

May 2006

Volume 29 No. 6

The Garden Oaks

May

Gazette



President's Message

Sheila Briones, 2006 Garden Oaks Civic Club President

HARRIS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT (HCAD) REPRESENTATIVE AT MAY 2nd CIVIC CLUB MEETING

Did you just receive your 2006 HCAD appraisal? Did it go up 10% or more? Would you like to find out how you can file an appeal? Remember, the deadline for filing 2006 value protests is May 31st.

If you would like to know more about the process for protesting your taxes, mark your calendar to attend the May 2nd Civic Club meeting beginning at 7 p.m. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria located at 901 Sue Barnett @ Garden Oaks Boulevard.

Roland Altinger, HCAD representative, will be our featured speaker. Mr. Altinger will cover the appraisal process, equalization phase, assessment phase, collection phase and exemptions based on qualifications.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY TO ADDRESS POWER CONCERNS

Have you ever wondered what future plans CenterPoint Energy has for our area in regards to electrical distribution? Tired of transformers "exploding or popping" on a regular basis for no reason at all? How many power outage calls from Garden Oaks have been received by CenterPoint Energy during the last year? How does that compare to other subdivisions? What have been the causes to those power outages?

How is CenterPoint Energy preparing for the start of the new hurricane season, which runs June 1 through November 30? *Remember the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season was the most active in the 154 years records have been kept.....27 most named storms (beating 1933's total of 21), the most hurricanes (14, beating 1969's total of 12), and the most Category 5 storms (3). Seven storms were major hurricanes—category 3 or higher—of which a record 4 hit the U.S.*

Answers to all these questions will be covered at the June 6th Civic Club meeting by CenterPoint Energy Service Consultants Donice Shilling and Shelton Mitchell. Make plans to attend!

SPARK PARK UPDATE

If you've driven by the SPARK Park located next to Garden Oaks Elementary, you've noticed that the playground equipment is gone. City inspectors found the equipment, originally built in 1990, to be unsafe and ordered its immediate removal.

Not to worry, the equipment will be replaced by the City under a grant, being funded September 2006. Plans are to have the new playground "up and running" by Spring 2007.

I'm not sure of the total cost of the "rebuild," but Garden Oaks' contribution is \$5000, which will be raised through the combined fundraising efforts of the Civic Club, Garden Oaks

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Next Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, May 2nd

The next Civic Club meeting will be on Tuesday, May 2nd 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!

Civic Club Officers

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President's Message *Continued*

Elementary School, and the community in the coming months.

NOTE: Garden Oaks Elementary School will have two new playgrounds within their fenced-in area by the time school starts back up again in August 2006. These two playgrounds are being funded by HISD rebuild funds. One playground will be in the back area near the Pre-K and kindergarten classes. The other is in the front area where the temporary buildings were removed.

CHRIS ROBERTS TAKES COMMUNITY SERVICE TO HEART

I want to publicly thank Chris Roberts and Troop 20 of the Boys Scouts of America for being the reason why Garden Oaks Elementary School now has a beautiful orchard in place. Chris chose the Garden Oaks orchard as his Eagle Scout project because he himself attended the Garden Oaks Elementary Montessori program and wanted to give something back to the community. Of special note is that his parents, Mark and Jane Anne Roberts, helped create the Montessori program at the school. Thanks again Chris for a job well done!

(Read more about Chris and his project on page 6)

**HARRIS COUNTY
APPRAISAL
DISTRICT (HCAD)
REPRESENTATIVE AT
MAY 2nd CIVIC CLUB
MEETING**

&

**DEADLINE FOR FILING
2006 VALUE PROTEST
IS MAY 31st**

Heard Under the Oak Tree *Terry Jeanes*

Welcome new neighbors who recently joined the neighborhood.

