

The Garden Oaks

# Gazette



## Home Tour Happenings

Sue Schmidt

The 2006 Garden Oaks Home Tour, *Pathways Thru the Oaks*, takes place on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from noon until 6:00 pm, and the final preparations are underway. Signs announcing the homes and gardens to be presented this year will be in place by April 1. Sprucing up our area parks continues with the efforts of the Beautification Committee and all of the volunteers who have gathered on Saturday mornings to contribute their time and expertise. The all call has gone out for volunteers, but if you are new to the neighborhood and want to jump in and help make a difference, call Nelda Prince at 713-694-5415. There are so many ways to participate. Docents (both at the houses and on the trolleys), ticket takers at the individual homes/gardens, and helping the Set Up Committee, are just some of the ways you can help. All funds raised through the Home Tour go back into the community. Our Beautification Committee, the *Gazette*, the Constable Program and Garden Oaks Elementary are recipients who stand to benefit from the proceeds of a successful 2006 Home Tour.

The sponsors this year have *really* stepped up to make it a record setting event. Through the hard work of Susan Kostelecky, Underwriting/Sponsorship Chair, a revamped system of sponsorship has raised the level of participation area businesses have made. Whether you are painting, roofing, remodeling, buying or selling a home, dining, shopping or re-decorating, please support the sponsors who have stepped up to generously support our community (see sponsors on page \*). Let's say thank you to all who have donated generously. These businesses and supporters help make Garden Oaks the great neighborhood it is.

The weekend of activities will begin on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the Preview Party and the Silent/Live Auction. From 5 to 7 pm, you can take in the self guided

preview of our six wonderful homes that represent the wide range of styles and sizes of homes throughout Garden Oaks. Meander down our many "Pathways Thru the Oaks" and enjoy a leisurely tour of the homes. The preview will begin at 5:00 pm and end at 7:00 pm. All volunteers and attendees of the Preview Party are invited to participate in the home preview (to order Preview Party tickets, see back page). The Preview Party follows promptly at 7 pm and promises to be a fun evening at the eclectic and funky grounds of the Indian Summer Lodge, located at 605 Columbia. Wind through the paths of bamboo onto the grounds of the Lodge. Experience great views of downtown Houston in the "Balcony" or take in some dinner and music in the "Treehouse". Of course, everyone needs to take home at least one of the great items being auctioned off in both silent and live auctions. The Auction Committee has been working tirelessly to come up with some fantastic items to bid on. We appreciate all of the many donors who have helped to make this happen.

Our very own Tina Sabuco, Auction Committee Co-Chair, will serve as auctioneer, and there are romantic get-aways, weekends at the lake, and other adventures to be enjoyed by the highest bidder. Can't make the party? Don't worry, we have it covered. You can bid now online at [www.gardenoaks.org/auction](http://www.gardenoaks.org/auction). Bidding will continue until Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 pm. Proxy bidding will be allowed at the party, so contact Tina Sabuco or Becky McCullough to make arrangement for your "highest bid" to be placed on your behalf! Tickets to the Preview Party are \$55. This includes a Mexican feast catered by Last Concert Cafe, beer, wine, margaritas, dancing to music provided by the DJ

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### Next Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, Apr. 4th

The next Civic Club meeting will be on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 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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## Home Tour Happenings *Continued*

Brothers, *and* the live and silent auction. And again, if you are new to the neighborhood, don't be shy...come join the fun and meet your neighbors for a fantastic celebration of "Pathways Thru the Oaks". We would love to see you there! On Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Garden Oaks residents will once again put their best foot forward to showcase Houston's best kept secret. Our winding streets, inviting parks and beautiful gardens will welcome visitors from all over Houston. The Command Center at Garden Oaks Shopping Center on N. Shepherd will once again be the starting point for the 2006 Home and Garden Tour. Pre-Sale tickets are available at several different locations (see page \*) and must be exchanged at the Command Center for the Day of Tour ticket. Ample parking is available and METRO has once again generously underwritten a large portion of the costs of trolleys and buses. This will help to alleviate traffic congestion and keep the buses/trolleys running smoothly.

The six homes, three gardens and the Garden Oaks Elementary School garden will let visitors experience the wide variety of homes and gardens in our community. The selection of homes and gardens this year represents the great diversity in our neighborhood. From an original footprint to renovated cottages and bungalows to newer construction, this year's homes have it all. The gardens run the gamut as well. From a butterfly garden filled with unusual plants to a native wildlife habitat to the outdoor oasis of an active, social family—the gardens represent the owners' love of life and nature.

