about the meeting will be distributed soon in Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5. Two items of suggested use of excess GOMO funds mentioned in the September *Gazette* have been removed from the list: downpayment on property and funds for a non-profit working on historic district designation.

Unfinished (Old) Business

- **Security program.** Terry Jeanes. The neighborhood has lost about twelve patrolling police officers due to cuts in the city budget. Terry summarized how the constable program would work, what services it provided to homeowners, including vacation watch and opportunity for reduction in premiums on homeowners insurance. Sign-up deadline is December 1. If enough people sign up the program will begin right at the beginning of 2005. The program will provide a constable dedicated to Garden Oaks forty hours per week. These hours can be on a changing schedule depending on what is thought to be the most effective use of the constable's time. A meeting will be held for all volunteers and those interested in volunteering Tuesday, September 14, at the Kroger store on W. 43rd. at 7 p.m. [See the September *Gazette* for Terry's article with details of the program.]
- **Culverts.** Trey Wood reported 66 people expressed interest in having a new culvert through a program funded in part by the city. Twenty-nine homes in Section 1, mostly on 30th and 34th streets; 9 homes in section 2; eight in section 3; five in section 4; and 15 in section 5. He will forward their names to Toni Lawrence, our area's city council member. When she spoke at the civic club earlier this year, she said she would back a pilot program with the city if it allocated the funds which would come in part from the federal government.

New Business

Beautification. An inquiry was made about the berm on Randall St. at 30th, and a line of crepe myrtle trees on the west side of Sheperd from the underpass to 38th st, saying they needed tending.. Rick Groschoske, chair of the Beautification committee, said there would be a work party scheduled as soon as the weather cooled.

Historic district designation. A request to discuss the possibility of Garden Oaks becoming a historic district was deferred to the October meeting when the city's preservation officer would be speaking to the club. A motion was made by Trish Ricklefson to form an ad hoc committee to explore interest in and seek support for the designation. Following brief comments, the motion was withdrawn, with the anticipation of making it again at the October meeting.

Announcements

The next civic club meeting is October 5 at 7:00 p.m., at Garden Oaks Elementary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.
Thanks to Terry Jeanes for the refreshments.
Thirty-seven people attended the meeting.
Submitted by Diane King, Secretary.

Hi Neighbors! We are having an above average hurricane season and it ain't over yet. Hurricane Season goes from June 1st through November 30th. This month we are going to talk about a little disaster planning. Mau Mau has a disaster of his own to report. Our Pet of the Month believes the greatest disaster is the loss of love and our Backyard Report focuses on bats in the neighborhood.

Pet of the Month: Miss October is Nuala (pronounced Noola) Bullen (Staffordshire Terrier). She is two years old and lives in Section I with her humans, Meg, Graeme, and Madeleine. She shares her territory with Willie (American Eskimo), Sheeba (Siamese), and Fuego and BunBun (rabbits). Meg first fell in love with the breed while visiting South Africa with her husband, Graeme. Staffies are quite common in South Africa and England where they are nicknamed the "Nanny Dogs" because they are so good with children. Nuala is good with everybody and everything; she is just one bundle of lick. She is so devoted to her family that she even wants to accompany them to the bathroom. Nuala and father, Graeme, occasionally have to sit still while Madeleine plays beauty shop on them and paints their fingernails. Nuala is so excited because her grandparents, Karen and Gerald Bullen, are here visiting her from South Africa and that means more family to love. If love is the beauty of the soul then Nuala is one gorgeous pup!

Critters 101: Disaster Planning

When the hurricanes hit Florida many people – and their pets- were not prepared. Many pets did not have food or water. Some pets were even left homeless. If it is not safe for you, it's not safe for your pet. The single most important think you can do to protect your pets if you evacuate is to take your pets with you!

Most evacuation shelters do not accept pets, so plan ahead.

Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would shelter you and your animals, or just your animals, if necessary. If you have more than one pet, be prepared to house them separately.

You also need to prepare supplies for your pet. Keep everything stored in sturdy containers that can be carried easily. Medication, medical records and a first aid kit should be stored in a waterproof container.

