Volume 29 No. 3

The Garden Oaks

Gazette

President's Message

Sheila Briones, 2006 Garden Oaks Civic Club President

REPRESENTATIVE BOHAC AT MARCH 7th CIVIC CLUB MEETING

Texas State Representative Dwayne Bohac, District 138, will be speaking at the March 7th Civic Club meeting. He will be addressing issues that have a direct impact on our neighborhood and also bringing us up-to-date on what's happening at the legislature. Q & A will follow. This is your chance to meet Representative Bohac and let him know what's important to you.

Mark your calendar for the March 7th meeting beginning at 7 p.m., Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria, 901 Sue Barnett @ Garden Oaks Boulevard.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CIVIC CLUB SECRETARY

Warren E. Carlson, Section 2 resident, has stepped forward to accept the position of Civic Club secretary due to the resignation of Gale Gorman.

Warren has been a resident of Garden Oaks since 1998 and has served in many volunteer capacities including serving on the 2002 & 2004 Home & Garden Tour committee. He is in the court reporting business. Welcome, Warren!

As for Gale, his resignation is due to the fact that he is taking classes that conflict with Civic Club meetings. Gale, good luck with your classes and thanks for your support!

ROSE GARDEN WORKDAY

Thank you to all the volunteers that showed up at the Rose Garden workday on Saturday, February 11th to

weed, plant rosemary, trim back crepe myrtles, and cut back the roses. Volunteers showed up after eating a hearty breakfast at the Annual Pancake Breakfast at Garden Oaks Elementary. "Thank you" goes to Ann Best, Ed & Brenda de Alba, Michael Dreiss and daughters, Audrey & Emma, Tami Earl, Wayne Forster, Jesse Lopez, Cheryl Pressley, Gwen Reed, Leslie Saunders, and Renee Shaver. Your help was invaluable!

THE SHOPS AT OAK FOREST

Have you been wondering what was going on with the shopping center at the corner of Ella and W. 43rd? According to GlobeSt.com, a real estate web site, the shopping center was bought by local firm, Wellington Development Company, and its equity partner, Eastbourne Investments Ltd. of Williamsville, NY.

The 53,000 square foot Shops at Oak Forest was bought for a redevelopment project at an expected cost of \$8 to \$10 million. Construction is scheduled to begin in the second guarter and completion slated for Summer 2007. A mix of restaurants, a bank, dry cleaners and other types of neighborhood-type tenants is scheduled to go in the shopping center. The leasing agent is Josh Jacobs of Page Realty Partners Ltd. in Houston. Fernando Brave of Brave Architects, also from Houston, is designing the center. A general contractor has not been determined.

If you would like to see the plans go to the following website:

http://www.page-partners.com/flvers/43rdElla/43rdElla.htm



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Next Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, Mar. 7th

The next Civic Club meeting will be on Tuesday, March 7th at 7 p.m. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria, 901 Sue Barnett @ Garden Oaks Blvd. Babysitting services are available at a cost of \$1.00 per child. Hope to see you there!

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Garden Oaks Gazette

2006

Garden Oaks

Home & Garden Tour Preview Party

Celebrating
"A Walk Thru theOaks"
at the delightful

Indian Summer Lodge& October Gallery605 ColumbiaHouston, Texas 77007

Saturday, April 22, 2006 7:00 -11:00 pm

Heard Under the Oak Tree *Terry Jeanes*

Welcome new neighbors who recently joined the neighborhood.

 235 West 30th
 967 West 41st

 950 West 43rd
 432 West 32nd

 1031 West 41st
 978 West 42nd

 741 West 38th
 523 West 33rd

 1334 Sue Barnett
 706 West 39th

 4232 Apollo
 216 West 30th

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

Congratulations on these Birthdays and Celebrations ...

Sydney Grace Null 3/3, Lori Kennedy 3/5, Taylor Crownover 3/8, Dodie Davis 3/11, George Appling 3/13, and Curtis Hall 3/15.

New Arrivals....

Greta Therese Siegel arrived 8 am on January 27 weighing in at 8 lbs. 8 oz and is 19 1/2 " long. Proud parents are **MT Herring and Vincent Siegel**.

Our thoughts are extended to the families of

Bobbie Feak who passed away in January and **David Debien** who passed on January 13th.

Recent Travels...

Dian Austin and Sandy Altman just returned from a recent vacation on a 7 day Caribbean cruise aboard one of Windstar cruise lines 440 foot motorsail-yachts. Touring various islands in the US and British Virgin Islands, and the French West Indies. While in St. Maarten, they participated in a regatta aboard one of the actual America's Cup sailing vessels!

To highlight an event or celebration or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or terry@terryjeanes.com.

Garden Oaks Civic Club February Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Gale Gorman, Brenda de Alba, and Terry Jeanes

WELCOME

Meeting was convened in the cafeteria at Garden Oaks Elementary School. President Sheila Briones opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

First item on the agenda was approval of minutes for the January meeting. Minutes were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike Dishberger then presented the treasurer's report dated 1/1/06 thru 1/31/06.

COMMENTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS

Ms. Emily Thomas, new Principal of Garden Oaks Elementary School, was introduced and reported that a new playground would be built on the space occupied by the portable buildings. She also told us that new playground equipment was on order for the SPARK Park.

Wes Krueger, Neighborhood Liaison with State Representative Dwayne Bohac's office, spoke briefly and brought the membership up-to-date on what was happening in Austin. Governor Rick Perry will call a special legislative session after the March 7 elections. Session will convene mid-April or at the end of May to solve school financing. Representative Bohac's office is located at 2600 Gessner, Suite 212 and the office number is 713-460-2800.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification: Brenda de Alba offered the Beautification Committee report and announced upcoming workdays. She made a plea for money to help Garden Oaks Elementary School with their butterfly garden that will be featured in the 2006 Home & Garden Tour. Membership voted to give \$200 to this effort.

Constable Program: Terry Jeanes reported on the Constable Program. Deputy Smith was absent and instead Terry introduced three officers representing HPD and the Constable's office who brought us up-to-date on crime stats in the neighborhood. They were Lt. Carlos Roig, Officer Steven Skeidi, and Officer J.B. Ebdon.

New member, Gil Evans, Section 1A resident, expressed her concerns regarding the wave of crime that's taking place at the Carter's Grove apartment complex on W. 43rd. She lives across from the complex and has seen various forms of crime activity taking place and is seeking the support of the Civic Club to help reduce these activities. It was decided that a Civic Club contingency made up of Terry Jeanes, Sheila Briones, Gil Evans, and Carl Waters would attend the February 22nd PIP meeting to cover this subject with the HPD Captain at the W. Montgomery substation to secure his help in this matter.

Gazette: Sue Schmidt announced that the February issue of the Gazette had been delivered. They are in need of several deliverers.

GO Citizens Patrol: Carl Waters appealed for volunteers in his report on Garden Oaks Citizens Patrol. He also reminded everyone that the next PIP meeting was Tuesday, February 22, 7 p.m. at the 9455 West Montgomery Rd. substation. PIP stands for Positive Interaction Program, an HPD community service program. The PIP holds monthly meetings featuring speakers from different HPD divisions, explaining how their divisions work. Crime statistics are also given out at these meetings.

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Garden Oaks Civic Club February Meeting Minutes Submitted by Gale Gorman, Brenda de Alba, and Terry Jeanes

GardenOaks.org Web Site: Joe Muscara had no report.

Home & Garden Tour: Sue Schmidt asked for sponsors for the Home and Garden Tour. She expressed concern over transportation and it appears Metro will come through once again with trolleys. She announced the theme, "Pathways Through the Oaks."

Membership: Dian Austin was not able to attend tonight's meeting but did turn in the latest number of paid civic club members at 260.

Garden Club: Chris Lindsay gave a brief report on the Garden Club's activities. Next meeting is scheduled tomorrow, Wednesday, February 8.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

Terry Jeanes presented the Good Neighbor Award to Oscar Ochoa of OD's Printing. Oscar has been a tremendous supporter of the civic club for many years, active member of St. Rose of Lima Parish and a supporter of Garden Oaks Elementary through in-kind donations. Award was a gift certificate to Tony's Mexican Restaurant, a favorite of Oscar and his wife, Bea.

GOMO REPORT

Ed de Alba announced that GOMO will review plans immediately after the Civic Club meeting. He also announced the resignation of Sheila Briones as Section 1 GOMO Director. Ed thanked her for her volunteer service on the Board. Nominations are now being taken to replace Sheila. Anyone interested should contact Ed. Next monthly meeting is scheduled Wednesday, February 15 at the GOMO offices, located on the second floor of the GO Professional Building.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BYLAW REVISIONS

Lori Kennedy and Sheila Briones opened the floor for discussion on the proposed changes to the bylaws.

After much discussion a motion was made by Alex Martinez to delay the vote on the proposed changes until May. Motion was seconded by Trish Ricklefsen. Motion carried.

Sheila then appointed Alex Martinez, Trish Ricklefsen, Frances Schwartz, John Bartos, and Chris Lindsey to a Bylaw Revisions Task Force to assist Lori Kennedy with the proposed revisions. Lori will chair this task force. Additional members may be appointed by the President.

NEW BUSINESS

Sheila announced the resignation of Gale Gorman as Secretary of the Civic Club. Gale has signed up for classes which conflict with the Civic Club meeting schedule. Gale expressed his thanks to the Civic Club (through a handwritten note) for allowing him to serve as secretary. If anyone is interested in the Secretary position, please contact Sheila.

Attendance was 45.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Thanks to Terry Jeanes of Re/Max Metro for providing drinks and cookies and to Trish Ricklefsen for the pizza.

Letters to the Editor

The opinions expressed therein are those of the writer and are not necessarily the opinions or views of the Garden Oaks Civic Club or any particular member or members, other than its author. These letters have not been altered in any way and are being printed as they were received.