Sunday evening, immediately following the Home Tour, the many volunteers that have made all of this possible will meet at Bob and Debbie Driver's home at 1341 Sue Barnett for a great big Thank You Celebration. This Volunteer Party will take place from 6 to 8 pm and will honor all of those who do so much to make Garden Oaks a great place to live.

All in all, it promises to be a whirlwind weekend for all of us who call Garden Oaks home. I want to encourage all of you to get online today and register to bid on the many auction items available ([www.gardenoaks.org/auction](http://www.gardenoaks.org/auction)), get a group together and come to the Preview Party (see the back page for details), and call your friends and families to come to the Home and Garden Tour (see page \* for pre-sale ticket locations). Put the word out and let's have the best, most profitable Home Tour ever. It benefits each and every one of us!

## Heard Under the Oak Tree *Terry Jeanes*

**Welcome new neighbors who recently joined the neighborhood.**

<b>235 West 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1479 Sue Barnett</b>
<b>1058 West 43<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>1034 West 41<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>927 West 41<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>1067 West 42<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>408 West 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>851 Azalea</b>
<b>871 West 41<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>858 West 42<sup>nd</sup></b>
<b>527 West 33<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>1011 Gardenia</b>

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

**Congratulations** on these **Birthdays and Celebrations** ....**Keith Kos-telecky**, the 9<sup>th</sup>, **Melissa Neisser**, the 10<sup>th</sup>, **Lily Claire Bowman** the 18<sup>th</sup>. also celebrating this month **Craig Lee** and **Robert Deveau**.

Belated Birthday wishes to **Kenneth Santos** 3/14 and a very special belated wish to **Howard England** who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on February 11<sup>th</sup> with family, friends, and neighbors.

Belated anniversary wishes again to **Mark & Susan Saranie** 3/24 and good wishes to

**Tina Sabuco** and **Shelly Arnold** 4/6.

Garden Oaks Elementary students and children got a treat when the trailriders made a stop at Sears Parking lot on Friday February 24<sup>th</sup> on their journey to Memorail Park.

**Christopher Knauth** (age 2), son of **Rick and Tonya Knauth**, really enjoyed his visit atop one of the wagons.



To highlight an event or celebration or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).

# Garden Oaks Civic Club March Meeting Minutes

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

## WELCOME

The meeting was convened in the cafeteria of the Garden Oaks Elementary School. President Sheila Briones opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

## NEW CIVIC CLUB SECRETARY

Following the February resignation of Secretary Gale Gorman, Warren E. Carlson was introduced to assume the position.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Vice President Chris Schmidt moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting as printed in the March Gazette. The motion was seconded by Sandy Altman and the minutes were approved by the members in attendance.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

A Profit & Loss Statement dated January 1, 2006 through February 28, 2006 was made available to the members in attendance.

## COMMENTS FROM SPECIAL GUEST

Vice President Schmidt introduced the guest speaker, Texas State Representative Dwayne Bohac (R), District 138. Representative Bohac's presentation entailed efforts and accomplishments from the recent legislative session, as well as addressed and answered questions on matters of entitlements, traffic laws, border control, immigration, property taxes and appraisals, hurricane evacuations and relief, and railroad noise. President Briones presented Representative Bohac with a Certificate of Appreciation.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification Committee Co-Chair Ed de Alba reported the recent workday activities at the neighborhood green space affectionately known as "Berm Park" (Randall Street @ West 30<sup>th</sup> Street), as well as announced the following upcoming workdays: "Friendship Garden" on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>; "Gazebo Park" (Sue Barnett Drive @ West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street) on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>; and "Triangle Park" (West 34<sup>th</sup> Street @ Lawrence Street) on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. All three upcoming workdays will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Constable Program Chair Terry Jeanes explained that the participant list in the previous Gazette was up to date only as of the Gazette submission deadline. Inadvertently, any newly joined members may not have been listed. The Vacation Watch form is available online (at <http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/VacationWatch.pdf>). Constable Smith reported recent criminal activity in the neighborhood.

Garden Club President Chris Lindsay reported their next meeting would be Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> in the GOMO office (4001 North Shepherd Drive, Suite 216) beginning at 7:00 p.m. Future meeting locations will alternate between members' homes and the GOMO office.

Citizens on Patrol Chair Carl Waters, Jr. informed members in attendance that reported crime in the neighborhood area has declined 15% from last year. President Briones and Gil Evans attended the February 22<sup>nd</sup> PIP meeting with the HPD Captain at the West Montgomery substation to discuss criminal activity at the Carter's Grove apartment complex on West 34<sup>th</sup> Street.