Sturdy leashes, harnesses and/or carriers to transport pets safely and to ensure your pets cannot escape. Carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand comfortable, turn around, and lie down. Your pet may have to stay in the carrier for hours at a time. Current photos of your pet for identification in case your pet gets lost. Food, water, bowls, cat litter and litter box, and a manually operated can opener. Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to board your pets or place them in foster care. Pet beds and toys, if you can easily take them.

If your family and pets must wait out a storm or other disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together. Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers, and make sure they are wearing identification. Have any medications and a supply of pet food and water inside watertight containers. If you need to purify water, add 2 drops of household bleach per quart of water, mix, seal tightly, and let stand for 30 minutes before drinking.

It is important to remember that your pet may be just as stressed out and confused as you are during a storm. Having your pet with you can help you get through the difficult time. Your pet will comfort you, and you will comfort your pet.

Dear Mau Mau: *What do you think of disaster planning?* F. Farmer

You really never know when you might need to evacuate. Why just the other day, we had a very smoky situation in the kitchen and I had to round up Elizabeth and that stinky dog, Sydney, and then alert my staff of the evacuation plan – namely the front door. The staff got the situation under control rather quickly but it was tense and my afternoon nap was interrupted. *Mau Mau*

Backyard Report:

If you go outside around dusk you might notice all the bats flying around. Bats are nocturnal meaning they hunt for food at night. Bats are beneficial because they eat insects and they have been around a long time, since the age of dinosaurs. Like humans, bats are mammals and they are the only mammals that actually fly. A bat can consume nearly 50 percent of its body weight in insects during just one night. The bats around here typically live in trees, in woodpecker holes, occasionally in homes and attics, and in bat houses constructed especially for them. All mammals, including bats, can get rabies. However, it is estimated that less than 1 percent of bats have rabies.

The best way to avoid getting rabies from bats is never to pick up a bat, especially if you see one fluttering on the ground during the day and it looks sick.

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.

Get involved today and bring our own private constable back to Garden Oaks. Increase the safety of our community and send the bad guys a message of our strength. After all who is watching your house? Let's make sure it is the good guys!

Program benefits

- 40 hrs. of our own designated Harris County Constable
- Vacation Watch by Harris County Constable (forms available to supporter households)
- Security Check for Insurance Discount
- Alarm Contact/ Response by Harris County Constable

- Perceived value for prospective neighbors considering Garden Oaks for their future home in a community where the neighbors work collectively to make the neighborhood safer.

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

Cost & Payment ... The bottom line...the cost for merely \$140 per year which is \$11.66 per month or less than \$.40 cents per day (less than a cup of coffee). Think about your insurance deductible if you have a break-in or replacing something as simple as a lawnmower...would you not spend more than \$140? How much is increased safety of our neighborhood, yourself, and your loved ones worth to you?

You have two payment options, an annual check of \$140, or the monthly draft option of \$15 per month. Payment escrow...All checks will be deposited in a Garden Oaks Civic Club account for escrow until the 318 household number is met.

ACT NOW! We need you today! See the contributor form in this Gazette or visit www.gardenoaks.org to download a form. Take a form and encourage your neighbors to join in.

Collection Dates... Block Walks, & Constable Collection Saturday October 9th

Block walking coordinated by section captains will begin shortly and volunteers are needed for all areas of the neighborhood. Please contact one of the following section captains:

Section 1

Trent & Megan Salch 832-256-6676
megan_salch@hotmail.com

Section 2 & 3

Terry Jeanes 713-812-9154
jeanest@pdq.net

Section 4 & 5

Carlos Rios 832-723-7736
CarlosRios_93@yahoo.com

We still need one-time task volunteers at all levels. So call Terry Jeanes to help.

October 9th is "Constable Campaign Saturday"

Sign up booths will be set up at the following locations from 9 a.m. to 12 noon:

- The Rose Garden entrance in Section 1, 34th @ Lawrence
- Spark Park Garden Oaks Elementary School @ Sue Barnett near Garden Oaks Blvd.
- Additional locations may be added.

Thank you to Current Supporters

Current supporters of the Constable Program are listed in this Gazette. Look to see the most recent households who have stepped forward to support our program making Garden Oaks a safer place for all of us. Get your form in today to be listed next month. Simply use the form included in this Gazette or download the sign-up form from the Garden Oaks website. You can also sign up with your block walking neighbors, or on Saturday, October 9th at the sign-up booths. DO NOT DELAY....do it today!