950 Lamonte	1047 Althea
423 Sue Barnett	930 West 42 nd
943 Lamonte	1058 West 43 rd
979 Gardenia	1050 Lamont
923 West 43 rd	802 West 32 nd
823 West 42 nd	435 West 30 th
1002 Sue Barnett	527 West 33 rd

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

Congratulations on these Birthdays and Celebrations :

Nicole Marie Wibner (belated first)
March 31st

Linda Sparks & Riley Tatum
May 8th

Daniel Ostrum,
May 22nd

Mark and Elyse Farrow welcomed their new baby boy Dylan Swinton Farrow who was born on Friday March 31 at 7:43pm. He was 7.2 pounds and 19 inches
Congratulations to the Farrow household.

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



Garden Oaks Civic Club April Meeting Minutes

Warren E. Carlson, Secretary

WELCOME

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Carl Waters moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting as printed in the April Gazette. The motion was seconded by Terry Jeanes and the minutes were approved by the members in attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A Profit & Loss Statement dated January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006 was made available to the members in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification Committee Co-Chair Brenda de Alba reported the recent workdays were severely under attended. Volunteers are greatly needed to keep our green spaces looking their best. Even an hour or two from each volunteer makes a real difference. Upcoming capital improvement projects are to be announced.

Constable Program Chair Terry Jeanes made the following announcements: Stickers with the Constable's phone number are available at the Civic Club meetings. These stickers are very useful to have by the phone when an emergency arises; Year 2005 supporters who have not yet paid for 2006 will receive an email message to remind them to renew their commitment. Terry Jeanes also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Deputy Smith for his first year of service to our neighborhood.

President Briones made the announcement for the Garden Club since Garden Club President, Chris Lindsay, was not in attendance. Next Garden Club meeting will be held at the Garden Expo at 1221 West 20th Street on Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Home and Garden Tour Chair Sue Schmidt made the following announcements: Advertisement posters are displayed at various establishments around the area; Over 1,000 advertisement postcards have been mailed; The Preview Party is scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd from 5-7 p.m. at the Indian Summer Lodge (605 Columbia Street); Over 103 items are to be auctioned off. Online bidding is underway at <http://www.gardenoaks.org/auction/items/itemsforbid.php>; Volunteers are still needed for both shifts (noon to 3:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.); Metro busses will be used for the day of the tour. The Metro trolleys used in previous years are no longer in service; Tour tickets may be purchased on the day of the tour for \$15 each, or \$13 each before the day of the tour; Wine, beer, salsa, etc. donations are still needed for gift baskets to be auctioned.

Citizens on Patrol Chair Carl Waters reminded members in attendance of the importance of reporting crime. Even in the case where a suspicious vehicle had no license plate, the car might have been identified with a description of the car and/or its driver.

GardenOaks.org Co-Chair Joe Muscara reiterated that the online auction is underway and announced that the proposed bylaw revisions are posted (<http://www.gardenoaks.org/spotlight/spotlight.html>).

BYLAW REVISIONS TASK FORCE REPORT

Task Force Chair Lori Kennedy presented the proposed bylaw revisions. Members will vote on the revisions at the May Civic Club meeting.

COMMENTS FROM SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice President Chris Schmidt introduced the guest speaker, Deputy Sam Cerda of the Harris County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Cerda's presentation entailed the increasingly common crime of identity theft and many useful tips to protect oneself, including: Do not carry a Social Security ID card on one's person; Do not mail bill payments from the home address; Do use crosscut shredders to destroy any discarded financial statements; and Do review your credit report once every six months. Vice President Schmidt presented Deputy Cerda with a Certificate of Appreciation.