GardenOaks.org Co-Chair Joe Muscara announced on March 15<sup>th</sup> the website will begin the online auction in support of the 2006 Home & Garden Tour. The online auction will continue until the Friday before the tour.

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## Garden Oaks Civic Club February Meeting Minutes

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

Anyone interested in donating items to be auctioned should contact Silent & Live Auction Chair Tina Sabuco ([tinamarie@houston.rr.com](mailto:tinamarie@houston.rr.com)).

2006 Home & Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 6:00 p.m.

Membership Chair Dian Austin reported 275 currently paid households.

### TASK FORCE REPORT

Committee Chair Lori Kennedy reported that proposed bylaw revisions are under way and will be submitted to the Civic Club Officers prior to the April Civic Club meeting. The bylaw revisions are scheduled to be put to vote before members in the May Civic Club meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS

Civic Club meeting reminder sign distribution is being coordinated by Tina Parks.

### NEW BUSINESS

A new shopping center is under construction at Ella Boulevard @ West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. It was reported that The Oak Forest Homeowners Association is concerned with controlling which businesses occupy the new retail space.

**Due to a conflict with the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, the Garden Oaks Civic Club will not meet Tuesday of that week. Instead, the Civic Club will meet Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> for its monthly meeting.**

President Briones requested volunteers to coordinate the July 4<sup>th</sup> neighborhood bicycle parade.

President Briones requested volunteers to assist Carl Waters with National Night Out happenings on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Garden Oaks Elementary School Principal Emily Thomas reported that City of Houston Council Member Toni Lawrence has engaged in efforts to regrade Sue Barnett Drive along the school property.

Principal Thomas reported that HISD is considering the Garden Oaks Elementary School SPARK Park for improvements.

### DOOR PRIZE

Mary Martinez won a gift certificate to Home Depot.

### ATTENDANCE

The meeting was attended by 19 members, including newcomers Nate and Laurie Miller.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

### THANK YOU!

Terry Jeanes of Re/Max Metro graciously provided refreshments.

# Dial-up VS High Speed Internet Access

Jonathan Lanz

Many people are switching from dial-up internet services to high speed direct access services such as DSL, and cable. It has been predicted that by 2005 only 8% of internet users will be using dial-up services. The following is a brief explanation of the differences between the four types of service. Several helpful links are contained in this article.

**Direct Dial-Up.** Most internet users who are reading this article are using a dial-up service. The fastest speed available for a dial-up connection is 56kbps (If your modem is less than 56k, then you're probably waiting a very long time for most web pages to load). Here's why you may want to consider switching from dial-up:

You don't want to tie up your phone line whenever you're on the internet.

You'd like your web pages to load faster, or your internet connection is often slow.

You'd like to be connected to the internet as soon as your computer boots up, rather than waiting while your dial-up service makes the connection.

**DSL (Digital Subscriber Line).** DSL offers a direct connection to the internet and is not a dial-up system. It works through your phone line, but uses a different frequency than your phone calls so that your line is never tied up when you're on the internet. Connection speeds may vary between service providers, but are usually faster than dial-up services. You don't have to wait to connect to the internet, as you do with dial-up. With most DSL services, you are automatically connected whenever your computer boots up. DSL services are not available everywhere, although that's quickly changing. If you're not sure if it's available where you live, then inquire with the DSL service provider of your choice.

**Cable Modem.** This type of service connects you to the internet by linking your computer to the cable fiber-optic/coaxial network of your cable TV provider. This type of internet connection is a strong competitor of DSL services, offering comparable speeds and direct connection. If cable TV is not available in your area, than cable modem service is not available, either.

**DSL vs. Cable:** Cable connections may slow down during peak periods when there are many people in your area using the internet, or as the number of cable users in your area increase. There are times, however, when DSL may slow down, too. Also, keep in mind that if you're using a cable modem, your internet connection will go out whenever your cable TV does. However, DSL may also experience some down time. You don't have to subscribe to cable TV to get cable modem service; however, if you want to have both you might want to find out whether your local cable service offers a package deal.

**How do you select a particular service provider?** One of the best ways to select a service is through the recommendation of a neighbor or a friend who lives nearby. When you ask your friends about their experience with ISP's (internet service providers), keep in mind that the services of any provider may vary in different neighborhoods; thus, your friend who lives on the other side of town may have a different experience than you would have in your neighborhood with the same provider. One of the reasons for this is the distance between your home and the central office providing the service. The following web sites could be useful in helping you make a choice:

- <http://www.dslreports.com/tools> Check out their Reviews section; be sure to type in your zip code and hit the "enter" button on your keyboard to get reviews by people in your area who are using the various services. The site also provides other useful information.
- <http://thelist.internet.com/> Provides a list of internet service providers in your area.
- [Our ISP comparison chart](#)

**Free Emergency Dial-up Service:** Some people who use high-speed access subscribe to one of the free emergency dial-up services found on the internet. The only "catch" to using such a service is that you have to put up with their advertising banners, which isn't so bad in the event of an occasional "emergency" when your regular service goes out. Check out the following site for further information: <http://addlebrain.com> offers reviews of the major free internet service providers and tips for getting the most out of them.



