

Gazette



Parks And Greenspaces of Garden Oaks

Brenda deAlba

Did you know that Garden Oaks is blessed with ten developed parks and greenspaces within its boundaries? Not many neighborhoods in Houston can make that claim. While several of the parks are maintained by the City of Houston and HISD, the large majority are maintained through neighbor volunteers and Civic Club dollars.

These greenspaces add considerable appeal to potential property buyers and enhance the value of our homes. If you are new to Garden Oaks, please familiarize yourself with the location of these greenspaces which are listed below:

Section 1 & 1A

- Graham Park (located at W. 34th & Lawrence and maintained by the City of Houston)
- Memorial Rose Garden (located at W. 34th & Lawrence and maintained by the Civic Club)
- Friendship Garden (located at W. 30th & Lawrence and maintained by the G.O. Garden Club)
- Randall St. "Berm" Park (located at W. 30th & Randall and maintained by the Civic Club)

Section 2

- Art Park (located at W. 43rd & Sue Barnett – mowed by the City of Houston)
- Gazebo Park (located at the "Y" of Sue Barnett, W. 42nd, & LaMonte and maintained by the Civic Club)
- Garden Oaks Boulevard (entire 700 block maintained by the Civic Club)

Section 3

- Triangle Park (located at Alba & Azalea and maintained by the Civic Club)
- Rick Englert Spark Park (located on Sue Barnett at G.O. Elementary and maintained by HISD)

Section 4

- Garden Oaks Community Garden (Located at 4405 Alba just before the entrance to Shepherd Park Plaza). This is an organic garden with the vast majority of the produce donated to local food banks. If you're interested in helping out (and enjoying some of that produce) contact Bob Gabrysch at 713.686.5493.

Stay tuned in upcoming months for announcements of Volunteer Work Days in the various parks. Please give consideration to supporting these efforts at the park nearest your home. While we have contracts in place for regular mowing, we still need help weeding, mulching, and general spring maintenance.

SATURDAY, February 12th

will be our first volunteer workday at the Memorial Rose Garden. Work will begin at 9am to trim the roses, weed the bed, and spread mulch. Hope to see you there!

In This Issue...

Parks And Greenspaces of...	1
Letter From The Editor	2
Heard Under The Oak Tree	2
Historical Designation...	3
Citizens On Patrol	4
Constable Program Just a few...	4
Constable Program Supporters	5
Civic Club Meeting Minutes	6
Critter Corner	9
African Violets Make Perfect ...	10
Beginning a New Year with...	12
GO Elementary Pancake Breakfast	12
(GOMO) Project Fund Distribution	13
January's Heard Under the...	14
Good Neighbor Award	14

Civic Club Meeting Tuesday February 1st



The next Civic Club meeting will be on February 1st at 7:00 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

President **Chris Lindsay**
713 819 8412 938 Lamonte
President@GardenOaks.org

Vice-President **Sheila Briones**
713 861 8091 412 W. 34th
VicePresident@GardenOaks.org

Treasurer **Mike Dishberger**
713 695 7916 862 W. 42nd St
Treasurer@GardenOaks.org

Secretary **Meagan Salch**
3106 Lawrence
Secretary@GardenOaks.org

Committee Chairs

Beautification 713 694 5934
Brenda & Ed de Alba
Beautification@GardenOaks.org

Citizens on Patrol **Carl Waters, Jr.**
713 864 1992
GOCOP@GardenOaks.org

GardenOaks.org **Joe Muscara**
713 691 6833
Webmaster@GardenOaks.org

Co-Chair **Josh Hamilton**
713 695 7347

Membership **Trey Woods**
713 880 8462 403 32nd street
Membership@GardenOaks.org

Constable Program **Terry Jeanes**
713 812 9154
Terry@TerryJeanes.com

Ad-Hoc Committee

Historical District **Trish Ricklefsen**
281 733 1003
Tricklefsen@houston.rr.com

Gazette Contacts

Editor & Advertising Director
Jonathan Lanz 713 884 8982
Gazette@GardenOaks.org

Assistant Editor
Sue Schmidt 832 563 3402

Billing **Mike Dishberger**
713 695 7916

Delivery **Amanda Carlin**
713 263 1026
GazetteDelivery@GardenOaks.org

Letter From The Editor

Sue Schmidt

Getting into the routine of a new endeavor has been a great adventure for Jonathan Lanz, Gazette Editor, and I. We are making great strides in getting into a routine; sounds like a marriage, doesn't it? We are making every effort to publish the best Gazette that we can. We appreciate all of you working with us on this project, especially Chris Lindsay who has been so supportive.

So many great things are happening in our neighborhood right now: the Constable Program is gearing up for a February start date; the Beautification committee will be giving extra TLC to the rose gardens as Valentine's Day approaches; and a Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award will recognize the caring nature of one of our residents! Love is definitely in the air.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Amanda Carlin for her hard work in coordinating the distribution of the Gazette for several years. She has definitely been a strong link in getting the news to the community. Thanks you so much Amanda.

We look forward to another year of Gazettes, the link between the Civic Club organization and the residents and between you and the rest of the neighbors. Keep those cards and letters coming; we want your input on neighborhood happenings.



Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome new neighbors who recently joined the neighborhood.

1034 Lamonte 938 West 41st
931 West 43rd 404 West 33rd
713 Sue Barnett 1050 Gardenia
701 West 43rd 1354 Sue Barnett

Congratulations on joining us. We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

Birthdays and Celebrations:

- Eddie Battenfield Jr.

Belated birthday wishes to:

- Jennifer Langdon, January 21st.

