

The Garden Oaks

Gazette

Dec



President's Message

Sheila Briones, 2006 Garden Oaks Civic Club President

2006 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING AND HOLIDAY PARTY

The Annual Meeting and Holiday Party of the members of the Garden Oaks Civic Club will be held on Tuesday, December 5th beginning at 7 p.m. at the Garden Oaks Elementary School cafeteria, 901 Sue Barnett. Come with an empty stomach in order to enjoy the great holiday food!

The business meeting will be very short. Two items of business will be covered: the election of 2007 officers and the approval of the 2007 operating budget which was printed in the November Gazette. The Budget is in the Gazette again on page 13.

The recommended slate consists of Mike Hess, president; Mike Dishberger, vice president; Jerry Butler, treasurer and Cindy Bartos, secretary. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Traditionally, we have asked members to bring a covered dish to share with neighbors. The Civic Club will provide the main meat course and drinks.

Members are asked to bring the following:
Last name "A" through "F" bring a vegetable side dish
Last name "G" through "L" bring a pasta dish
Last name "M" through "R" bring a dessert
Last name "S" through "Z" bring a bread item

Entertainment will be provided by Tina Sabuco with ARTS ALIVE! Adults and kids will enjoy the program Tina has in store for us.

COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT.....

Now that my term is coming to an end, I want to take this opportunity to thank the other Civic Club officers and committee chairs that made my term of service that much easier.

Thanks to Chris Schmidt, Vice President, who never said "no" whenever I asked him to do something and graciously accepted the task of introducing our monthly speakers. To Mike Dishberger, Treasurer, who I helped me make sense of the budget and who never missed a Board meeting. To Warren Carlson, Secretary, who took meticulous notes and who incidentally, stepped forward in February to accept the position due to the resignation of Gale Gorman. To Jonathan Lanz and Sue Schmidt, who spend a gi-normous amount of time each month bringing you this newsletter that you're currently reading. Sue also found the time to head up the 2006 Home & Garden Tour to make it one of the most successful in Garden Oaks' history.

Thanks to Lori Kennedy who headed up the efforts of re-writing our by-laws, which were passed by the membership in May.

I can't forget Terry Jeanes & Susan Saranie for keeping the Constable Program afloat, Ed & Brenda de Alba for their vast amount of time spent on the Beautification Committee, Carl Waters for years overseeing the Citizens on Patrol program, Joe Muscara for immediately updating the web site at a drop of a hat, Dian Austin for keeping on top of our membership
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Friendly Reminder

Deadline for Submission is the 15th of Every Month
No exceptions, no submissions will be accepted after this date.
This allows us to proofread, edit, and the printing to be done

Next Civic Club Meeting Tuesday, December 5th

The next Civic Club meeting will be on Tuesday, December 5th 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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President's Message *Continued*

and stepping up to head the Nominations Committee. Thanks also to all the "behind the scenes" persons who work quietly and inconspicuously to make this a better neighborhood. They are our monthly Gazette deliverers, our Citizen on Patrol patrollers, Friends of Montessori, Emily Thomas, Gil Evans, Lucy Lopez, Chris Roberts, Marc & Jane Ann Roberts, Garden Club, Susan Kostelecky, Tina Nieto, Brian O'Leary, Bill Holden, Scott Easterly, Ron Sorum, Carol Hazel, Tina Sabuco, Debbie Dishberger, Ralph & Charlotte Hayes, Casey Farris, Trey & Stacey Wood, Teresa Garza, Lynn Sievers, Linda Sparks, Pete & Joan Baron, Gig & Betsy Runge, Jan Forster, Wayne Forster, Shelley Rogers, GO Kids, GO HOMO, John Bartos, Trish Ricklefsen, Craig Lee, Frances Schwartz, Sandy Altman, Tina Parks, Rita Donaldson, Shana & Jay Tatum, Jessica Modad, Pam Anderson, Patty Walters, Jane & Charlie Kelso, Jesse Lopez and Alex & Mary Martinez.

I know I've left someone off this list and I do apologize for the oversight. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Civic Club President for it was a rewarding experience. My best wishes to you for a Happy Holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

GO Kids News

Chili anyone? December's GO Kids potluck will have a chili theme. Bring your favorite chili, or an accompaniment to chili. Please also bring an unwrapped new toy to be donated to Toys for Tots. The potluck will be on December 9 from 4 - 7, hosted by Clarissa and Gary Hanks, 966 W. 43rd St.