## GOMO Board of Directors

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

## President's Message

Sheila Briones

### IDENTITY THEFT TO BE COVERED AT APRIL 4th CIVIC CLUB MEETING

Did you know that identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America? According to a Federal Trade Commission survey, 9.9 million victims were reported last year!

*Are you a victim of identity theft? Have you had something like this happen?* You get a phone call or letter telling you that you have been approved or denied credit for accounts that you never requested. You no longer receive your credit card statements, or you notice that some of your mail seems to be missing. Your credit card statement includes charges for things you know you never bought. A collection agency tells you they are collecting for an account you never opened. If you notice anything like this, it's possible you've become a victim of identity theft.

If you would like to know more about identity theft, mark your calendar to attend the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting beginning at 7 p.m. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria located at 901 Sue Barnett @ Garden Oaks Boulevard. Deputy Sam Cerda with the Harris County Sheriff's Office will be our featured speaker.

### A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

I am currently looking for volunteers to chair the following neighborhood events:

#### *July Bicycle Parade*

Young and old alike on "red/white/blue decorated" tricycles, wagons, bicycles, strollers, and golf carts come to support the July Bicycle Parade which is scheduled around the July 4<sup>th</sup> holidays in front of the SPARK Park. Other parade entries have included a Hippo-automobile, a classic Unimog, a 1972 Oldsmobile 442, art cars, and a restored Studebaker. Planning for this event begins in May and is overseen by a committee of 3-4 volunteers. Funds to underwrite event come from various neighborhood sponsors.

### **Tuesday, August 1st National Night Out**

National Night Out (NNO) involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic clubs, businesses, neighborhoods, and local officials and is designed to generate support for local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships and best of all, it sends a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

NNO is celebrated with a variety of activities such as block parties, cook-outs and visits from local police, sheriff and constable departments. The NNO Chair would be responsible for:

1. Keeping a log of scheduled block parties
2. Registering block parties with constable office
3. Promoting NNO to local print media. A "how to" kit is provided filled with promotional ideas, guidelines, tips, camera-ready art and sample news releases.

Contacting and scheduling local law enforcement and elected officials to stop by each block party to say "hello" and answer questions.

If you are interested in chairing either the July Bicycle Parade or National Night Out, please contact me by sending me an email at [sbriones@hotmail.com](mailto:sbriones@hotmail.com) or via telephone at 713-861-8091.



## GOES Habitat Pond Shed Complete

by Shana Tatum

Expansion plans are moving forward at the Garden Oaks Elementary Schoolyard Habitat. A pond shed for housing planting and maintenance tools has been built and painted.

The students, administration and parents would like to thank Mike Dishberger from Sandcastle Homes for his generous donation of materials valued at \$1,000. This enabled the team of dads, Robert Johnson, Howard Hanson, Glenn Zimmermann, Gene Ritch, Mark Steadham and Jay Tatum, to build this structure.

The PTA is currently stocking the shed with child-size equipment to help maintain and experience the pond habitat that was certified by the Wildlife Federation as an official schoolyard habitat in 2003.

GOES is on schedule to build out Phase II of the habitat: an orchard of citrus trees. Thanks to a generous donation of \$200 from the Garden Oaks Civic Club and \$250 from the Garden Oaks Garden Club, the school is well on it's way to buying good quality trees and materials to enhance the outdoor learning of GOES students.

Boy Scouts of America has teamed up with GOES to make the orchard part of an Eagle Scout project under the direction of Chris Roberts. Chris is a Montessori program alumni currently excelling at Lamar High School.

Vena Golt and Helle Johnson deserve a big "Thank you" for coordinating and planning the orchard expansion. Through a campus wide student and parent workday along with Waltrip High School volunteers, the school and habitat will be cleaned up in time for the April 23rd Home Tour. Make your plans to stop by GOES while on the Home Tour. We look forward to meeting you!



**CUTLINE:** Ms. Friedman and her 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class with a banner they created to say "Thank You Sandcastle Homes". Ms. Friedman is the lead teacher for habitat teaching and curriculum at GOES.