Happy Annivresary to:

- The Carles celebrating 62 years on February 8th
- Dave & Vanessa Groves celebrating their 6th on 2/13
- Belated wishes to Bonnie & Rudy Hernandez celebrating their 32nd in January

New Arrivals:

Garrett Langdon Crownover born January 3 at 2:52pm weighing in at 10 pounds 8 ounces and 22 inches long. Proud parents are **Joe Crownover and Jennifer Langdon** plus Big Sister **Taylor Crownover**. Along with special companion, **Lucy** the family pet!

Welcome Home:

Glad to see the safe return of **the McLean Family** follow their holiday with family in Scotland.

Congratulations:

MT Herring on her best dressed award at a recent neighborhood bunco PJ party.

To highlight an event or celebration or other tidbit, contact:

Terry Jeanes
713 812 9154
terry@terryjeanes.com.

Historical Designation Ad Hoc Committee Report

Trish Ricklefsen

The January meeting of the Historical District ad hoc committee was honored by the presence of Jane M. Cahill and J.D. Bartell from the Old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association. Jane and JD presented an excellent historical overview of Houston structures and preservation efforts within Houston and around the Old Sixth Ward. Advantages and disadvantages of the City of Houston historic preservation ordinance were presented.

The major disadvantage of the ordinance is that it is voluntary and not strict enough. After 90 days, those who have applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) and are denied may proceed with their proposed plans without the CoA. The slide presentations offered visual examples of architectural designs that are not compatible, detract from the character of the neighborhood and block face. Architectural structures that enhance and compliment the historic character of the neighborhood were also shown. It was an educational and informative presentation – something everyone should see.

As Compliance Coordinator for his neighborhood, JD assists homeowners in making decisions, handles complaints from neighbors about infractions and generally self-manages most of the ordinance issues without City of Houston involvement. Jane and JD have offered to return to make their presentation to the Civic Club in March or April. Stay tuned for a specific date.

The Civic Club will be voting soon to determine if historic designation will be endorsed by the Civic Club. The Civic Club by-laws state that only members of the Civic Club may vote on issues brought before the Club. This is an important issue that will determine the future of our neighborhood. Please pay your 2005 dues to be eligible to vote then show up and vote!

Petitions are coming in daily. We must receive your petition if you support historic designation of Garden Oaks. This is your chance to make a

difference in the future of your neighborhood. Please act today. A copy of the petition can be found at:
www.gardenoaks.org.

For more information, call Trish at
832 618 1606.

WANTED

Gazette
Delivery Coordinator
Start Date
February 1st

Contact
Jonathan Lanz
713.884.8982
Sue Schmidt
832.563.3402

Amanda Carlin is
retiring as the
Gazette Delivery
Coordinator this
month after many
years of faithful
service.
THANK YOU!

FREE TECH SUPPORT

GARDEN OAKS' VERY OWN
WWW.COMPUTER-WIZ.NET

Garden Oaks Prof. Bldg.
4001 N. Shepherd Dr.

Monday to Friday
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Or by appointment

Computer
WIZ

PC Repairs
Data Restore
Virus Removal
Pop-up Blocker
Websites, Databases
Office Automation
Home Networks

AND MUCH MORE!

713.884.8982

Bone Voyage
Pet Sitting Services

1047 Gardenia Drive
Garden Oaks, USA
713-688-6363

Casey Farris
Owner/Pet Lover
www.goDOGusa.com

For all of Your
Printing & Bookbinding
Needs

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

Oscar D. Ochoa
Owner

8924 Emmott Road
713-896-0052

WILL ZUGHERI
MORTGAGE BANKER

713.993.2201



Garden Oaks
Resident

Experience the
difference

FIRST HOUSTON
MORTGAGE, LTD.

WWW.FIRSTHOUSTON.COM
WILL@LOANHOUSTON.COM

Volunteers Help Build A Stronger Community.

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

Please call 713-867-2095.

FOR YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

Memorial Hermann
Northwest Hospital

1635 North Loop West • 713.867.2000

713.222.CARE

www.memorialhermann.org

KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

281.733.1003



Trish Ricklefsen

Realtor

The sign of the times....

Citizens on Patrol GO COP

Caral Waters Jr.

One of the strengths of Garden Oaks and in particular this program, are citizens who volunteer to be members of it. I dedicate this article to your friends and neighbors who volunteer their time (nearly 450 hours) to make Garden Oaks a safer place to live. Current members of the COP program are:

Bob Bewley
Jo Bewley
Amanda Carlin
Robert Carlin
Terry Charlton
Jana Charlton
Lewis Goodkouski
Marie Grchosk
Woody Mehrkam
Cindy Murphy
Johnny Murphy
Pamela Murphy
Amy Shaughnessy
Bill Shaughnessy
Cherry Wolfarth
Judy Wurth
Tom Wurth

Interested in joining them, contact me at the neighborhood website

www.GardenOaks.org
GOCOP77018@AOL.com
713-864-1992.

At press time for this month's article the Houston Police Department had not posted the crime statistics for November and December. I will include them in next month's article and if time and column space allows I will do a 2004 crime stat wrap up.

Reference Numbers

Emergency Services 911
HPD Non Emergency 713-884-3131
All other City Services 311

Constable Program Just A Few Days Away From Starting Terry Jeanes

Who is watching your house? Let's make sure it is the good guys. Become a supporter of our Constable Program.

As of this article (1/15) the tentative start date for our own dedicated Constable officer is February 12th! Just because he will be starting does not mean we do not need you to be assured he stays here patrolling our streets for his 40 hours per week.

Thanks to the Program Supporters on the adjacent page who have made the commitment. To the rest take the time now to fill out the form in the Gazette, on www.gardenoaks.org, or use the form mailed to you thanks to the constable committee and others who got the Civic Club mailer done.