Moms' Night Out will be December 7, at Molina's on Washington at 7 pm.

GO Kids was started by a group of parents who want to build a family-friendly neighborhood where children and parents know each other and grow together -- all Garden Oaks families are welcome! Aren't on the GO Kids list serve? Want more information about GO Kids? Contact Tonya Knauth at (713) 628-8243, or tknauth@houston.rr.com

Veterans Tribute Held November 7th Sheila Briones



Veterans pictured here at the November 7 tribute are from left to right: Shawn C. Jorgensen, Alvin T. Froehlich, Woodrow B. Mehrkam, Ray Wilkins, Clyde Newton Dyer, and James J. Doyle.

The Civic Club would like to recognize the following veterans that were left out of the November Gazette:

Shawn C. Jorgensen, U.S. Marine Corps
Rank: Sergeant

Shawn proudly served one year in Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was attached to a ground unit that was first to cross the border into Iraq and Baghdad in 2003. In total, he served five years in the Marine Corps where he was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California and underwent communications training in 29 Palms, California and Georgia. Now an inactive Reservist, Shawn is a Paramedic/Firefighter for the Houston Fire Department.

Chief Frank J. Stautberg, U. S. Navy
Rank: Chief

Frank us retired from the Navy. He served on the USS Zeilin on submarine duty. He has lived in Garden Oaks since 1950. He attended Reagan High School.

More Pictures on page 15

Heard Under the Oak Tree

Terry Jeanes

Welcome new neighbors who recently joined the neighborhood.
1007 W 43rd 938 West 43rd
1071 West 41st 818 West 32nd
842 West 41st 748 West 42nd
1523 Sue Barnett

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

Congratulations on these December Birthdays and Celebrations...

Ron Williams 1st
Terry Jeanes 11th
Brian O'Leary 17th.
Alice Peden 21st
Gary Hickman 21st
Sandy Altman 24th
JB Gavin 25th
Margaret Rudd 26th

Additional Celebrations and Events.....

Susan Love Saranie celebrated her birthday with a party given by hubby **Mark** in mid November.

The annual Tamale Mama's were busy with their all day Saturday Marathon for tamale making November 18th. **Sheila Briones** hosted Garden Oaks friends and longtime friend Robin Linden from Massachusetts.

Patty Walter's next show times for Bawdy Broads Broadway Bound Show... Broadway on the Bayou... Dec. 2nd, 3rd at Third Coast Comedy Theater, 2417 West 34th.

Ghosts and Goblins were certainly out in full force in Garden Oaks at a spectacular Halloween Party hosted by **Tina Parks, Patty Walters, Terry Jeanes, Craig Lee, Susan Shipman, Ed & Brenda de Alba**. The people's choice award went to Ed de Alba for his Little Sprout costume. Other winners were Big Mama, The Buccaneers, and Merlin the Magician. Seen in the crowd were many many Garden Oaks residents.

Seen in the Travel section and other related news..Sandy Altman and **Dian Austin** spent about a week out in the Texas Hill Country near Lost Maples State Park. **Rebecca Stark** opened the doors of the Star K Ranch in Brenham to fellow Garden Oaks Bunco players, **Patty Walters, Brenda de Alba, Sheila**

Briones, Tina Parks, Shannon King, Terry Jeanes, and Shelley Rogers.

In Memoriam..... **V. D. Kelley**, long time member of the Garden Oaks family passed away mid November. Kelley was an original owner purchasing when V. D. returned home from World War II. VD was also an original member of the Garden Oaks Citizen on Patrol working both as patroller and base station operator in the years when CB radios were our primary communication tools. He will be missed.

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

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO GAZEBO PARK!!

IF YOU ENJOY DECORATING, PLEASE JOIN US IN THE PARK ON **SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND**. WE WILL BEGIN DECORATING THE PARK AROUND 12:00 NOON UNTIL AROUND 4PM. ANY HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED!!

LET'S MAKE GAZEBO PARK LOOK THE MOST FESTIVE EVER FOR **SANTA'S VISIT ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH AND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH FROM 7:00 UNTIL 9:00PM**.

JOIN IN THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT OF THE SEASON. **BRING YOU KIDS AND A CAMERA FOR PHOTOS WITH SANTA ON THAT TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY.**

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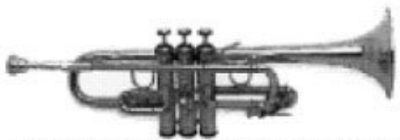


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| 424 W. 34th St. | 815 Azalea |
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| 858 W. 41st St. | 1325 Sue Barnett |
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Constable Program

Terry Jeanes & Susan Love-Saranie

As the holidays approach, so often the bad guys are out looking for opportunity....A holiday reminder, remove all packages from your car. Packages are an invitation to unwelcome culprits. And by all means, if you see something unusual or something that you are not quite sure about make the call to Constable Dispatch at 713 755 7628. No matter the time of day, your call could make the difference.