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527 W. 34th St.	815 Azalea
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721 W. 41st St.	1043 Gardenia
750 W. 41st St.	839 Lamonte
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Garden Oaks Civic Club April Meeting Minutes

Continued

Eagle Scout candidate, BSA Troop 20, and Garden Oaks resident Chris Roberts presented a report and exhibit of his scout project whereby he solicited and coordinated volunteers to improve a green space. Activities included planting trees, clearing a path and building an arbor. Still to come is an irrigation project for which Chris is currently accepting donations.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Garden Oaks Elementary School Principal Emily Thomas reported that the school SPARK park playground equipment will be replaced with new, safer equipment in the spring of 2007. A meeting will be held in the second week of May to plan the new playground. In addition to the funds provided by HISD for the new playground equipment, the school and its community will provide \$5,000 from fundraising efforts.

In the meantime, the playground equipment is scheduled to be removed due to safety concerns.

ATTENDANCE

The meeting was attended by members of 24 households, including newcomers Charles and Joanna Graham.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

THANK YOU!

Terry Jeanes of Re/Max Metro graciously provided refreshments.

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The Final Countdown to the 2006 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour *Sue Schmidt Home Tour Chair 2006*

As we go to press, the final preparations are underway for the 2006 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour, Pathways Thru the Oaks. The weekend of April 22nd and 23rd promises to bring beautiful weather and clear skies. Final details are being taken care of for the Preview Party and Silent/Live auctions at Indian Summer Lodge, and the welcome mat is rolled out at each of the homes and gardens!

This month's edition of the Gazette showcases our generous sponsors, auction donors and supporters. It has been a record year, by far, for their contributions to Garden Oaks. Each time you need a referral for a business, please check out the list of Garden Oaks sponsors and supporters! Make sure you tell them why you chose to do business with them and acknowledge their commitment to our community. Please tell them thank you! They all help to make Garden Oaks a great place to live!

It has been an exciting time, and everyone has been working hard. The Beautification Committee has done a wonderful job getting all of our greenspaces ready for our visitors. The homeowners have worked so hard preparing for our guests. The Executive Committee, who I want to thank so much for all of the dedication and hard work, has been outstanding. Each and every one has gone beyond the call of duty to make this Home Tour successful. In next month's edition I look forward to reporting a record setting event thanks to all the many volunteers who have stepped up to make this happen. Good things are happening in Garden Oaks!

Look in next month's
gazette for auction results
and the wonderful people
who made it happen!

Don't forget
Mother's Day
Sunday May 14, 2006

Mother's Day at The NET

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Please join us in treating Moms everywhere to a FREE evening of enjoyment at The NET. Immediately following the production, stay for coffee and desserts!

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*The Old Garden Oaks Theatre

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Cost: **F R E E !!**

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\$2/child or \$5/Family max.**

For more information:

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Home: 713 869-5623
236 W. 33rd Street
gigrunge@houston.rr.com

Jeff Toxey (2008)

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336 W. 34th Street

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ferrocem@yahoo.com

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jay.tatum@hok.com

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Lynn Sievers (2008)

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sieverslynn@hotmail.com

Richard Stark (2008)

Home: 713 691-1067
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rstark@lucasgroup.com

Section 5:

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Secretary
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malcolmtaylor@chevrontexaco.com

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timweltin@mycase.info

Blake Woods (2006)

Home: 713 680-9277
1023 W. 43rd Street
bwoods@cricket-wood.com

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

Community Service in Action

Shana Tatum & Jessica Modad

Through the dedicated work of the Boy Scouts of America under direction of Chris Roberts, Troop 20... the Orchard at Garden Oaks Elementary School has been planted. This Lamar HS Junior chose the GEOS Orchard as his Eagle Scout project because he attended the elementary school and wanted to give back to his school. Chris was one of the first students to start in the acclaimed Montessori program, a neighborhood public school program his parents Jane Ann and Marc helped create. At school and at home, Chris was introduced to community service and benefits of giving to others. Chris has grown up in Section One of Garden Oaks and has taken community service to heart all his life. Among many contributions, Chris and his brother Steven have been delivering the Gazette for years. Sister Emily is now helping them out.