There is no excuse not to as many options are available to you. And look what you get:

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.

Cost & Payment

\$140 per Less than \$.40 per day Less than. A cup of coffee. simply choose one of the other two payment options, an annual check of \$140, or the For any added questions, please contact:

Terry Jeanes
713-812-9154
terry@terryjeanes.com

Constable Program Supporters

Section 1

Amalfi	Jeffers	Adair/Baltz	Bell	Barr/King
Dorsey	Hamilton	T. Wood	Lopez	Winford
Briones	Neff	R. Mathews	McConn	Lewis
Smith/Evans	Rauch	Duggin	Villman	Stafford/Keyser
Marquis	Spinks	A. Smith	Cheney	Morris
S. Smith	Fruge/Adams	B. R. Hayes	Porter	Bishop/Hutson
Roesler	Elmore	DePaul	Kistner	Carney
Lee	Debien	Toxey	Winter	S. Hayes
Sorum	Forster	Boyd/Griffin	Frazier	Vuchak/Lanners
Salch	Gomez	M. Hamilton	Groneman	Lengyel/Hager
Gregory	Fletcher	Dansby/Flores	Kolodziejczyk	Scott/Sheffield
Theaker	Blum	Branam/Knight	Kvinge	Bresnahan
Christian	Evans	Waters/Ryan	Hunt	Rogers/Buron
Gould	Bream	Adkins	Lumms	Ammon/Rosier
Bewley	Lewis	Best/Pressley	Engelhardt	Wiemann/Engelking
King	Patterson	Robinson	Falschlehner	Flood
Lange	Runge	Perkins	Rowe	Sarani
Mercer	Winston	Lentini	Starustka	Peters/Capfer
Garcia	Gilliland	Hickman/Emborsky	Borja	Cooper/Holter
Roberts	Anderson	Mullins	Kasischke	

Section 2

Duncan	Sutterfield	Carlson/Caldwell	Janssen	Gonzales/Doherty
Lanz	J. Hall	Knauth	de Alba	Austin/Altman
Tatum	T. Mathews	O'Leary/Appling	Peden/Rudd	Clark
Rennie	Johnson	Stengler	Cotterman	Mulry
Synott	Marquez	Muscara/Kennedy	Boyd	Cleghorn/Vuchetich
Kennedy				

Section 3

Bartos	Nelson	Mueller/Mayer	Clyde	Sabuco/Arnold
Scruggs	Syzdek	Cavallaro-Kovar	Padon	Clemence/Bos
Veselka	Taylor	Vrinios/Pritchard	Fritz	Lyn/Campbell
Bingham	Swart	Crownover/Langdon	Arnett	Richards/Talley
Dishberger	Stark	Stewart	Reichle	Walkoviak
Tinkey	Flanagan	Gavin		

Section 4

Jeanes	McCormick	Spychalski/Ehlert	Cockrell	Botor/Garza
Joel	Liles	Curran/Jennings	Caldwell	Shaver//Earl
Warhol	Spear	Lindsay	Swick	Lindsey
Orr	Schultz	Ochoa	Miller	Payne

Section 5

Terrett	Kelly	Peoples	Keegan	Restrepo
Shepperd	McDaniel	Rios/Rapazzo	Berend	Stevens
C. Hall	Braithwaite	Gilmore	Willburn	Steele/Mertz
Farris	Blasingame	Daly	Sherwood	Kimbrough
Sauberli	Naff	C. Smith	Dawson	Peters
Zugheri	Balsano	Pfeiffer-Traum	Evans	

Garden Oaks REALTY

Residential and Commercial Real Estate
SPECIALIZING IN INNER LOOP

Personalized Service

Broker Owned and Operated

SHARON LAUDER, BROKER

Garden Oaks Resident for 22 years

373 1/2 W. 19th St.

713-862-3747

GOMO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

Sheila Briones

Home: 713-861-8091

412 W. 34th

Sheila.Briones@hccs.edu

Louis "Gig" Runge

Home: 713-869-5623

236 W. 33rd St.

Diane King

Cell: 361-548-8495

3310 Lawrence

Section 2

Sam Stengler

Cell: 281-773-3478

710 Sue Barnett

Sstengler@covad.net

Jay Tatum

Home: 713-699-4166

720 W. 43rd St.

Jay.tatum@hok.com

Ed de Alba

Houston, TX 77018

Section 3

Mike Dishberger

Home: 713-695-7916

862 W. 42nd St.

Section 5

Malcom Taylor

Home: 713-956-8872

1030 W. 41st St.

MalcomTaylor@cheverontexaco.com

Blake Woods

Home: 713-680-9277

1023 W. 43rd St.

bwoods@ziegler-cooper.com

Civic Club Meeting Minutes January 4, 2005

Minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Dishberger said 2004 unaudited balance was ~ \$11,774. \$37k was raised for the constable program; there is \$42k in GO general account and another \$8k in a mutual fund.

GOMO

Per the vote in November by GOMO, funds will be dispersed this month to the appropriate parties who notified GOMO of their acceptance of the responsibility of managing the approved program and funds. Here is how the funds will be allocated:

- Constable program gets \$37k
- \$15k to update parks trees and upgrade signs in GO. The GO Beautification Committee will be responsible for implementation.
- \$1k will go to the neighborhood neuter and spay program
- \$3k will go to GO Elementary School. The school principal will be responsible for disbursement.
- \$1k will go to the GO Garden Club since there were leftover funds.
- \$10K for Scholarship was not funded because no one volunteered to manage the program.
- Remaining funds stay with GOMO

New GOMO directors are Sheila Briones, Jay Tatum and Ed de Alba. Congratulations.