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**Diana Tarley**



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**Citizens Patrol Program**  
*Carl Waters, Jr.*

Belated congratulations to Woody Mehrkam and his lovely bride Lucille who recently celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Did anyone else catch the announcement of this very special event by Marvin Zindler on the Friday evening news?

The December crime statistics were published by HPD in late January they reflected eight reported incidents for the neighborhood during the month. This brought the total for the year to 83 down from 98 in 2004 or approximately a 15% reduction in crime in the neighborhood. The downward trend continued in 2006 as the January report indicated three reported crimes in the neighborhood down from five in 2005. The details follow.

- December (8):
- Burglary (3):  
 1000 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. (residence).  
 300 block of W. 31<sup>st</sup> St. on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. (residence).  
 1000 block of Althea Dr. on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at Midnight (residence).
- Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (4):  
 3100 block of North Shepherd Dr. on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. (restaurant parking lot).  
 1000 block of Althea Dr. on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:24 p.m. (driveway).  
 1500 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. (driveway).  
 900 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. (elementary school).
- Auto Theft (1):  
 800 block of W. 34<sup>th</sup> St. on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 p.m. (driveway).
- January (3):  
 Burglary (1): 800 block of Azalea St. on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 a.m. (residence).  
 Burglary Motor Vehicle (1):  
 200 block of W. 31<sup>st</sup> St. on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 a.m. (street).  
 Auto Theft (1):  
 800 block of W. 43<sup>rd</sup> St. on Monday,

January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. (driveway). I received a report of lawn equipment be stolen from David Guzman Landscaping Co. in early March while they were working in the 700 block of W 38<sup>th</sup> St. Two black males, in their early 20's, driving a late model, silver, 4 door Honda or Malibu, stopped and took (2) commercial blowers from the rear of Guzman's trailer. They had removed the license plate from the rear of the car to avoid identification. If you have any information on this theft or the suspects, please contact the Precinct One Constables Office or the Houston Police Department. 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](http://GardenOaks.org) or to the COP email account at [GOCOP77018@AOL.com](mailto:GOCOP77018@AOL.com). or by phone at 713-864-1992.

- Reference Numbers**
- Emergency Services**  
911
- HPD Non Emergency Services**  
713-884-2121
- All other City Services**  
311
- Constable Dispatch**  
713-755-7628



*Deputy Richard Smith*



# GOMO Notes - Enforcement Guidelines

Ed de Alba

At a recent meeting GOMO adopted a set of Enforcement Guidelines. In the majority of remodels and new construction that we review there are no actual or potential violations that might cause us to initiate any of these procedures. On occasion, however, we have situations that require one or another or a variation of the procedures outlined below.

**Standard Procedure:** This is the normal procedure for enforcing the deed restrictions. Used where there is no immediate urgency.

First letter to homeowner. Describes the violation and asks that it be removed or remedied within a certain time period, typically within 10 or 30 days. Sent by regular mail, the letter also asks the homeowner to contact GOMO if special circumstances exist.

Second letter to homeowner. Certified letter containing statutory language giving the homeowner information about their right to a hearing before the board and warning that we will refer the matter to our attorney.

Attorney demand letter. Certified letter describing the violation and stating that a lawsuit will be filed without further notice after 30 days if the violation is not cured.

Board review. The board reviews pending legal matters at its regular meetings and decides whether to file a lawsuit.

**Emergency Procedure:** Used where an emergency requires immediate action. For example, a construction project suddenly appears which is in clear violation of the restrictions and the homeowner is working furiously to complete it before the Association has time to react.

Letter to homeowner. This "Cease and Desist" letter comes directly from the attorney and advises the homeowner that if the activity is not immediately cured a lawsuit will be filed requesting a re-

straining order or a temporary injunction.

Please feel free to contact any of the GOMO Directors to get more information on these processes or for any other concern you may have.

**Section 1 Vacancy:** We have a position open in Section 1. If you live in and own your home in Section 1 and are interested, please contact a GOMO director for a Nomination form or go to:

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

[Resources/2005GOMODirNomFormv2.pdf](#)



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**Chris Lindsay**, President  
713-819-8412

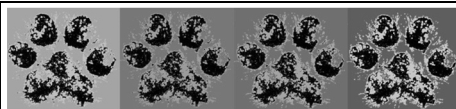
**Robert De Veau**  
Vice President/Treasurer  
713-686-6012

**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

**Tracy Peters**  
4223 Apollo

# Sue Schmidt

Realtor

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## 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:

April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am - GO Esplanade  
(Garden Oaks Blvd. and Sue Barnett)  
Captain: Shana Tatum (713-699-4166)

April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am - Triangle Park (Alba and Azalea)  
Captain: Tina Nieto (713-956-4822)

We had two workdays in March, at the Randall Berm and the Gazebo Park. On March 11<sup>th</sup> a small number of volunteers worked on the Berm cutting back the decorative grasses over the entire park and trimming, mowing and cleaning up a "city maintained" area on the North side of the berm. We also infill planted about 65 Aztec grass. A lot of work and way too few people. Of the eight who volunteered their time only 4 were from Section 1A. Hey! Where were the rest of you who wanted this park so badly and have been there in the past! A special thank you to all who helped.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> we did maintenance on the Gazebo Park. Additional plantings included Knock-Out Roses and Encore Azaleas. Many thanks to Scott Easterly and Bill Holden who have adopted the Gazebo Park as their own front yard and to the others who volunteered part of their Saturday morning to beautify a part of the neighborhood.

Please join us April 1<sup>st</sup> on the Esplanade or at the Triangle Park. We definitely need your help!

## 2006 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour Sponsors

### MAGNOLIA SPONSORS (\$2500)

- Harry James Building and Design

### MAPLE SPONSORS (\$1250)

- All Star Construction
- AMS Custom Homes and Remodeling
- Hartman & Associates
- METRO
- Shannon & Associates, Inc.
- Sue Schmidt, Keller Williams - The Metropolitan

### AZALEA SPONSORS (\$500)

- Atticus Architecture, Inc.
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- Campos Roofing
- Coldwell Banker Swilley Hudson
- Computer-Wiz
- Facundo Home Builders
- Garman Homes
- Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization
- House Painting by Hand
- Karen Derr & Associates Realtors
- METRO
- SCM Construction Services
- Termite Terrace Studios
- Terry Jeanes, Re/Max Metro
- Tony's Mexican Restaurant

### ROSE SPONSORS (\$250)

- Bos Lighting
- Centerpoint Energy
- Cindy Wingo Realtors, Inc
- Clouse Hardwood Floors
- Modern Worth & Manchewoods Design (one entity)
- The Net Church

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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		
Inserts (full page only, single or double sided) Color request extra charge.	\$300.00		

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**Garden Oaks  
Home and Garden  
Tour  
Saturday  
April, 23 2006**

## Critter Corner

*Casey Farris and Mau Mau Farris*

Hi neighbors! April is here which will bring Spring, Easter and the Garden Oaks Home Tour. March was sort of a blur for me because my best friend, work buddy, and favorite companion died. This month I take artist's license to honor my dog, Sydney, and talk about pet loss. Our pet of the month was a long-time friend of Sydney's.

**Pet of the Month:** "Mr. April" is Alex McLean. Alex is a seven year old English Springer Spaniel. He lives in Section V with his parents, Caroline and Sean, and their two children, Lucy and Josh. The McLean family is from Scotland but Alex is a native Texan so they affectionately call him "Big Al fae Texas." Alex is black and white and is a very handsome and happy guy. The McLean family is quite committed to daily walks with Alex. He also goes on their annual beach vacation. Alex loves treats and squeaky toys. At home he likes to lie on the couch and watch television. According to Alex, thunderstorms are for one thing only - snuggling. Rock on Alex!

**Critters 101: Sydney Blues Farris (October 31, 1988 – March 6, 2006)** Michael and I said goodbye to our beloved Sydney on a Monday afternoon in March. He died peacefully in his own bed, in our arms, with a smile on his face and a belly full of chicken and dumplings. He lived a long, happy life and he was ready to go to heaven. Many of you got to know him over the years and some of you knew him as that "black dog on Gardenia." After his death, Michael put a cross in the front yard near Sydney's favorite spot and many friends and neighbors put flowers and cards at the cross. It was a beautiful and awesome sight. It is proof positive that animals can and do touch many lives. We are not owners to our pets, we are family. It was an honor and a privilege to be Sydney's family.



Whether your pet dies, is lost or stolen, or must be placed in a new home, the end of that relationship can be devastating and one of the most difficult times of your life. The loss of a pet is painful, it is personal, and it is very real. When your pet dies you should expect feelings of profound loss, grief and bereavement. Grief is natural and appropriate and not unusual. To many people their pet is their best friend – perhaps their only friend. If you or someone you know has lost a pet or needs help with pre-death decision making please be aware that we offer a free class once a month on pet loss and euthanasia. You can find all the details on our website listed below.



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](mailto:Casey@GoDogUSA.com) or call 713-688-6363.