After reading "A Letter to the Editor ---- Maybe It's Time" in the February Gazette, I was outraged by Mr. Martinez's ignorance of, and blatant discrimination for, the gay and lesbian members of our community. First of all, being gay does not correlate to wife swapping or three-way sex anymore than being heterosexual correlates to these activities. Mr. Martinez obviously does not understand that being gay or lesbian denotes a preference for a same-gender life partner, just as being heterosexual denotes a preference for an opposite-gender life partner, and not an endorsement for the pursuit of unconventional group sexual activities. Indeed, gays and lesbians are just as likely as heterosexuals to practice celibacy or monogamy.

He states that not only does he disapprove of the notice for the Gay and Lesbian Social Club in January's Gazette, that the notice was "insulting and inappropriate for our neighborhood newsletter." Hogwash. My husband and I purchased our home in Garden Oaks nearly ten years ago to live in a neighborhood of diversity and community spirit and we have not been disappointed. That our neighborhood is made up of old people, young people, all races and ethnic backgrounds, varying socio and economic backgrounds, gays and straights, dogs and cats, blondes, brunettes and redheads (well, you get the picture) is a true representation of a *real* community.

The purpose of defining the "Gay and Lesbian Social Club" as such is no different than organizing a "Garden Club" whereas one would expect gardeners to gather, or a "Joggers Group" which would entice joggers to congregate. Would Mr. Martinez have been offended if the email address printed had been "gohetero…" in lieu of "gohomo…" Unlikely. Mr. Martinez found that the support for the notice by President Briones, Terry Jeans and the de Albas "disturbing, disappointing and unacceptable," and he goes on to say that when he sees "words like gay, lesbian and homo" that he thinks of sex or

people having sex. *Really*? I find *that* disturbing. *Very* disturbing. And to compare organizing a monthly potluck supper to a "White Supremacy Social Club" is abominable! He asks "Do you get the picture? Do we really need to go down this road?" Yes, Mr. Martinez, we desperately need to go down this road, if for no other reason than to stop your discrimination of our neighbors and to plead with you to not breed hate or contempt for them. Mr. Martinez also asks "Do you want your dues money and other contributions to be used in this manner?" Yes! Yes I do! He also states that he doesn't see the benefit in the civic club promoting distinctions between groups when we should be an all inclusive organization. Who is he kidding? He blatantly suggests that the members of our community that are gay or lesbian about nothing more than sex, then he suggests we should have higher standards, and then lectures us on being all inclusive. Well Mr. Martinez, the proof that we are being all inclusive is in the printing of the notice in the Gazette. If you wish to live a milquetoast life, perhaps you should move to the suburbs.

Susan Adkins Section 1A

Dear Editor.

When my husband and I decided to move into Garden Oaks, we were excited about how this neighborhood embraced the diverse groups that make Houston the remarkable city that it is. We were both distressed by the message in the Gazette last month from Mr. Martinez.

I was saddened to read how a member of our neighborhood aggressively attacked some of my (and his) neighbors. Minority groups have made this city and area a wonderful place to live and this editorial was a disheartening display of discrimination within my own neighborhood. Whether it is due to race, religion, sex or even personal preference, discrimination has left scars on cultures and races for centuries. I hope that this passes from our neighborhood and leaves no such reminders.

Amber Graham Section 1 Resident

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gigrunge@houston.rr.com

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tprince@fbba.org

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Blake Woods (2006)

Home: 713 680-9277

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bwoods@cricket-wood.com

Terms expire at end of October of the Year in parenthesis.

2006 Home & Garden Tour, Pathways Thru the Oaks

Sue Schmidt, 2006 Home & Garden Chair

Spring is just around the corner and so is the 2006 Home and Garden Tour. This month's Gazette is filled with activities preparing the neighborhood for this year's Home Tour. There will be work days in the parks spent sprucing up our "Pathways thru the Oaks". The volunteers for both the silent auction and the Preview Party are in full swing. Our sponsors have once again stepped up to support the efforts. It's our way of showing Houston just what Garden Oaks is all about!

Six homes, three gardens and the garden at Garden Oaks Elementary School will be featured Sunday, April 23rd from 12:00 until 6:00p.m. The uniqueness of Garden Oaks architecture and residents will be on display. From cottages to bungalows to traditional and new construction...we've got you covered. The personality of each owner shines through. And the gardens are in a league of their own. For more details on each home/ garden showcased this year, check out www.gardenoaks.org/ hometour.html. You won't want to miss the 2006 Home and Garden Tour.

The real fun comes in sharing what we have that is so special about Garden Oaks with our visitors. Each home and garden will need a set up crew, greeters, ticket takers, and docents. The trolley guides give a real perspective of what it means to live in Garden Oaks. Volunteers are needed in each area, and we would love to see some of our new residents participate in all the action. Each volunteer will receive a t-shirt and one tour ticket. A "Thank You" Party honoring the hard work and dedication of all the volunteers is planned following the tour. To volunteer, contact Nelda Prince at 713-694-5415.