Beautification

Ed and Brenda de Alba are the new co-chairs for the committee. Ed is waiting for the files from the previous chair, and believes there's ~ \$18k + GOMO funds for this year's committee budget available. Ed and Brenda would like GO residents to volunteer to serve as park captains to determine work days and secure local buy-in. Volunteers should contact Ed & Brenda de Alba. Future workdays will be published in Gazette starting in March issue. There will be a workday for the Rose Garden in section one around Valentine's Day.. \$5k will likely be spent on the Art Park.

Constable program

Paperwork has been filed with the county to engage the constable. The projected start date is Feb. 12, 2005, but we still need more supporters. If you haven't contributed your constable donation, please complete and submit a form or contact Terry Jeanes. The constable committee hopes to keep the \$37k from GOMO as a reserve fund to supplement the program. Supporter packets and vacation forms will soon be available to supporters of program.

A motion was introduced to clarify that \$20k from the home tour to the constable program will be used equally over two constable contract years to fund the constable program. This specification differed from previous meeting minutes that said the home tour funds would be spent in 2004 and 2005. All in attendance approved this motion.

Membership

Trey Wood was not able to stay for the meeting his report was delivered by Chris Lindsay. Membership dues are now due. Invoices were mailed in late November. To date 205 residents have paid. Please submit your GO civic club dues as soon as possible. Forms are printed in the Gazette or can be downloaded from the Garden Oaks web site. Reminders may be mailed in March or April.

Civic Club Meeting Minutes January 4, 2005

Web site

Joe Muscara and Josh Hamilton reported that a worm attacked the GO Web site but we've moved to a new server to increase security and all is going well. We can also now have one e-mail sent to multiple users from our site. Please let Joe know if changes need to be made to the Web site, or to learn how to contact more than one person by using one e-mail contact point. All officer e-mails have been updated on the site.

Internet hosting was being provided free previously but we'll be charged in 2005. Josh will submit reimbursement request and break out the GOMO fees for reimbursement, too.

Gazette

Sue Schmidt is the new assistant editor to Jonathan Lanz.

There will be an advertising rate increase next month and all advertisers will be notified. Sue and Jonathan are researching rates now but probably will increase by ~ 20 percent.

- Due to budget limitations, the Gazette is limited to 14 pages – unless there is a critical need to get more information out. A maximum article length is being established. It was suggested that the editor establish a word count along with font and type size to help people stay within the limit.
- Discussions during the January meeting indicated it might be more cost effective to move to a 16-page format, allowing two extra pages of content. This cost savings is based on a four page print run. So future newsletters will be limited to 16 pages, like the January 2005 issue.
- Amanda Carlin, newsletter distribution chairperson, will continue role through February 2005 issue but then needs to transition role to another volunteer. Please contact Amanda at GazetteDelivery@GardenOaks.org to volunteer for this position. Currently, Amanda coordinates with 40 neighborhood volunteers to get the newsletters out which takes about 3 hours per month. This job could be divided between two volunteers.

Home Tour 2006

Sue Schmidt has also volunteered as the Home Tour 2006 chairperson. Sue and Sheila will get together to compare notes from previous years and then Sue will get started.

Citizens on Patrol (COP)

We still need more volunteers to have a healthy program. Interested volunteers are encouraged to contact Carl Waters at GOCOP@GardenOaks.org.

Fall Festival 2005

We also need a volunteer for this fun position. The fall festival is held every other year so the fall 2005 will include a fall festival of fun activities for neighbors to get together. For the 2003 event, planning began in June and included a committee of 3-5 people who met about once a month until the event was held in October 2003. Volunteers should contact Chris Lindsay at President@GardenOaks.org.

Bicycle Parade

We also need someone to volunteer to organize the July 4th bicycle parade. Volunteers should contact Chris Lindsay at President@GardenOaks.org.

Railroad ad-hoc committee

Chris Lindsay reported that there would be a pilot program run but it will be for

AMS REMODELING



- Room Additions
- Garages
- Garage Conversions
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Hardie Siding
- Painting
- Ceramic Tile
- Patio Covers
- Sheetrock

REMODELING
Commercial • Residential

**Call for
FREE ESTIMATE
713-773-6803**

Serving the Garden Oaks/Oak Forest Area for 14 Years

Better Business Bureau Member





CAMPOS ROOFING

"The Roofing Specialist"

New Roofs/Re-Roofs and Repairs
All work Guaranteed
919 Judiway
713-680-3530
Since 1960



Preferred
Roofing
Contractors



Deanna Zugheri
Residential Sales



Your Garden
Oaks Neighbor
I know
Garden Oaks
281.658.4514

Hartman
& ASSOCIATES

deanna@hartman-associates.com
www.GardenOaksHomes.com

NEW HORIZON

LANDSCAPING

Jackie Hanson
5732 Stuebner Airline
713.699.IMOW

Civic Club Meeting Minutes January 4, 2005

the Union Pacific line that parallels the 610 Loop and goes through Bellaire and West U. Houston and the other two cities will fund the needed improvements at RR-crossings to obtain quiet zone designation. The test project is expected to take 2 years. In the meantime, we can prepare a letter and notify the City of our interest in obtaining QZ designation. Suggested QZ would be from I-45 to T.C. Jester. We'll inquire if Independence Heights and Oak Forest are interested in joining us.

Historic Designation ad hoc Committee

Always a hot topic, there was a lot of discussion about this at this month's meeting. A sample of 40 homes in section 1 was identified and the committee has received signed petitions supporting the historic designation from 38 percent of those. This is a representative sample of section 1 of what to expect. Petition forms, common questions, etc. were included in the Dec. newsletter (which were printed and funded by private donations, no Civic Club funds have been spent).