Community Gifts

The generous donation of a proposed \$10,000 per year for the next 2 years from the 2004 Home Tour proceeds enables us to keep the cost low. In addition, please join us at the October 5th GOMO general meeting immediately following the Civic Club meeting to support the GOMO proposal of up to 1/2 the cost of a constable in matching funds raised by community supporters like you. Come support this proposal via your vote. A great way to help campaign fundraise and meet our goal even sooner! Also remember we have an "adopt a neighbor option" or "additional gift option" on the form as well.

For additional questions or comments contact Terry Jeanes, 713-812-9154 or by email at jeanest@pdq.net

Garden Club Work Day – October 16th

On Saturday, October 16th, Garden Club members and friends will be at Friendship Park performing our annual fall clean up. Located in Section 1 at Lawrence and W. 30th, this pocket park was long ago adopted by the Garden Oaks Garden Club. The park's landscape maintenance, hardscape and upkeep are paid for by the Garden Club as a way to give something back to our neighborhood community and the Civic Club. Club members and friends will be out in full force on Saturday, October 16th at 9:00 am. If you would like to lend a hand, please stop by – if even for just 30 minutes of weeding or mulch spreading.

Robert De Veau, Garden Club Vice President

Help Build a School

by Gig Runge

The Friends of Montessori, the non-profit organization that sponsors the Montessori classroom at Garden Oaks Elementary, is working to re-open Milam Elementary as an all Montessori campus. I'm leading a volunteer work day at the school to prepare two of the classrooms for the school re-opening in 2005.

On October 16th, I'm leading a group of volunteers to prepare equipment for two of fourteen classrooms for a new public Montessori campus for children of pre-school through middle school age that will open in 2005.

Activities include:

- Building shelves
- Refurbishing learning equipment (cleaning, sanding, painting, sewing)
- Refurbishing existing bookshelves (sanding, painting)
- Repairing and/or painting tables and chairs that have been donated

JPMorgan Chase has provided a grant to help cover the cost of materials. They are also providing T-shirts and pens to all volunteers as part of their Global Days of Service program.

I need volunteers and would appreciate your help.

When: Saturday, October 16, from 8:00am to 1:00pm
Where: Milam Elementary (Off Shepherd & Washington Ave.)
1100 Roy
Houston, TX 77007-3312
Contact: (713) 869-5623 gigrunge@houston.rr.com

Background

HISD has tentatively agreed to let the Friends of Montessori re-open Milam Elementary Fall 2005 as an all Montessori campus, pre-K through middle school, if the necessary materials are secured.

We hope to open the school next year not only to serve those families who were impacted by the school closure, but also to improve the level of public education within HISD.

How You Can Help:

1. **Volunteer for October 16** - Help me refurbish Montessori training materials at the school. Teachers will be there to show volunteer parents and children how the materials they are refurbishing are used as well as answer questions about Montessori and the school.
2. **Raise Funds** - The Friends of Montessori is a very small group of parents of students at the Garden Oaks Montessori program. It's a very big effort for us to raise the funds necessary to expand the classrooms and buy the learning materials and get the school started. While we've hosted fund-raisers, sold raffle tickets, and applied for grants, we have a long way to go to raise the \$900,000 needed.
3. **Become one of the many interested parents** - who have submitted an interest survey to indicate to HISD their interest in enrolling children in this school when it opens.

More information about the All Montessori project is available at the following web site <http://www.allmontessori.org>

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281.733.1003



Trish Ricklefsen

Realtor

The sign of the times....

Heavy Trash...

Just wondering why no one ever comments on the heavy trash put out sometimes three weeks in advance of heavy trash pickup. I have called the city so many times to deal with home construction debris laid out on the curb. One person put out insulation that was taken out of his home and put it on the curb three weeks in advance of heavy trash pick-up. After one hard rain, you can just imagine how the neighborhood looked. The city dealt with that promptly and posted a citation on his front door. It was removed that day by the owner. However, it sat there one week until I took the time to call the city. Another man tore down a room of his house and put it in the front yard near the street to be picked up three weeks and 4 days prior to heavy trash pick-up. I called the city two times within two weeks and it was taken care of within about 7 days of my second call. I live on West 31st street, and the culture of arrogance on this street is unbelievable. I double dare you to take a ride down my street after you get this message. You won't believe the crap that has been put out. Everything that you see on this ride was put out several weeks ago and heavy trash pick-up for my street isn't until next Tuesday.