Beginning March 25th, tour tickets will be available for \$13. Tickets will also be sold on the day of the tour for \$15. Pre-sale tickets will be available at the following locations:

Bell's My Own Cleaners 1362 W 43rd 713.680.8404

Buchanan's Native Plants 611 E. 11th St 713.861.5702

Computer Wiz 4001 Garden Oaks Blvd 713.979.4500

October Gallery 605 Columbia 713-869-0444

Olive Anne/The Pink Polka Dot 238 W. 19th St. 713.802.2021

Petrol Station 985 Wakefield 713-957-2875

Pre-sale tickets must be redeemed at the Command Center/Trolley-Bus Station located at the Garden Oaks Shopping Center, 3800 N Shepherd. Tickets will be available at the Command Center the day of the tour. Enjoy the tour by cruising the "Pathways thru the Oaks" on trolleys and shuttle buses generously underwritten by METRO. Parking will be available at the Garden Oaks Shopping Center and letting Metro "take the wheel" will help traffic flow more smoothly the day of the tour.

The best way to enjoy the 2006 GO Home Tour is to attend the Preview Party, April 22 at Indian Summer Lodge/October Gallery, 605 Columbia. The party kicks off tour weekend by honoring our home and garden owners, sponsors, and underwriters. This event allows you to preview the homes/gardens on a self guided, leisurely tour from 5 to 7 p.m. The next stop truly is a "Pathway to a Party" winding through the grounds of Bamboo Zu and courtyard of Indian Summer Lodge. Once there, enjoy a scrumptious Mexican buffet catered by Last Concert Cafe. The DJ Brothers will rock the house and prepare us for the fabulous silent/live auction that promises to have great items going to the highest bidder! If you're more the quiet type, check out the view of downtown Houston from the Skyline Balcony or people watch perched

high in the tree-house. There may even be a cozy fire to cuddle near. If you haven't checked out the fun, eclectic atmosphere of Indian Summer Lodge, it's the perfect opportunity. Ticket are \$55 and information is on the back of this issue of the *Gazette*.

Thanks you to the following **2006 Home & Garden Tour Underwriters**(as of February 15th) for all you do to promote Garden Oaks:

Rose level \$250:

Clouse Hardwood Floors

Azalea level: \$500

Terry Jeanes, Re/Max Metro

Maple level: \$1250

Shannon Nelson & Associates, Inc. All Star Construction, Inc. Hartman & Associates Harry James Building and Design

All tour proceeds benefit the community of Garden Oaks and programs including Garden Oaks Elementary, Citizens on Patrol, the Constable Program, the Gazette, and Garden Oaks beautification. What a better way to support your community and have fun doing it!



What are YOU doing on March 15th?

I know!!!! You are going to click on www.gardenoaks.org/auction and start bidding on over 50 amazing items and services donated by our neighbors and friends of Garden Oaks!!! That's right - - as of March 15th, the "auction" portion of the Garden Oaks website goes LIVE!!!! This auction is held every other year in conjunction with the Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour. (See related article this page.) It is a wonderful way to contribute to our neighborhood, have FUN as you bid AND get a lot of "good stuff" at the same time!

In addition to being able to bid, you might also want to donate, either as an individual or as a business. The GREAT part is that you can also do this on line! Just click on the "Become a Donor" link. It just takes a few minutes to fill in the needed information. Plus, if last time is any indication of the interest our little neighborhood auction generated, there will be hundreds of people looking at your information and linking to your business website as well!

We are not only interested in businesses donating, we'd also love to hear from all of you local artists and really ANYONE who has anything to contribute - - a weekend at your beach house. landscaping services, a homemade dinner, whatever you can dream up! The auction will culminate at the Preview Party on April 22nd, the evening before the Home Tour. But don't worry, just because the online bidding will have ceased, you can still win the item or service of your dreams. If you're not going to be at the party (But we really hope you WILL be there!) just let us know your highest bid for the item you want and we will assign a member of the auction committee to bid for you by proxy! What more could you ask for?

If you have any questions or wish to donate, contact Tina Sabuco, Auction Chair, at 713-692-6778 or tinamarie@houston.rr.com.

www.gardenoaks.org/auction

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Wondering About Speed Humps?

Sheila Briones

Every week I receive phone calls and emails from residents inquiring about speed humps and how to get speed humps placed on their street. As per the City of Houston Public Works & Engineering Department there is a process to follow when requesting speed humps. Following are the steps:

Step One: Request for Study. A neighborhood, single resident, or group of residents can make a request. Request must be for a specific street segment and includes the following...requested street name, boundary of the street segment, name & address of contact person, daytime phone of contact person, and signature of contact person.

Step Two: Eligibility. In order for a request to qualify for consideration, the street must meet criteria set by the Public Works Department. The Department conducts traffic studies to determine if a street meets the criteria.

Step Three: Level of Support. Once the Department determines the street is eligible, the Department will provide preliminary placement maps to contact person.