Reaching Eagle Scout rank is an honor few in Scouting realize. Support from many helped Chris reach this goal. As part of the campus-wide beautification project, Saturday, March 25, Chris' group of volunteers planted 13 different fruit bearing trees, built two vine arbors along the entry path and cleaned up the existing habitat. Volunteers for this project came not only from fellow Scouts in his own troop but from other troops as well. Over 50 volunteers, including the scouts, school parents, family, friends, neighbors, and community businesses all pitched in under Chris' leadership to have this phase of the school's Wildlife Habitat completed.

The National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat at Garden Oaks Elementary School was started in 2002 by a team of five teachers. From this small few grew a dedicated group of more teachers, students, parents, and community members all wanting to realize the same vision. This habitat provides a low-cost living laboratory that gives children an understanding and appreciation of local Texas plants and animals while providing a safe haven for local wildlife. Hands on opportunities provided in the Habitat have proven results for learning at GOES.

Urban Harvest and the Garden Oaks Garden Club gave much direction to the selection and planned preparation of the Orchard. The Habitat encompasses a Pond with many varieties of wildlife such as Rough Leaf Dogwood, American Beauty Berry, Milkweed, Turk's Cap, Cardinal Flower, Salvia, and Yaupon Holly and an observation deck where you might

catch many students journaling about caterpillars on the Milkweed plants currently growing around the pond. Logs for the outdoor classroom and a new Pond Shed housing tools and supplies were completed last fall. The orchard will provide students with examples of varying fruit all suited to our climate. The next phases for the Habitat will be to install an irrigation system, a Vegetable Garden and Wildlife field followed by a Butterfly Garden. The Gardens will be adopted by the classrooms to maintain, teaching children not only about nature but the responsibilities we all have in its' survival. As these plans grow and mature, so will the young minds of GOES students. As Chris Roberts so generously demonstrated with his Eagle Scout project and leadership, he has upheld the Scout Oath to... On my honor I will do my best... To help other people at all times...



Chris Roberts is 17 yrs. Old and a IB student at Lamar High School. He was born and raised in Garden Oaks and is considering pursuing a Business Degree. He is the goalie on the Ice Hockey team, Award Winning Debater, and Senior Patrol Leader for Boy Scout Troop #20.

Constable Program

Terry Jeanes and Susan Love - Saranie

Deputy Smith was presented a certificate of Appreciation at the April Civic Club meeting for his dedication and service to the neighborhood. Since joining our community 1 year ago the Garden Oaks crime stats reviewed by Carl Waters of our Citizens Patrol program shows a drop of 15%. The program and Deputy Smith make a difference. Again a great thank you to each supporter household. If you are not...simply fill out the form available on line at <http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm.pdf>. Remember you add to the success of our program also by being extra eyes and ears and no matter the time of day if you see something unusual call Constable Dispatch - 713-755-7628 and an officer will dispatched promptly.



A parking request...Officers have requested due to the width of our streets and patrolling during various hours in the neighborhood it is very important when parking out front to pull all the way off the street as possible, it was noted especially at night in several of the Sections cars not pulled completely off the street can impede the flow of traffic and effectively be a violation.

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.

Vacation forms available at <http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm.pdf>

Here are some updated stats from March 06....

Verbal Warnings..2	Written Warnings..7
Court Citations..13	Suspicious Vehicles..3
Arrests....0	Criminal Offenses...1
Alarm responses..2	Vacation watches ...13
Miles Patrolled ...1633	

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Citizens Patrol Program

Carl Waters, Jr.

The monthly crime report for February had not been released by HPD by the press deadline for this month's Gazette. Here are a couple of items that I am aware of that happened in late March. An Armed Robbery occurred at the Exxon Station located on the North Loop feeder at Yale on the evening of March 26th. A clerk in the store was shot in the leg. I understand that a suspect has been taken into custody and the clerk is OK. Also occurring that same weekend was the carjacking of a section one resident. The person gave up their car and wallet and was not hurt. The vehicle was recovered later that night in another neighborhood. Alert residents noticed a vehicle unfamiliar to them parked on the street and called police.