Some incorrect information may have been circulated throughout the neighborhood. One piece of misinformation is that you would be arrested for making changes to your house without approval from the historic designation committee. Both supporters and protestors of the historic designation effort encourage all property owners to download the ordinance from the GardenOaks.org Web and review it.

Chris Lindsay will work with Trish & committee to determine date when GO civic club will decide whether it will support this effort. Chris suggests April or May; however, date will be determined later. GO civic club has not taken a stance on this effort. The ad hoc committee was formed to research the possibility and inform the rest of the civic club. Committee should provide report and let civic club members decide if to support.

The GO Historic Designation Committee will meet January 6th at 7:00 p.m. Contact Trish at Tricklefsen@houston.rr.com for more information.

Garden Club

The next meeting will be the second Thursday of the month (Jan. 13) at 407 W. 33rd Street. The topic is garden pests with a specialist from Condon Garden's nursery.

New business

Terry Jeanes has offered to fund a GO Neighbor of the Quarter award. Please send nominations to Terry at terry@terryjeanes.com. The first winner will be announced in May 2005. This new award hopes to recognize those neighbors who go out of their way to do nice things for other GO neighbors. Winners will receive either a gift certificate to Tony's Mexican restaurant, a Home Depot gift card, or the like. Children will receive a savings bond. There is no age limit for nominations.

Megan Salch,
GO Secretary

Diana Tarley

RE/MAX
PREMIER

DianaTarley.com 713-539-0569

GOIN' POSTAL
YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SHIPPING CENTER

FOR ALL YOUR SHIPPING AND PACKING NEEDS AND MORE

- NOTARY
- COPIES
- LAMINATING
- OFFICE SUPPLIES
- FAX (SEND/RECEIVE)
- MAILBOXES
- CARDS
- CANDLES
- STATIONARY
- BUSINESS CARDS
- KEYS MADE
- SHIPPING & MOVING SUPPLIES

4232 ELLA BLVD. HOUSTON, TX 77018
Ph: 713 683-1825 Fax: 713 683-1827

Hours: M-F 10-6
Saturday 10-3
Closed Sunday

EBAY SELLERS WELCOME. BRING YOUR ITEMS IN TO BE SECURELY PACKAGED AND SHIPPED.

FedEx Federal Express UPS

www.GardenOaks.org

Critter Corner

Casey and Mau Mau Farris

Hi neighbors and Happy Valentine's Day! February is National Pet Dental Health Month so take a minute and have a look at those canines. Did you know that oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem for pets? Our Pet of the Month is a trifecta of beautiful cats.

Pet of the Month: Our Pet of the Month is a trio of kitty cats in Section III. Faust (black cat) is a twelve year old male. Bronte (Tabby) is a 10 year old female, and Bevo (tuxedo) is a five year old female. They live with their parents Erica and Darin and two Greyhounds named Tex and Major. Faust and Bronte were Erica's pets before they all got married. Erica was an English major and named Faust after the legendary fictional character who sold his soul to the devil. Faust is really a sweetheart but can be devilish at times. Bronte is named after the literary Bronte sisters. Bevo, Tex and Major came along later and Darin named them all. Of course, Bevo is named after the UT mascot. Each cat has a unique personality and lots of it. They get along very well and love to garden with their mother. They have a beautiful deck to sun on when outside and when inside they love their sunroom that looks on to the deck. With five pets there is a lot of love and never a dull moment at the Duncan house.

Pet News: Welcome to the neighborhood to Nickalas St. John (miniature Schnauzer). He was adopted in December at age two. Imelda and Ken Johnson (Section II) want to thank everyone who responded to their missing cat flyer. Naomi is still missing. She is a rather fluffy, half-Persian. Please call 713-408-0483 with any leads. Gus Aston had a guest, Princess (Cocker Spaniel), for a whole week and really enjoyed it.

Critters 101: CRF (Chronic Renal Failure) and the Importance of Blood Work

Peanut Perez (Dachshund) passed away in December from Chronic Re-

nal Failure. Peanut was eleven years old and suffered with CRF for several months. Peanut was a precious little soul and gave her family much love and joy. She is survived by her human mother, Gracie Perez, Chino (Chihuahua) and Toby (Schnauzer). Our hearts are with the Perez family.

Gracie has had pets for many years but this was her first encounter with CRF and she wants others to be aware of the symptoms. Also, diagnosis is based on blood work and urinalysis. So please do not skip the blood work on annual checkups.

CRF is the most common kidney disorder in dogs and cats. It is associated with irreversible structural damage within the kidney. The damage can be hidden for months but is usually progressive. It is more common in older animals but can happen at any age. The underlying cause is often undetermined and not present at the time of diagnosis. Causes include long-term damage from acute renal failure (sudden decreases in blood flow from trauma, shock, deep anesthesia, hyperthermia or hypothermia). Toxins/drugs are another cause, as well as infections, cancer, urinary tract obstructions, congenital diseases, and inherited diseases.

A pet with CRF may drink and urinate often, have weight loss, appetite loss, lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, and weakness. They are often dehydrated, may have pale mucous membranes, high blood pressure, small irregular kidneys and may have oral ulcers.

The long-term prognosis for CRF is poor since it is an irreversible disease, but the progression can be slowed with proper treatment. Pets with CRF can live months to years with proper treatment.

Casey is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services® & Go Dog Usa.

Casey@goDOGusa.com
713-688-6363

Kitchens ★ Bathrooms
Additions ★ Roofing

STAN-CO
Home Improvements

- ★ New Construction
- ★ Remodels
- ★ Renovations

713-462-5392
Est. 1993

Painting ★ Flooring
Custom Cabinetry ★ Tile

Shannon & Associates, Inc.