Step Four: Speed Hump Location. The Department determines the final location of all speed humps in accordance with current engineering principles, however speed humps will usually be placed between 500 to 600 feet apart; and shall not be located in front of a driveway.

Step Five: Prioritization. The Department will prioritize requests according to the following criteria...volume of speeding traffic; speed-related reported vehicular accidents; reported auto-pedestrian accidents; percent of residential land use; percent of front facing residential (as opposed to side abutting); percent of truck traffic; number of institutions on the street (schools/parks); lack of sidewalks on streets with institutions; Neighborhood-to-Standard designation; eligibility for community development funds and evidence of property owner/ resident support.

Step Six: Funding. An annual budget will be established by the Department

for construction of approved projects. Projects are scheduled for construction by priority ranking as funding permits. An eligible project may be expedited if the applicants choose to pay 100% of the estimated cost of the installation. Residents interested in applying for speed humps should download a copy of the application at: http://www.publicworks.cityofhouston.gov/traffic/humps.htm

Citizens Patrol Program Carl Waters. Jr.

Belated congratulations go out to patrollers Amanda and Robert Carlin who recently received their long over due 85 hour T-shirts and 100 hour patrol jackets. Keep up the good work y'all!

At the February Civic Club meeting a section 1 resident discussed concerns she had regarding gun fire, drug dealing and gang activity in the Carter's Grove Apartments. If you are aware of similar activities please report them to HPD. Your reports can be anonymous. You can also attend a monthly meeting with the command staff of the North Division on the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at the North Command Station located at 9455 W. Montgomery Rd. The meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

Due to computer problems the December Crime Statistics were not available at press time. I should have them for the April Gazette article.

As always inquires about joining the Citizens Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed 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
713-884-3131
All other City Services
311
Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

GOMO Plan Approval

Mike Dishberger, Jeff Toxey

The members of The Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization would like to take this opportunity to say Hello and Thank You. Hello because we are your neighbors and friends and Thank You because you have risen to the challenge of making GOMO and the neighborhood better. There are several initiatives GOMO is considering based on feedback from friends and neighbors about communicating our activities, purpose and direction.

Our mission statement is to dutifully enforce the deed restrictions in a fair and consistent manner. This consists of being familiar with the letter and spirit of the deed restrictions as they apply to the different sections. We must also know the historical context of existing variances, rebuilds, addons and violations as they are brought to our attention. Many times, this entails making a judgment call since no records exist from the original Board of Trustees organization.

We are not a secretive organization bent on wielding the deed restrictions as a weapon against our detractors to enhance our own perceived power and importance. We are a group of volunteers who enjoy this neighborhood and want to maintain the existing rules and enforce the will of the people who elected us to our positions. Any variation from this mandate would be a violation of our oath. In the spirit of enhancing dialogue with the neighborhood GOMO has decided to begin offering a series of informative articles in the Gazette to make people aware of our activities and challenges as we move forward in the life of Garden Oaks. The first in the series lavs out the process for submitting plans to GOMO, when we meet and a brief description of how plans are processed.

If you plan to build in Sections 1, 2, 3, or 5, your plans need to be approved by GOMO prior to starting the project. A City of Houston permit does not override this approval process. Please deliver 2 sets of plans to one of the board members in your Section

(see this newsletter for the addresses and phone numbers). In lieu of that, join us at one of our two monthly meetings. The meetings are directly after the Civic Club meeting at Garden Oaks Elementary and the third Wednesday of the month at the Garden Oaks Professional Building, 2nd floor. The plans are reviewed and are signed off by a quorum of the board which in most cases can be done at those meetings.

The plans should include the front, side, and rear views (or elevations) of the home or garage; a copy of the most recent survey showing the existing buildings, and a layout of how the new building will lay out on the site. This can be done on the same survey. It is important to have the dimensions for the side, front and rear building lines shown on this survey. Most surveys have the building lines and easements shown on them. Also the height of the new home or garage should be dimensioned.

Over the past few years the most common reasons for not gaining approval are:

- Dimensions were missing for the building lines, by far the most common. Most of these were corrected for the next meeting and approved.
- Height of new garage was not dimensioned versus existing home height dimension. Again, an easy fix for most.
- 3. Violation of the building lines (sorry but GOMO cannot grant variances)
- Attempts to add onto an existing viola tion. You can only add onto the non violating portion.

Porches/carports with supports in front or on the side violating the building lines. Soffit can encroach, but once a support touches the ground then it is a violation. This is also how the City of Houston interprets encroachments.

Each section has their own deed restrictions, so you will want to review those before submitting plans. In some cases specific lots have different building lines. You can view the deed restrictions at gardenoaks.org.