I have guest coming tomorrow and my street looks terrible. I could understand all of the tree branches if we had had a hurricane or storm, but we haven't. This street is always this way. Please include a story in the Gazette about heavy trash etiquette. Please run the story for a year and point out west 31st as the main culprit.

Thank You
Proud Neighbor

Thank you!

Houston Outreach Task (HOT) is a non-profit organization that operates in Garden Oaks. A few months ago a front page article featured HOT on the Leader. Because of this article, we have received a lot of contributions from Garden Oaks residents. Because of your generosity, HOT was able to distribute school supplies to 596 children!

Also, because of your generous clothing donations many children are not held back by low self esteem because of tattered or inadequate clothing.

Building a strong community is part of our mission. To do this we promote health, education, and personal growth.

Without your help, we could do nothing. Pat yourselves on the back!

Carole Caesar
HOT Director
www.houstonoutreach.org

Cavallini's Creations

We are open only on Saturdays from 10 am until 5 pm
We offer an extensive selection of artificial flower arrangements.
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Heavy Trash Pick Up

2nd TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

City Ordinance
Heavy trash may be placed by the curb no earlier than the Friday before pick-up.

Report violators by-calling 311

Garden Oaks Historical District Designation

The October Civic Club meeting will feature Randy Pace, Preservation Officer, City of Houston. Randy will discuss the Preservation Ordinance and answer questions from the audience.

To read more about the Ordinance visit:

<http://www.ci.houston.tx.us/codes/chapters31to35htm>.

Then go to VII—Historic Preservation

Trish Ricklefsen

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

GARDEN OAKS CIVIC CLUB PROPOSED 2005 BUDGET

Category	Proposed Income	Proposed Expenses	Proposed Net
<i>Membership</i>	\$14,000.00	(\$2,130.00)	\$11,870.00
<i>GardenOaks.org</i>		(\$900.00)	(\$900.00)
<i>Gazette</i>	\$14,000.00	(\$14,000)	\$0.00
<i>Constable</i>	\$54,520.00	(\$54,520.00)	\$0.00
<i>General</i>	\$200.00	(\$500.00)	(\$300.00)
<i>GO COP</i>		(\$900.00)	(\$900.00)
<i>Beautification</i>		(\$18,888.00)	(\$18,888.00)
TOTALS	\$82,720.00	(\$91,838.00)	(\$9,118.00)

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



**Bone
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Pet Sitting Services

www.goDOGusa.com

713-688-6363

Go Dog Social Club

Come Bark with your Buddies

The Go Dog Social Club is open to dogs of all ages, sizes, and breeds. Membership includes admittance to socials and field trips, entry into lost & found database with ID tag, discount on classes, internet newsletter, and a Club Bandana. \$20 per year per dog.

Rules of Membership

Must be 8 weeks or older

Spayed/Neutered if over 6 months

Current on shots, including Rabies and Bordatella (kennel cough) certificates

Using Topical Flea Treatment

Socials and Field Trips

Dogs, especially puppies, need socialization with other dogs. Social activities are as important for our dogs as it is for our children and it is our responsibility as dog owners to prepare our dogs to respond appropriately in a human controlled social environment. Not all dogs enjoy the company of other dogs but most do. We will start with monthly supervised playgroups (puppies will be sectioned off). Your dogs will run, frolic and play with other club members and go home pleasantly exhausted. One adult must accompany dogs because you will want to watch your dog have fun while you socialize with other dog owners and neighbors. Children under 12 will not be permitted in dog area. All toys will be provided. Regular nylon collars and leashes only - choke collars, chains, and retractable leashes are not permitted - Gentle Leaders okay. \$10 per dog per event.

Classes

Classes include, Canine First Aid & CPR, Dental Care For Your Pets; Caring For Your Senior Petizen; Canine Massage, and Puppy Kindergarten.

Database

Description, identification and photo if member is lost or found. Id tag included.

First Social in October - Join the Club!