Shannon L. Nelson, ASID

Registered Interior Designer #2026

Studio 713-802-9301

Fax 713-802-0071

Wireless 713-304-2551

Residential & Commercial Interior Design
Renovation * Construction

208 W. 34TH STREET HOUSTON, TEXAS 77018

Dreaming of a beautiful garden?

Creative Design		Waterscaping
Stonework		Irrigation
Illumination		Erosion Control
Installation	Garden Guy, Inc. <small>Landscape Design and Implementation</small>	Disease Control
Maintenance		Fertilization
Tree Trimming	281-208-4400	Drainage Services
	www.garden-guy.com	Established 1991

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

Shelley Rogers, Correspondent

Kathy Wahren, Yard of the Month

Tina Nieto, Historian

Yard Of The Month

1074 W. 42nd St.

Homeowner:
Ms. Mary Dupuis

Garden Club Meetings

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 call Robert De Veau (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.

African Violets Make Perfect Houseguests

Robert De Veau, Garden Club Vice President

Mention African violets and we all probably think of our grandmothers. My grandmother grew these gargantuan African violets. As I was pilfering a cookie or two from her, I marveled at the intense colors of the flowers with their collar of fuzzy leaves. In my tiny kid brain I assumed African violets must be a right of passage into garden guru-dom. Only experienced gardeners that had acquired many years of knowledge were able to get these beauties to bloom indoors. Well, African violets are not just for grandmothers anymore.

Come join us on Thursday, February 10th at 7:00 pm when our featured speaker from the Spring Branch African Violet Club will introduce us to care and culture of the African violet. We'll be traveling outside the 'hood to 10219 Chatterson, Houston 77043.

There are many different cultivars now available in a wide range of flower colors, sizes and foliage types. Flowers include about every color of the rainbow as well as bi-colors and multi-colors. The flowers may be single or double petaled or fringed edged. The plant sizes range from large to the "oh so cute" miniatures. African violets have even been in space. In 1984, Optimara, one of the premier African violet producers, launched 25,000 Optimara seeds into space aboard one of NASA's space shuttles. The seeds remained in space in the Long Duration Exposure Facility orbiting the Earth for nearly six years. As a direct outcome of their space travels, Optimara developed the EverFloris Violet. They are known for their abundance of flowers that never stop blooming. They have as many as 20 blooms instead of the typical 5 to 7.

Most of the newer cultivars do bloom regularly throughout the year. Some cultivars do have a short rest period between blooms. Even the hard to bloom cultivars that require excellent light will bloom a couple times a year.

If your violets don't bloom, it's not because you're not old enough. It's more likely a problem with the growing conditions.

Here are a few tips:

- Keep plants evenly moist. It's best to water from below using a saucer or wicking system. Water on the leaves can cause leaf spot. Use lukewarm water. It's best not to use softened water. Soil should not be soggy or dry extensively. Dry soil is a common reason why African violets fail to bloom.
- Soil should be well drained. soil-less mixes work well.
- Temperatures should be about 72 degrees F. Temperatures should not go below 60 or above 80.
- Insufficient light is probably the number one reason violets fail to bloom. They like bright light but not direct light. If you happen to have access to a light meter, they need 10,000 to 12,000 lux, or about 900 to 1100 foot candles. African violets grow well under fluorescent lights suspended 12 to 15 inches above the plants. Leave light on no more than 16 hours a day. Light source must include wavelengths in the red as well as blue range. A combination of cool white and warm white bulbs works well as do grow lights.
- Fertilize violets regularly. Any complete water-soluble fertilizer can be used. Avoid any fertilizers containing urea since this may harm roots. Check label for recommended intervals and rates. Many growers prefer to fertilize with each watering.
- Repotting may be needed as the plant ages since the lower row of leaves eventually dies creating a "neck". If there is a neck, cut off an equal portion of soil from the bottom of the rootball. Replant into same size pot or one inch larger so that the bottom row of leaves is now right above the pot rim.

Garden Club meetings are open to all residents and friends of Garden Oaks

Advertising or Submitting Articles to the Gazette

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis.

The primary purpose of the Gazette is to disseminate information about Civic Club activities and Community events.

All articles must be submitted by the 15th of each month for publication the following month; contributing articles will be printed at the Editor's discretion and edited according to space availability. Publication of any article, non-civic club related, does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

The Gazette is hand delivered to 1,550 homes the first week of each month.

For additional contact information see page 2

Size	Single	Six Months	Twelve Months
2 1/4 x 2 3/8	\$50.00	\$250.00	\$480.00
4 1/5 x 2 3/8	\$75.00	\$405.00	\$765.00
Half Page	\$90.00		
Full Page	\$150.00		
Back Cover	\$250.00		
Inserts (full page only, single or double sided) Color request extra charge.	\$300.00		

I'M SOLD ON GARDEN OAKS!

Sue Schmidt
REALTOR®



832.563.3402
Fax: 713.802.9282



- Prompt, professional service
- Twenty years in the Industry
- Native Houstonian
- Garden Oaks resident

Email: sueschmidt@houston.rr.com



Garden Oaks Fall Festival

Fall Festival Cordinator Needed

Contact:
Chris Lindsay
713.819.8412

Build a stronger
Neighborhood

Fall 2005

Garden Oaks Elementary 11th Annual Pancake Breakfast

Join your friends and neighbors for a pre-Valentine's Pancake Breakfast at Garden Oaks Elementary School on

*Saturday, February 12th
from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.!*

Come out and enjoy warm, fluffy pancakes and syrup. After breakfast you may visit with old friends or make new ones while the kids flip in our moonwalk, create a special craft or enjoy a visit from the Houston Fire Department. This event is free for the entire community, however, donations are greatly appreciated and all proceeds go directly to the Montessori Program at Garden Oaks Elementary School.