Join today via the insert included, the form in the mail, or on the gardenoaks.org website!

Constable Program benefits include:

- 40 hours of a designated Harris County Constable

Vacation watch by Harris County Constable. Forms available at: <http://www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm.pdf>

- Security check for insurance discount
- Alarm contact/ response by Harris County Constable
- Perceived value by prospective new neighbors considering buying in Garden Oaks because the neighbors work collectively to make the neighborhood safer
- Low Cost. The annual fee is \$140 per year, which is less than 40 cents per day. There are two payment options. An annual check of \$140 or a bank draft option of \$15 per month. Contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or terry@terryjeanes.com with any question

October 2006 Stats.
Miles Patrolled 1243
Court Citations 9
Alarm Responses 5
Written Warnings 0
Vacations Watches 5
Suspicious Vehicles 6
Criminal Offenses 4
Arrests 0

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GOES Report

Shana Tatum

The excitement of the Holidays are evident in the enthusiasm of the children at Garden Oaks Elementary School. As we prepare for the Holiday break, we had a few noteworthy items to share.

The Spark Park fund drive by the children was amazing. A whopping \$2,171.58 was collected by each classroom. The staff has never counted so many pennies! Each classroom had a money jar to fill with a goal of \$50.00. The prize for most money collected by the class was a pizza and ice cream luncheon with Principal Emily Thomas. We are happy to report Ms. Torres' Lower Elementary Montessori class generously gave \$223.29. You can see the delighted children in the photo. Ms. Hall's 1st -3rd grade class came in 2nd place with \$215.61 raised and one of our new teachers Ms. Erin Straker from the Children's House helped her class raise \$200.58. All other classes with at least \$50.00 raised will receive an ice cream party. This money will be part of the overall fundraising efforts to bring a fun, thoughtful, and safe playground to the SPARK park at GOES. Look for a community wide fundraiser for the park in the Spring.

A reminder to use your Kroger share card every time you go shopping at Kroger. It can certainly help the school as you prepare for that Thanksgiving Feast!

Our First Family Movie Night on 11/3 was a smashing success! We hope it will become a tradition in the community. We thank Jessica Modad and her team of volunteers for organizing all the fun with Herbie! A Family Reading night with storytelling is planned for the Spring.

Save the Date! The 14th Annual GOES Montessori Community Pancake Breakfast is planned for Saturday February 10th 2007, marching bands, crafts for kids, and fantastic silent auction items are all part of the morning's fun. This event supports the GOES Montessori program. If your business is interested in becoming a Pancake Breakfast Underwriter and would like to receive advertising opportunities, please contact Shana Tatum at ssatum@earthlink.net. Montessori program applications for the 2007-2008 school year are now available in the school office. The deadline for applications is January 12th. You may call the school at 713-696-2930 for more information. Happiest of Holidays from Garden Oaks Elementary students, staff and parents!



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Beautification Update

Ed de Alba

Upcoming Workdays:

Gazebo Park – December 2nd, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM, W. 42nd and Sue Barnett.

Decorating for Santa!

G.O. Blvd. – December 9th, 9:00 AM, Garden Oaks Blvd.
Weeding, Trimming, Mulching and General Cleanup.

Recent Workdays:

Triangle Park – In October, lots of tree trimming. Thank you to Janet Cones, Brenda de Alba, Jim Summers, and Tina Nieto.

Gazebo Park – On November 9th, Shawn Speer, Tina Nieto, Brenda de Alba, Mike and Debbie Dishberger, Sheila Briones, Shelley Rogers, Bill Holden, and Scott Easterly did a major clean up and weeded up a storm! Can't say we got all the Potato Vine- but this crew along with Carol Hazel and a friend, who weeded earlier in the week, put a huge dent in it. The electrical system was repaired and a contract was let to replace the irrigation system. All this done to get the place up to snuff for the Big Guy in Red!

This past year has been a productive one for Beautification. All of it is thanks to a group of volunteers who freely give their time to make our neighborhood a more beautiful and nicer place to live. Brenda and I would like to thank everyone that worked with us this past year and especially our Park Captains: Matt and Judy Roessler, Sheila Briones, Tina Nieto, Bill Holden, Scott Easterly, and Shana Tatum.