PIANO LESSONS

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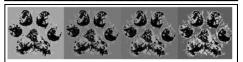
Vice President/Treasurer 713-686-6012

Mary Lynn Porter & Kathy Wahren, Secretary

Shelley Rogers, Correspondence

Terry Jeanes, Yard of the Month

Tina Nieto, Historian



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Yard Of The Month

228 West 34th The Stautbergs

Sue Schmidt

Realtor

832.563.3402





Fax: 713.802.9282

SueSchmidt@Houston.rr.com

Beautification Update Ed and Brenda de Alba

The 2006 Home & Garden Tour is rapidly approaching and we still have lots of sprucing up to do in the various green spaces so we can show Garden Oaks at its best. Please consider volunteering your time...even one hour can help us tremendously! Mark your calendars for these upcoming work days:

Gazebo Park

(Sue Barnet and W. 42nd) Captains: Carol Hazel (713-695-5358) & Bill Holden (713-691-3087)

Triangle Park (Alba and Azalea) Captain: Tina Nieto (713-956-4822) Work Day: Apr. 1st at 9 AM

Work Day: Mar. 25th at 9 AM

GO Esplanade

(Garden Oaks Blvd. and Sue Barnett) Captain: Shana Tatum (713-699-4166) Work Day: Apr. 1st at 9 AM

Randall Berm

(Randall and W. 30th)
Captain: Matt Boesler (713

Captain: Matt Roesler (713-861-5568)

Work Day: Mar. 4th at 9AM

Our first work day of the year was February 11th in the Rose Garden at 34th and Lawrence. We actually finished in record time (less than two hours) thanks to the many volunteers who showed up to help. In addition to trimming the rose bushes, we also added rosemary and liriope to the beds. The Rose Garden project was planned and executed by Janice Walden and Sheila Briones in 1999. Originally seven varieties of roses from The Antique Rose Emporium in Independence were planted during a ceremony on February 13, 1999 by a number of neighborhood residents in memory or in honor of a loved one, former residents, and even beloved pets. A rash of thefts dwindled the original number of shrubs in 2000 and additional shrubs were added in 2001 and 2005. Antique or old garden variety roses planted in the garden are Archduke Charles, Mademoiselle Franziska Kruger, Valentine, and Mutabilis. Belinda's Dream is another much more recent variety which is an excellent rose for our humid climate and labeled one of the Earthkind roses.

GO Garden Club News Chris Lindsay

The Garden Oaks Garden Club has a new meeting day for 2006. We are meeting on the second Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. Our meeting location will vary between members homes and the GOMO offices. We will do our best to get the information into the Gazette ahead of time. However, should we slip and miss a deadline, please just give one of the officers a call and we will be happy to inform you of our meeting location for that month and the topic.

We do try to have varied and interesting programs throughout the year that will appeal to a wide range of interests and level of gardeners, from the novice to the master gardeners among us. The focus of the club is to have fun and learn and grow in our knowledge of gardening.

We give back to our community by maintaining the Friendship Garden located in section one at the intersection of 30th and Lawrence Streets, assist the Garden Oaks Civic Club's Beautification Committee on their work days, volunteer to be docents for the gardens on the Home Tour and contribute to gardening projects at Garden Oaks Elementary School.

Membership is open to all. In fact, you may attend our meetings to listen to our guest speakers (7:15 - 8:00 p.m.) free of charge. If you decide to join, the cost is only \$10 for the year. Hope to see you at a meeting soon!

Our guest speaker for the March 8th meeting will be Ms. Becky Phillips on Backyard Composting. We will meet at the GOMO Offices (2nd floor of the Garden Oaks Professional Building). Social and refreshments 7:00-7:15 p.m, Speaker 7:15-8:00 p.m., Business meeting 8:15 - 9:00 p.m.

Advertising & Article Submission Guidelines

The Garden Oaks Gazette is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. It is hand delivered to 1,550 homes the first week of each month.

The Gazette's primary purpose is to disseminate information about Civic Club activities and community events.

Advertising rates are shown to the right. If you would like to purchase ad space, please contact the Editor. (See page 2 for contact information.)

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 not related to the Civic Club does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

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		
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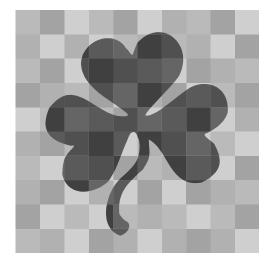
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Critter Corner Casey Farris and Mau Mau Farris

Hi neighbors! March is here which means spring and St. Patrick's Day so this month we want to talk about all things green. The most popular (300 million sold last year) dental chews, Greenies, have been in the news lately and many of you are wondering if they are digestible and if they are safe. Read below to see what Greenies founder and CEO has to say about the bad publicity. Many of you know Our Pet of The Month but did you know she likes green beans?!

Pet of the Month: "Miss March" is Sasha Louise Saunders, a Sheltie/ Collie mix who lives in Section I with her mother, Leslie. Sasha loves people and likes to make frequent stops to visit while on her daily walks through the neighborhood with her mother. They are often accompanied by Sasha's best playmate, Clyde De Alba (Border Collie). Sasha is eight vears old and loves Greenies dental bones, green beans with mashed potatoes, and green peas with brown rice. She also likes to swim and go to the Arboretum. Her favorite toy is a stuffed rat that she just got for her birthday. Sasha is a very beautiful girl and an extra special canine. Cheers to you sweet Sasha!