## Constable Program

Terry Jeanes & Susan Love-Saranie

It is our one year anniversary of Deputy Smith being on board as our contract deputy. A big thank you to each of you making this program possible. Garden Oaks Crime Stats for this last year to the previous year shows a 15 % drop....yes that is a Drop in crime rate. So this program definitely works. In addition to your financial support your active participation should you something suspicious is vital. You are the programs added eyes and ears. Please note as stated last month whether Deputy Smith is present or not, a call to constable dispatch at 713-755-7628 will dispatch an officer promptly. So no matter your suspicion make the call!. Our Constable Contract does make a difference and you are the difference in keeping the program active ..... **Become** a supporter of our Constable Program for the \$140 per year. Take the time now to fill out the form in the Gazette, on [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org) , or the invoice mailed in November.

### REMEMBER THESE PROGRAM BENEFITS:

- 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.


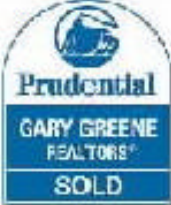
**Cost & Payment** ...The annual support fee \$140 per Less than \$ .40 per day....Less than. A cup of coffee. Simply choose one of the other two payment options, an annual check of \$140, or the draft option of \$15 per month) For any added questions, please contact Terry Jeanes, 713-812-9154, or [terry@terryjeanes.com](mailto:terry@terryjeanes.com).

Please note vacation watch forms are available on line on the [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org) website.

Here are some updated stats from

February 06.... Miles Patrolled ...1068

Verbal Warnings..2	Arrests....3
Criminal Offenses...0	Written Warnings..14
Court Citations..19	Alarm responses..0
Suspicious Vehicles..1	Vacation watches ...2




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## Garden Oaks Office


*would like to congratulate our office leader:*

### Cherry Wolfarth,

Realtor, CRS, ABR



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- 2005 Top Sales
- 2005 Top Producer



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**Don't forget the Garden Oaks Home Tour Sunday, April 23rd!**

# Going once... going twice... sold!

Brian P. O'Leary

---

As most of you already know, the Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour is April 23<sup>rd</sup>! And most of you also know that in this neighborhood, one very exciting component of the event is the auction – which, this year, has both silent and live parts.

Have you had a look at the auction website yet? If not, it's time to check it out! With over 100 items up already and many more to come, you are sure to find great deals on something interesting! And bear in mind that all auction items are 100% donated by local individuals and businesses, so every dollar you spend there goes straight back into making Garden Oaks a better place!

We've got a huge assortment of cool items! Where do you want your next vacation to be? In the Hill Country, on a lake, or on the coast perhaps? We've got all three! Check out our artwork created by local artists, autographed books, delicious meals cooked and delivered by your neighbors, collectibles, pet walking services, pet chiropractic therapy, pet social club memberships - even pet parties! Oh, and there is more! We've also got theatre tickets, window treatment consultations, photographic portrait sessions, and tons of baskets of beer, wine, sauces and candles! There is sure to be something you or a loved one would appreciate.

The website auction will be on-line through April 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00pm. All items will be on display (and winners announced) at the Home Tour Preview Party on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Indian Summer Lodge on White Oak. During that event final bids for the silent auction items from the website will be accepted and a live auction for big-ticket items will also be conducted. Oh, and don't think you'll be left out in the cold if you cannot attend the Preview Party! It is possible to submit your final bids via proxy. Refer to the website for details on how that works.





For more information about the auction, Preview Party, Home and Garden Tour, or if you just want to place a bid, please visit <http://www.gardenoaks.org/auction>. Links from there will lead you on to whatever information you're looking for!

Oh, and lastly, and perhaps most importantly, on behalf of the Auction Committee I would like to extend thanks to all of our generous donors! The following individuals and businesses have donated goods and/or services to help support our community. Support them back by patronizing their businesses! (...or if they do not run a business, hey! buy 'em a beer!) Note that these are just the 'early birds' who got involved at the beginning of the auction. For the current list, please refer to the Donors page on the website.