Santa's Coming!

Gazebo Park, W. 42nd Street and Sue Barnett,

**December 19th and 20th,
7:00 to 9:00PM**

GOMO Notes

Tim Weltin

Observation One: Garden Oaks is a great place to live. Observation Two: we are all busy people. Readers of the *Gazette* can relate to both of those statements. Most folks reside in Garden Oaks because they appreciate the many outstanding qualities of our neighborhood. Also, most residents of Garden Oaks stay quite busy: engaged in the many activities, joys and challenges of life.

For many residents, your busy schedules include activities that directly benefit the Garden Oaks community. The dedicated folks who write, assemble, edit, distribute and help fund the *Gazette* are some obvious examples. We also benefit from an array of other Civic Club projects: be it the July 4th parade, the Garden Oaks website, the monthly meetings, the neighborhood patrol or the annual home tour; hundreds of volunteer hours by dozens and dozens of residents make our neighborhood a better place to live.

The list doesn't stop with the Civic Club, though. Our local schools benefit from tremendous levels of resident involvement, neighbors help fund a constable patrol, a GO Kids group has recently emerged, there is a Garden Club, there are animal rescue folks, people who work to beautify the neighborhood, neighbors who participate in National Night Out and a long list of unsung efforts that have no official recognition but routinely serve as examples of neighbors helping neighbors.

Whether its donating for Katrina relief, decorating for a spirited Christmas, entertaining hundreds of trick-or-treating children with spooky Halloween presentations and lots of candy, hosting an entertaining party for friends and neighbors or simply keeping your house and lawn looking nice, the folks in Garden Oaks seem to almost always take the extra effort to make life a little better for others. It's one of the best qualities of our neighborhood that my wife and I have observed since moving here a year and a half ago. I offer those
Continued on page 6



Terry Jeanes

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

GOMO Notes

continued

observations in support of my first premise: Garden Oaks is a great place to live.

As background for me being a busy person (of far less importance than the first premise, yet significant with regard to a central thought of these musings) I offer up a few personal tidbits. I am attorney with my own practice, married with a son. I am a co-writer and co-producer of an annual all-lawyer musical comedy staged for charity by the Houston Bar Association (Yes, that's a plug for the show.). There are additional complications to my schedule and life, but my point is, like you, I don't find myself in a state of boredom very often. I also serve on two Boards of Directors, including that of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization, having ascended to that position of great power and prestige a year ago, elected unopposed, by volunteering to fill a vacancy a few months after I moved into the neighborhood.

By golly, I certainly know a lot more about building structures in this neighborhood than I once did. Though I have yet to find a way to translate the experience into scintillating conversation at cocktail parties, I have actually enjoyed my service. The GOMO Board consists of twelve Garden Oaks neighbors from a wide variety of backgrounds with a wide variety of personalities. In making a list of the hundreds of extra-effort-types in our neighborhood, I would also include the GOMO Directors (though obviously my view is a little biased since I am one of them.)

A fact sometimes lost in translation is that the GOMO Board itself is constantly evolving. There have been three changes in membership since I joined, and counting the Directors taking office with me in November 2005, more than half of the GOMO Directors are new additions in the past year. In fact, I am told that none of the original Directors of the organization are still serving. So the concept of "GOMO," (which is the typical neighborhood reference to the GOMO Board of Directors), as being some fixed organizational entity is extraordi-

narily inaccurate. While there is some anecdotal and physical institutional memory that serves as an anchor for the organization, there has been a steady stream of fresh faces grappling with the neighborhood issues that present themselves.

I make these observations because some of the neighborhood interaction, reaction and understanding of the Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization and its Board can be, well, very curious. The readership of the *Gazette* ranges from people who are original residents to people who moved here last week, so it's a challenging audience to address regarding a neighborhood organization like GOMO. For a handful of folks, GOMO is an almost daily topic of thought. For most, GOMO is a subject of only occasional interest. For some, GOMO is a mysterious term of little significance other than it sounds like a villainous corporation in a James Bond movie.

As many of you are aware, in 2006, GOMO has been the subject of multiple issues of an alternative newsletter, entitled *GOXtra*, providing less-than-flattering commentary about Board activities. The question has been raised by many people in our neighborhood as to why the GOMO Board doesn't continually publish tit-for-tat responses to *GOXtra's* claims here in the *Gazette* whenever an issue of *GOXtra* surfaces. The answer is two-fold.