Teachers and Montessori Parents will be on hand to answer any questions about this unique program.

Applications for the Montessori Program are available at the school office now!

Please come by or access the application on line at

*[http://es.houstonisd.org/
GardenoaksES](http://es.houstonisd.org/GardenoaksES)*

click on the Montessori Link and then go to admissions. Completed applications are due on March 1, 2005.

Montessori classrooms are open for visitors daily between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. For more information on the Montessori Program or admission policies please call the school office at 713-696-2930 or e-mail our principal, Jeff Amerson at jamerson@houstonisd.org.

For more information to donate goods, services, volunteering, or to make a donation please contact

Betsey Runge
713 869 5623

Beginning a New Year with Beautification

Brenda de Alba

2005 looks to be a busy year for Beautification efforts! In addition to our approved budget, GOMO has gifted Beautification with money to buy/restore signage, plant more trees, and develop/improve an existing park.

As the new co-chairs of Beautification, one of our goals is to increase awareness and foster a sense of ownership in homeowners who live near or adjacent to our neighborhood parks. Several of our parks have active "Park Captains"...most do not. Park Captains primarily plan/schedule volunteer work days several times a year and assist with determining needed improvements and yearly budget planning for their park.

If you would like to be part of our Beautification team, please contact Ed or Brenda de Alba...you are SORELY needed! (713.694.5934)

I can't thank Rick & Marie Grochoske enough for their hard work the last 3 ½ years chairing this committee. Their commitment to Garden Oaks speaks volumes with regard to their love of this neighborhood.

First 2005 volunteer workday

**Memorial Rose Garden
(W. 34th & Lawrence)**

SATURDAY, February 12th.
Start at 9 a.m.

- Trim the roses
- Weed the bed, and
- Spread mulch

Hope to see you there!

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO)

Project Fund Distribution

Sam Stengler

In November, 2004, the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization, Inc (GOMO) membership voted to fund various activities/projects out of GOMO's 'excess funds'.

Our only requirements for distributing these funds is that some type of organization is started/exists, willing to take-on/host the projects to be funded, and that that organization then presents GOMO with a report on the project once it has been completed. For those projects that are really more of a donation for unspecified use, we simply need to know what will be/is done with the funds. As you can see below, several organizations have already been identified, and we have been contacted by others.

Below are the winning projects, and the group (if known at this time) that will be receiving the funds

- **Assist with funding for the Garden Oaks Constable program** - This one already has a committee and chairperson to accept this donation. Terry Jeanes has been working with the GO Civic Club membership to get subscribers ready for the Constable Patrol program starting in 2005. GOMO will match, dollar-for-dollar, all subscription amounts that she receives for this program, up to \$37,000.00.
- **Donate surplus funds to update/improve GO parks - \$5,000** To be determined.
- **Donate fund to plant and care for various trees throughout the neighborhood - \$5,000** To be determined.
- **Donate surplus funds to upgrade GO signage and street signs - \$5,000** To be determined.

- **Donate surplus funds to the GO spay/neuter program - \$1,000** This one already has an organization dedicated to doing this. We'll be cutting a check to the Spay and Neuter Assistance Program.
- **6 - Give any leftover funds to the GO CC/other GO organization.** This option will be used to re-distribute any funds that are left over. This will include funds from approved projects that end up without a hosting group.

Initially, we had estimated that our excess funds would be enough to cover the first six projects as listed above. However, we actually somewhat underestimated the amount of money we had as 'excess', so the Directors of GOMO have decided, per 'project' #6 above, to fund almost the entire recommended list, at the recommended amounts.

So, the additional funded projects are:

- **Donate surplus funds to the Garden Oaks Elementary School - \$3,000** Jeff Amerson, Principal of the Garden Oaks Elementary School, will receive a check for these funds.
- **Donate surplus funds to the Garden Oaks Garden Club - \$1,000** To be determined.

The only project not funded was the one to start a scholarship fund for a deserving GO student(s). Unfortunately, we were unable to identify anyone with sufficient interest and expertise to manage this project, so it has been removed from our funding list for this year.

Even with the additional projects, we still find ourselves with a little over \$4,100.00, which we have decided to return to the GOMO general fund.

We anticipate all of the above funds to be dispersed by the end of March, 2005.

A big "Thank You" for all of the GOMO members who came up with these suggestions, and voted!

Finally, I'd like to introduce our three new GOMO Directors, all elected for their sections in November of 2004, and serving three-year terms:

Section One: Sheila Briones

Section Two: Jay Tatum
Ed de Alba

Let's all welcome them to our organization, and I, for one, look forward to their unique contributions to GOMO and Garden Oaks in the future!

www.GardenOaks.org



Terry Jeanes

your Garden Oaks neighbor
and area specialist

RE/MAX-METRO

713-528-1800
713-680-8550



COURT REPORTING



Carlson Reporting

Tel: 713.896.1492
Fax: 713.896.3099

Email: depositions@carlsonreporting.com

Court Reporting
Legal Videography
Records Retrieval

Servicing:
AUSTIN, BEAUMONT,
CORPUS CHRISTI,
DALLAS, FORT WORTH,
GALVESTON, HOUSTON
AND SAN ANTONIO.



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

See Our Work At:

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

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

Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

**copy inadvertently omitted from
Jan 05 issue*

Welcome new neighbors who recently joined the neighborhood.

1067 West 43 rd	729 West 30 th
224 West 32 nd	3306 Lawrence
1087 West 41 st	951 La Monte
751 West 43 rd	946 Gardenia
416 West 30 th	826 West 31 st

Congratulations on joining us. We hope to see you at a civic club meeting soon.