Critters 101: The Grill on Greenies

Greenies are a brand of green, toothbrush-shaped dog treats developed to keep dogs' teeth and gums healthy. Many of you buy Greenies and have seen how much dogs seem to like and crave them. I know lots of folks who give them to their dogs and their teeth and gums do seem to be cleaner and healthier. Lately, stories have been circulating through email and the news about dogs choking on them. I have not been able to investigate or substantiate these stories but I did want to share what Greenies has to say about this recent publicity. Joe Roetheli, founder and CEO of S&M NuTec L.L.C. (manufacturers of Greenies) responded to these reports stating that their digestibility testing showed Greenies to be 85% digestible when adequately chewed. The primary ingredient is wheat gluten, which is very digestible. It is also important to give the correct size Greenie for the weight category of your dog. Greenies are not appropriate for all dogs. The feeding directions state that Greenies should not be fed to dogs less than six months old, dogs less than five pounds, and dogs who gulp food and treats.

"Millions of Greenies are sold, and enjoyed by dogs, every week, without incident. We are a responsible company, we love pets, and we continue to educate consumers on the benefits of treating your pets to smart products with healthy benefits, as well as the importance of feeding as directed".

Many pet products – from chews to biscuits to toys – can potentially injure or sicken dogs under certain conditions and circumstances. We don't have enough information to know whether Greenies pose a greater than normal danger to dogs under ordinary use or whether we are just seeing a flux of exceptional cases. I suggest that pet owners monitor their dogs when feeding any food or treat and if you have a gulper in the house then take extra precaution.

Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services and Go Dog USA, Home of the Go Dog Social Club and Go Dog Academy @ Urban Tails. Mau Mau Farris is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@GoDogUSA.com or call 713-688-6363.



Neighborhood Safer Because of Constable Program

Terry Jeanes & Susan Love-Saranie

Become a supporter of our Constable Program for \$140 per year by turning in application form inserted in this Gazette.

Program benefits include:

- 40 hrs of our own designated Harris County Constable
- Vacation Watch by Harris County Constable your fax number
- Security Check for Insurance Discount
- Alarm Contact/ Response by Harris County Constable
- Perceived value by prospective new neighbors considering their future home in an area where the neighbors work collectively to make the neighborhood safer.

Contact Terry Jeanes with any questions at 713-812-9154 or terry@terryjeanes.com. Vacation watch forms are available at www.gardenoaks.org

Thanks to the following Constable Program Supporters (as of 2/15/06):

Section 1

Nicolaou, Starustka, Robinett/ O'Donohoe, Lewis, Lightfoot, Smith/Evans, Winford, Anderson-Wood, Hunt, Garcia, Gillliland, Davenport, Flood, Perez, Christian, Duggin, Groneman, Rosier/ Ammon, Rauch, Deaton/Sarlay, Charlton, Villman, Hickman/ Emborsky, Gomez, Dansby/Flores, Marguis, Pennington, Scott/ Sheffield, Faulkner, Waters/Ryan, Jez, Engelhardt, Bream/Lomax-Bream, A. Smith, Bewley, S. Smith, Hansen, McClard/Segotta, Ortiz, Jobe/Schwartz, Hamilton, C. Smith, Wood, Dreiss, Pressley/Best, Reed, Neathery, O'Guynn, Rahman, Capfer/Peters, Porter, Elmore, Bishop/Hutson, King/Hartts,

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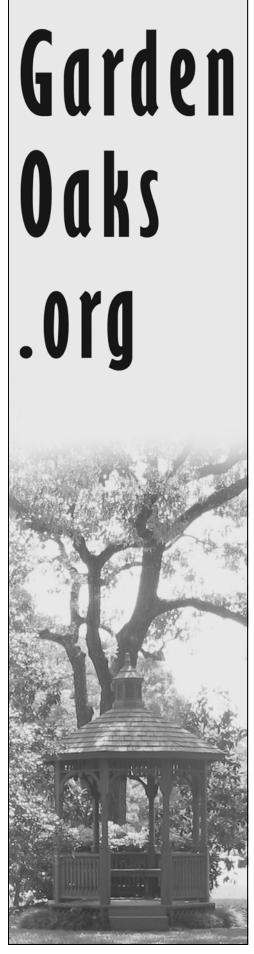
Section 4

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Section 5

Peoples, Naff, Pfeiffer-Traum, Doiron, Hester, Berend, Daly, Cronin/Sestak, Sims, Shepperd, Staffa, Terrell, Kimbrough

> CONSTABLE PRECINCT 1 DISPATCH 713-755-7628





Pancake Breakfast Warms and Feeds the Spirit of Neighborhood

Pancake Breakfast Warms and Feeds the Spirit of Neighborhood A great time was had by all at the 12th Annual Garden Oaks Montessori Pancake Breakfast with a record number of families and community members turning out to enjoy the free breakfast. Attendance was estimated at 400+ with a net profit of \$5,000.