- Abundance - A Hill Country River Retreat (Tina Sabuco and Shellye Arnold)
- Abundance Vineyards of Lodi, California (Dino & Ron Mencarini)
- Acadian Family Dental (Dr. Eric Perkins)
- Alternative Health and Wellness Center (Jacqueline Doval, D.C.)
- Binswanger Glass (Clarence Weatherford)
- Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services and Go Dog USA (Casey Farris)
- Carter and Cooley Company (Neil Sackheim)
- Computer-Wiz
- DJ's Better Body Fitness Studio (Darrel W. (DJ) Jones)
- Eclipse Sunless Tanning (Scott Hendrickson)
- Events (Lori Reilly)
- Gabriel Tran Photography (Gabriel Tran)
- Hometown Quilters (Jan Moulton)
- Houston Zoo, Inc. (Jeanette Ludwig)
- Joshua's Native Plants and Garden Antiques (Joshua Kornegay)
- Lorenzo's El Tiempo Cantina (Blanca Lorenzo)
- Living Well Holistic Health Spa (Celena Kuhlmann & Kimberly Kruger)
- Merle Norman & Diane's Unique Gifts (Diane Morish)
- Mystery Café (Paul Hager)
- Radio Music Theatre
- Sensia Studio and Japanese Day Spa (Amy Lynch)
- SK Designs (Susan Kostecky)
- Tag's Retreat (Kevin Foley)
- termite terrace studios (Joe Muscara)
- The Pampered Chef (Paul Hager)
- Theatre Suburbia (Paul Hager)
- Dr. Lisa A. Acocella
- Dian Austin and Sandy Altman
- Cindy & John Bartos
- Sheila Briones
- Wende Clemence
- The Fairy of Flame
- Terry Jeanes
- Keith and Susan Kostecky
- Mike and Becky McCullough
- Murphy the Wonder Dog!
- Brian O'Leary and George Appling
- Tina Parks
- Robin Robinett, DVM
- Tina Sabuco & Shellye Arnold
- Leslie Saunders
- Sue Shefman
- John Smith
- Jack & Margaret Welker



# April 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		GOMO Mtg. After Civic Club Mtg.	Garden Club Mtg. At GOMO Office 7 PM For more info call 713-819-8412	Home Tour Executive Committee Meeting		<sup>1</sup> Work Day @ Triangle Park & Go Esplanade
2	3	<sup>4</sup> GO Civic Club Meeting @ GO Elm. School @ 7 PM			7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	<sup>15</sup> Deadline for Gazette Submissions
16 	17	18	<sup>19</sup> GOMO Mtg. 7 PM GOMO Office	20	21	<sup>21</sup> Home Tour Preview Party 
<sup>2</sup> Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour 	24	25	26	27	28	<sup>29</sup> 
31						

### Useful Numbers

All City Services (city information or services ranging from traffic court dates and sewer concerns to pothole problems and neighborhood complaints)

Emergency Services	311
Constable Precinct 1 Dispatch	911
HPD Non Emergency Services	713-755-7628
One Call Program (Heavy trash and more)	713-884-3131
Recycling Hotline	713-956-6589
Deeds Restriction Violations City of Houston Legal Department	713-837-9130
Toni Lawrence (District A)	713-247-2000
Dwayne Bohac	713-247-2010
John Whitmire	713-460-2800
	713-864-8701

## 2006 Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

© 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

Suggestions for Monthly Meeting Topics: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2006 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour Preview Party

## 2006 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour Preview Party



Celebrating "Pathways 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 individual 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 ~

~ Mexican Themed Dinner Buffet open from 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm and includes ~

Chicken Enchiladas, Cheese Enchiladas & Chicken Tacos al Carbon

Mexican Rice, Refried Beans, Chips, Salsa & Guacamole

Soft Drinks, Wine & Beer will be served

~ Casual Attire and Flat Shoes are Recommended~



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

To join us, simply choose one of the following options.....

1. Complete the form below, enclose a check payable to *Garden Oaks Civic Club* and return the form and check via mail to:  
Garden Oaks Civic Club  
c/ o Amber Graham  
307 W. 33<sup>rd</sup>  
Houston, Texas 77018

2. Email the information below to [acmgramham@yahoo.com](mailto:acmgramham@yahoo.com) and mail a check to the above address.

- \$10 - **Honorees** – For all long-term residents of Garden Oaks (prior to 1960).
- \$55 - **Individual** – Admission for 1
- \$330 – **Willow Oak** – Reserved Table for 6; Recognition in party program
- \$660 – **Live Oak**- Reserved Table for 12; Recognition in party program
- \$1430 – **Post Oak**- Reserved Table for 26; Recognition in party program & during festivities; 2 Additional day of tour tickets

Table Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address/ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- I/ We pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for this table to be paid by March 31, 2006.
- Enclosed is my/ our check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payable to the Garden Oaks Civic Club.
- I/ We are unable to attend. Please accept the enclosed donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Questions? Call Amber Graham at 832.563.1892 or email [acmgramham@yahoo.com](mailto:acmgramham@yahoo.com)

You can also visit [www.gardenoaks.org](http://www.gardenoaks.org) for Garden Oaks Home Tour details