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**
713-884-2121
- All other City Services**
311
- Constable Dispatch**
713-755-7628



2006 Home and Garden Tour Sponsors

Thank you for making the 2006 Garden Oaks Home and Garden Tour a record breaking success.

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2006 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour



Pathways Thru the Oaks

GOMO Notes - Enforcement Guidelines

Ed de Alba

The last several months have been busy with many new plans submitted, the defining and adoption of several processes, and the beginnings of our efforts to computerize.

Help Wanted

With all this work we've come to realize that we need help. Most organizations like ours have maintenance companies that do most, if not all, of the work done by homeowners associations. We don't believe in that. We believe that a homeowners association should be run by the homeowners themselves. That said, there is still a lot to do and we'd like to take some of the burden off of ourselves and make it the responsibility of a part-time contract employee.

Some of the duties of this position are:

- Attend Civic Club and mid-month GOMO meeting (4-6 hours)
 - Preparation for both of those meetings
 - Take meeting minutes, type them, and have the Secretary approve
 - Spend 4 hours/week, driving neighborhood looking for potential issues, taking photos, make a data base etc (GPS?)
 - File documents/plans
 - Run permit report each week to check for new permits
 - Ensure GOMO has a monthly input into the Gazette
 - Organize the office and documents
 - Write letters to homeowners when a board member is not available
- Track closings in the neighborhood and confirm with Treasurer that money has been collected

We'd like this to be a Garden Oaks person if possible. Please contact me at 713 628-7008 or gomo@gardenoaks.org if you are interested.

Director's Position Open

We still have a Director's position open in Section 1. If you are interested in joining GOMO please contact me at the number or email above. The requirements of the position are:

- Must reside in Garden Oaks
 - Must own property and live within the Garden Oaks section for the Director's position that you are volunteering to stand election for
 - All property owned in Garden Oaks must be in compliance with the Garden Oaks Deed Restrictions, excluding violations that existed before your ownership of the property
- Must sign a statement attesting to the above

The Director elected will serve the remainder of Sheila Briones' term.

Recent Plan Approvals

300 Block W. 31st – Addition
300 Block W. 33rd – Remodel and Addition
300 Block W. 34th – New Construction
800 Block La Monte – Garage Apartment
1500 Block of Sue Barnett – New Construction

As always, if you have any questions or comments please contact me or any of the other GOMO directors. Our names, phone numbers and addresses are listed in the GOMO directory on this page.



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A black and white portrait of Phyllis Oeser, a woman with short, light-colored hair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a light-colored top with a necklace.

Kitchens ★ Bathrooms
Additions ★ Roofing

STAN-CO

Home Improvements

- ★ New Construction
- ★ Remodels
- ★ Renovations

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Chris Lindsay, President
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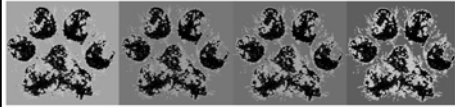
Robert De Veau
Vice President/Treasurer
713-686-6012

Mary Lynn Porter & Kathy Wahren,
Secretary

Shelley Rogers, Correspondence

Terry Jeanes, Yard of the Month

Tina Nieto, Historian



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Beautification Update

Ed and Brenda de Alba

Saturday, April 1st saw two groups working away on the Triangle Park at Alba & Azalea and on the Garden Oaks Boulevard Esplanade. Tina Nieto did the lion's share of the work at the Triangle Park with Jim Summers helping out in the afternoon. We had a fairly good turnout at the Esplanade with Kerri Epstein, Jay and Shawna Tatum, Sheila Briones, Shelley Rogers, Brenda and me, and one or two others that escape me, (my apologies to them!), working away on this very large greenspace. Additional work was also done by David Bartula's Lawn Service in the following week. We've contracted out the heavy weeding and maintenance work on the Boulevard to David Bartula to keep the beds in shape and mulched. This was something Brenda and I bid out and awarded several years ago but when we stepped down from chairing the beautification committee the contract was not implemented by our successor.