It started out as a very chilly morning, but the smell of pancakes with warm, buttery syrup and hot coffee began to get everyone moving and by the time Tina Sabuco and Chef Sue of ARTS ALIVE! took the stage with their musical repertoire there was hardly a person in their seat, including Councilmember Toni Lawrence, State Representative Dwayne Bohac and Garden Oaks Elementary principal Emily Thomas.

The Friends of Montessori would like to thank the community for it's support not only of Saturday's event but for the many year's it has offered support to the neighborhood program. Maria Montessori's philosophy included community as a foundation from which families and children can grow in their educational journey. The Garden Oaks program strives to do this and invites interested families and individuals to get to know this local program. The money raised will help defray costs the Houston Independent School District does not cover such as teacher's aides and classroom materials.

A BIG "thank you" goes to Principal Emily Thomas, Vice Principal Kathy Drago, Kitchen Manager Ms. Tollivar, and Co-Chairs of the event, Jessica Modad and Patty Ritch. Underwriters included Glazier Food Company, Hartman & Associates, and I.W. Marks.

Montessori Program Applications Program applications are available in the school office or online at http:// es.houstonisd.org/GardenOaksES/ Apps.htm. Deadline for submission was February 28th. Children age three through 6th grade are eligible for enrollment. The school district has approved space available transfers into the program. The school will announce acceptance into the program for the 2006-2007 school year by April 10th.

Montessori Program Parent Orientation

A parent orientation is scheduled for March 23rd beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the school for all those that are applying to the Montessori Program.

Wildlife Habitat Featured at Home & Garden Tour

Our next opportunity to showcase Garden Oaks Elementary is at the April 23rd Home and Garden Tour. The school campus will be featured with emphasis on the Wildlife Habitat. A campus wide workday is planned for Saturday, March 25th. If you are willing and able, we could sure use your help!

Montessori Program Selected to be Part of Annual Conference Garden Oaks was selected to be part of the American Montessori Annual Conference. The annual meeting will feature a tour of Garden Oaks Elementary as an example of a successful public elementary school program. We are honored to host these International guests that have come to Houston for the conference. If you are interested in helping with hospitality during the tour on Thursday, March 30th, please contact the school office at 713-696-2930.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		GOMO Mtg. After Civic Club Mtg.	1	2	3	Work Day @ Randall Berm @ 9A (Randall & W 30th)
5	6	GO Civic Club Meeting @ GO Elm. School @ 7 PM	8 Garden Club Mtg. GOMO Office 7 PM	Home Tour Executive Committee Meeting	10	Work Day Friendship Garder @ 9AM
12	13	14	Deadline for Gazette Submissions	16	**	18
19	20	21	GOMO Mtg. 7 PM GOMO Office	23	24	Work Day @ Gazebo Park @ 9/ (Sue Barnett & W 42
26	27	28	29	30	31	April 1st Work Da GO Esplanade Triangle Park 9AM
		ces ranging from traffic co and neighborhood compl			311	
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Are you a ___new or___ renewing member? Do you___ own or ___ rent your house?

Amount Enclosed: ____(A)+____(B)+ ____(C) =\$ ____Total

Mail form and check to: PO Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206 **Suggestions for Monthly Meeting Topics:**

Make Checks payable to: Garden Oaks Civic Club

2006 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour Preview Party

Celebrating "A Walk Thru the Oaks" at the delightful

Indian Summer Lodge & October Gallery 605 Columbia Houston, Texas 77007

> Saturday, April 22, 2006 7:00 -11:00 pm

Each admission ticket includes:

~ Mexican Themed Dinner catered by Last Concert Café ~

~ Dancing & Music courtesy of the DJ Brothers, Silent and Live Auction for Fabulous Items ~

~ Admission for One to the Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour ~

~ Casual Attire~

~ Mexican Themed Dinner Buffet open from 7:30 pm — 9:30 pm and includes ~ Chicken Enchiladas, Shredded Roast Beef Enchiladas & Chicken Tacos al Carbon Mexican Rice, Refried Beans, Chips, Salsa & Guacamole Soft Drinks, Margaritas, Wine & Beer will be served or BYOB, if you prefer!

Reserve the date and make plans now to join us for the festive occasion!

To join us, simply follow one on the below 'paths'......

1. Complete the below form, enclose check payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club and return via mail to

Garden Oaks Civic Club c/o Amber Graham 307 W. 33rd Houston, Texas 77018

Visit <u>www.gardenoaks.org</u> , download the form and email to <u>agraham@hfh.cc</u>

Mail check to Amber Graham at the above address.

Table Name:			
Name of Contact:			
Mailing Address / City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone:			
Email:			
I/ We pledge \$ for this table to be	paid by March 31, 2006.		
Enclosed is my/our check for\$, paye	able to the Garden Oaks Civic Club	•	
I/ We are unable to attend. Please accept th			

Questions? Call Amber Graham at 832.563.1892 or email agraham@hfh.cc. You can also visit www.gardenoaks.org for Garden Oaks Home Tour details