Birthdays and Celebrations:

- **April Toxey** -1/8
- **Lindsay Veech** - 1/24
- **Allison Padon** - 1/28
- **Shellye Arnold** 1/30
- **Joe Muscara** - 1/30

Belated birthday greetings to:

- **Margaret Rudd** 12/6
- **Alice Peden** 12/18

Happy (belated) Annivresary to:

- **Tom Peden & Margaret Rudd**
who celebrated their 24th on
11/29.

Best wishes to Garden Oaks residents participating in the 33rd Annual HP Houston Marathon on Sunday, January 16 beginning at 7 am. at the George R. Brown Convention Center: Half Marathon (13.1 miles) will feature **Sheila Briones, James Clyde, Jesse Lopez, and Lisa McBee**. The Marathon (26.2 miles) will feature **Kelly Gould, Alaina Metz, Nelda Prince, Penni Grandstaff, and Heather Barr**. All have been training for the past 5 months. The marathon is the largest single-day sporting event with 15,000 participants, 200,000 spectators and 5,000 volunteers.

To highlight an event or celebration:

Terry Jeanes
713-812-9154
terry@terryjeanes.com.

Good Neighbor Award

Announcing "The Garden Oaks Good Neighbor" Award

Terry Jeanes

One of the vital components of a great community is the giving nature of its special citizens. What better way to acknowledge those who contribute in any manner than via special acknowledgement and thank you via a Garden Oaks Good Neighbor Award?

If you know of someone special who gives unselfishly of their time contributing to the community or making the life of someone else more comfortable, nominate them. No matter the age - youth, adult or senior adult, a special thank you is well deserved.

This award will begin as a quarterly acknowledgement, expanding as needed, with the first to be given in April. Recipients will receive a certificate and gift. A team of greater Garden Oaks community leaders will make each awards selection.

To nominate a deserving resident, simply contact

Terry Jeanes
Good Neighbor Award Sponsor
713-812-9154
terry@terryjeanes.com.



Garden Oaks Real Estate Report (4th Qtr 2004)

Sec	Street	SF	Yr Built	\$ Sales	DOM	Sold/SF	Lot
1	Lawrence	1,540	1940	185,000	43	120	18,758
1	W. 30th	1,146	1940	123,000	181	107	15,000
1	W. 32nd	1,360	1936	166,000	30	122	14,160
1	W. 33rd	1,737	1940	185,000	29	107	12,572
	Average:	1,446		\$ 164,750	71	\$ 114	15,123
Compared to 1st Qtr 2004:		1,506		\$ 192,562	44	\$ 128	14,338
2	Sue Barnett	1,508	1945	225,000	59	149	17,040
2	Sue Barnett	1,768	1938	220,000	9	124	13,500
2	W. 41st	1,304	1940	172,700	49	132	15,976
2	W. 42nd	968	1940	152,500	167	158	11,810
2	W. 43rd	3,071	1950	305,000	59	99	59,500
2	W. 43rd	3,454	1939	395,000	135	114	43,436
	Average:	2,012		\$ 245,033	80	\$ 130	26,877
Compared to 1st Qtr 2004:		1,884		\$ 209,916	23	\$ 111	14,175
3	Sue Barnett	2,490	1950	333,000	159	134	25,800
3	W. 43rd	1,670	1940	190,500	75	114	12,995
3	W. 43rd	2,932	1957	339,700	45	116	16,069
	Average:	2,364		\$ 287,733	93	\$ 121	18,288
Compared to 1st Qtr 2004:		1,413		\$ 185,355	10	\$ 131	12,995
4	W. 41st	1,643	1940	235,500	42	143	9,780
4	W. 43rd	1,130	1946	131,959	168	117	9,600
	Average:	1,387		\$ 183,730	105	\$ 130	9,690
Compared to 1st Qtr 2004:		1,321		\$ 166,625	55	\$ 126	9,933
5	W. 43rd	1,536	1950	240,000	37	156	11,490
5	W. 43rd	1,148	1946	130,000	47	113	7,350
	Average:	1,342		\$ 185,000	42	\$ 135	9,420
Compared to 1st Qtr 2004:		1,483		\$ 188,460	127	\$ 127	8,886
New and Recent Construction							
1	W. 32nd	2,932	2002	499,500	55	170	13,120
1	W. 34th	2,940	1989	340,000	369	116	10,978
4	Alba	2,498	2003	319,000	297	128	7,200
4	Lamonte	2,412	2003	331,900	272	138	8,034
	Average:	2,696		\$ 372,600	248	\$ 138	9,833
Compared to 1st Qtr 2004:		3,054		\$ 409,833	66	\$ 134	13,672
DOM= Days on Market. SF=Sq Feet; Information deemed reliable, not guaranteed.							
Source: MLS/Tempo, HCAD & Trish Ricklefsen's Garden Oaks Real Estate Report - 1st Qtr 2004.							

The sign of the times...

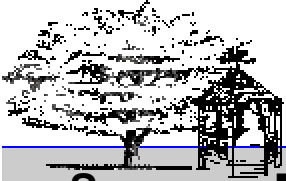
An agent you trust with results you expect!

Trish Ricklefsen, Realtor® · 281.733.1003

trish-metro@kw.com



If your home is currently listed for sale, this is not a solicitation. Information is deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Source: MLS/Tempo



February 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1) Civic Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. Tuesday	2	3) Historical Designation mtg. 7 p.m. @ Kroger	4	5
6	7	8	9	10) GO COP Training	11)	12) Workday Rose Garden 9 to noon, Lawrence & 34th St.
13	14) Valentine's Day	15) Newsletter Deadline	16	Garden Club Meeting	17	18
20	21	22	23	24) GO COP Training	25	GO Elementary Pancake breakfast 8 to 10 am.
27	28					

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

2005 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