All of our parks with the exception of the Art Park at W.43rd and Sue Barnett are looking pretty good. The Art Park is the only park that has not been adopted by the neighborhood and that park gets very rough maintenance from the City of Houston.

The drought we've suffered these last two years has me thinking that improving the sprinkler systems in several of our greenspaces may be a good use of resources for the balance of the year. I'd like to automate and slightly modify the Esplanade's irrigation system, slightly modify the Triangle Park's system, add a zone around the (currently missing) sign in the Rose Garden and do a major revamp of the system in the Gazebo Park. With the addition of the Gazebo, several new beds, and damage done by people parking their vehicles major work is needed.

Many thanks to the volunteers who help keep our many green spaces among the prettiest in Houston. Please call me at 713 628-7008 if you'd like to join us.

Volunteers Needed

Sheila Briones

Volunteers are needed to chair the following Summer activities:

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 4th holidays in front of the SPARK Park. Other parade entries have included a Hippo-pautomobile, 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, cookouts 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 or via telephone at 713-861-8091.

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
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Critter Corner

Casey Farris and Mau Mau Farris

May is here and no doubt you are bare-foot or wearing sandals. Did you know that the average person walks the equivalent of four-and a half times around the earth in a lifetime. It's a good time to step up your foot care, and while you are at it jump in with both feet and take a look at your pet's paws too. This month we give "step by step" instructions on how to clip those nails whether your pet likes it or not. Our pet of the month is a quartet of fabulous felines.

Pet of the Month: This month our pet of the month is a blended family of felines belonging to Patty Walters and Frank Cupal in Section III. Every pet has its own personality, likes, dislikes and even quirks. At the Walters-Cupal home there is never a dull moment. Corky, age 20 (black/white) is the queen and reigns over the rest of the family. Her favorite hang-out is in the master suite. Molly, age 6 (Tortoiseshell) claims the dining room. I hear she has loosened up a bit about who shares her room but she keeps close tabs. Romeo, age 4 (grey Tabby) and Scooter, age 3 (grey/white) are the two youngsters. They opt for the sunroom that has lots of windows overlooking the bird feeders. Right now their treat of choice is Temptations and a stick with a feather and bell on the end is sure to get the whole gang in motion. Each cat is different and oh so lovable.

Pet News: Thanks to Maria Lawson and friends on W. 42nd Street for all their hard work and persistence in trapping, neutering, and releasing feral cats on their block. Right now they have a black/white male who is a big Romeo. This guy sure deserves a good home, so please give me a call if you are interested in adopting him. Condolences to the Sadaune family on the loss of Abby (Husky mix). She was just the most adorable dog on this planet.

Critters 101: Foot Notes

The pads on dogs' feet are very sensitive. This is one of the few areas on the dog that actually sweats, and it is also an area that is prone to injury. If your pet frequently moves across a rough surface, the pads may get worn down or cut. Pads will bleed profusely – and hurt. As a general rule, any time there is any kind of swelling of your dog's toes or feet, it is important to visit your veterinarian. Swelling can be secondary to bacterial or fungal infection, broken bones, foreign bodies, allergies, and even tumors. Nails that are not kept short will grow too

long and become irritating and painful to the dog. It can also cause the feet to splay, or spread, and nails can actually curl around and grow into a dog's pads. When you hear the telltale "click-click-click" as your dog walks across the floor, you know it's that time again – time to trim the toenails. If your pet is not used to having his nails trimmed, start slowly and work up to it gradually

Another really common foot problem that our poor dogs are subjected to is injury from improper toenail trimming. Before you start trimming, determine how much needs to be trimmed. The basic rule of thumb is that the nail, which curls downward, should be even with the paw pad. Whatever hangs over must be clipped. For medium to large dogs, use guillotine-type nail clippers. For small dogs and puppies, use the scissor-type nail clippers. Hold your dog's foot and gently push down with your thumb at the base of each nail. This will cause the nail to extend slightly, making it easier for you to see the nail. Trim each nail at a 45-degree angle away from the dog so that the newly cut nail is flush with the floor when they walk.

There is a blood vessel, called the quick, in each nail. Do not cut into the quick or it will bleed and could be painful. If this happens, apply a dab of styptic powder, which is available at pet stores, or use cornstarch. The pinkish color of the quick is easy to see in dogs with light-colored nails. However, it is almost impossible to see the quick on dark nails. Try to locate the quick from the underside of each nail before you begin cutting. Cut each nail just a little at a time until you get close, but not right up to, the quick. The good news is that the more diligent you are about trimming, the more the quick will regress into the nail, allowing you to cut shorter each time.

Even though they sometimes stink, remember that feet serve a serious purpose in all animals and may be more important than you think. The condition of an animal's feet may even tell you just how healthy it is.

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.

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Computer to Slow?

Marc Anthony

Do you know that the more programs you have running in the background, the slower your computer will become? Of course you do but what most folks don't know is that every time you boot your computer several unnecessary programs can boot as well, sucking up precious resources and significantly increasing the probability for a crash.

It seems like every time we buy a roll of t-paper these days we get a free cd-rom with some trial version of some something or other we might like. Most of us take it home and just pop it in without realizing that one to three other programs are being hidden during the install. We find ourselves wondering what the heck this purple talking gorilla is doing skateboarding onto our desktop or why Real Player is now the default media center.

Well, next to uninstalling unwanted applications there is something that you can do to ensure that your computer boots faster and crashes less. A function called MSCONFIG is a utility in 98, 98SE, ME and XP that allows you to quickly turn off unwanted applications that are running in the background and at boot up

Simply click on START

Then click on RUN

Type MSCONFIG in the box

Last click OK

Now look for the STARTUP TAB and turn off items that you don't need running all the time. Carefully look at the descriptions and note that most which fall under "Program files" should be turned off (except for your virus software). Remember that you still have full access to these programs by clicking on their icons or links but you just don't want them running all the time. Applications like Office, Real Player, AOL, Acrobat, Kazaa, plus printing and cd burning software are all a complete waist of system resources and should not be allowed to run until of course the time comes to use them. Keep it clean and lean.

For those of you who are running 95, NT, or 2000, this might take a little more effort. You can also download and install the XP version of MSCONFIG for use with NT or 2000.



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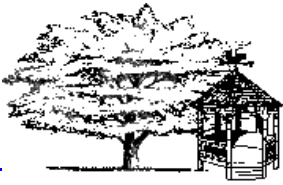
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May 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 GO Civic Club Meeting @ GO Elm. School @ 7 PM	Garden Club Mtg. At GOMO Office 7 PM For more info call 713-819-8412	4	5	6
7	8	9 GOMO Mtg. After Civic Club Mtg.		11	12	13
	15 Deadline for Gazette Submissions	16	17 GOMO Mtg. 7 PM GOMO Office	18	19	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28		30	31 Deadline for filing 2006 protests			

Useful Numbers

All City Services (city information or services ranging from traffic court dates and sewer concerns to pothole problems and neighborhood complaints) 311
 Emergency Services 911
 Constable Precinct 1 Dispatch 713-755-7628
 HPD Non Emergency Services 713-884-3131
 One Call Program (Heavy trash and more) 713-956-6589
 Recycling Hotline 713-837-9130
 Deeds Restriction Violations City of Houston Legal Department 713-247-2000
 Toni Lawrence (District A) 713-247-2010
 Dwayne Bohac 713-460-2800
 John Whitmire 713-864-8701

2006 Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form

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Annual Dues

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