First, the current Board, at least for the time being, has made a philosophical decision to try to minimize the use of the *Gazette* as a point/counterpoint forum. Our preference is not to be constantly waging a war of words in this publication. The majority of neighbors, including GOMO Directors, find constant back-and-forth presentation of detailed arguments to be off-putting and there is a limitation of space here (this article itself pushes those constraints.)

Just as important, though, is the issue of time. I am not the only busy person on the GOMO Board; we are all. Just like the rest of the folks in Garden
Continued on page 7

GOMO Notes continued

Oaks, we have plenty of things to keep us occupied. Honestly, even given as much joy as is derived from reviewing dozens of sets of construction plans and occasionally telling people not to build or to tear down things that are in violation of restrictions, Board members all have a finite amount of time to dedicate to GOMO.

As eager as I am to spend a couple more hours writing a tit-for-tat response to the most recent *GOXtra* verbiage (I am cited by name in the current issue, which is pretty close to being famous), so I can circulate the response among the Board for feedback, so we can publish it, so that the *GOXtra* folks, whoever they are, can then respond with a set of counterpoints, so that the Board can then respond with even more counterpoints, I might enjoy spending the evening with my wife and son even more. Plus, in pretty much each instance, we have already covered the topics at our meetings.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with voicing opinions. It is a founding principle of our amazing country. But I thought I would take some valuable time to point that responding to a steady stream of rhetoric takes time, and actually quite a bit of it. This current writing has now taken more than a couple of hours to pen and proof. So if allegations land on your doorstep without being followed by a lengthy counter-response, it is not because your neighbors who are being assailed don't actually have a pretty presentable position; it is because we, like most homeowners in Garden Oaks, have busy lives. Engaging in a never-ending war of words typically is not one of the most productive ways to direct our efforts and it certainly is among the least satisfying uses of our time.

Having made those observations, I do not want people to take this article as indication that any member of the GOMO Board does not feel accountable for actions taken or that any Director is upset by folks asking for explanation or insight regarding GOMO's activities. That is not the case. I am merely pointing out that time constraints limit our ability to provide lengthy written

responses to lengthy written accusations, especially since our service on the Board already requires a chunk of our time as it is.

Given the restraints of consensus response, since there are twelve Directors making group decisions, and given the limitations of time in life, if you have questions, comments, suggestions or criticisms, you are encouraged to attend our monthly business meetings. They are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and are always posted on the *Gazette's* back-page calendar. Also, when you attend the meeting, please provide your input or ask questions. It is the quickest way to receive feedback or information.

The GOMO Board does provide written information via the *Gazette* on a regular basis. We have also launched a GOMO-specific newsletter, *GOMO INFO*, as an additional resource. We post financial and other information at GardenOaks.com. And yes, we will continue develop tit-for-tat responses to the *GOXtra* missives. But it's a function of time. And who among us wouldn't want to spend a few more hours exploring the intricate details of the saga that is the stone house story?

Together with hundreds of our neighbors, the ever-changing list of GOMO Directors will continue to do what we can to help keep Garden Oaks a great, and ever-improving, place to live. We are mindful that GOMO's basic charge, helping enforce neighborhood building restrictions, typically will generate stronger opinions than, say, animal rescue. That reality will never change no matter who is on the Board. Another reality is that the more than 1,100 GOMO households will never hold a universal opinion on any topic. Diversity of opinion is part of life. So is making fundamental choices about how we spend our time. For instance, right now, I am moving on to other things: some non-GOMO parts of my life, at least for the moment. Thank you for taking time to read these observations and thank you for doing your part to make our neighborhood a great place to call home.

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JOIN US AT THE CIVIC CLUB ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Tuesday, December 5th, 2006
7 p.m.
Garden Oaks Elementary School
cafeteria
901 Sue Barnett

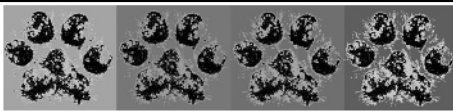
Come with an empty stomach in order to enjoy the great holiday food!

Civic Club will provide main meat items and drinks.

Members are asked to bring the following:

- Last name "A" through "F" bring a vegetable side dish
- Last name "G" through "L" bring a pasta dish
- Last name "M" through "R" bring a dessert
- Last name "S" through "Z" bring a bread item

Entertainment by Tina Sabuco with ARTS ALIVE!



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Critter Corner

Casey and Mau Mau Brown-Farris

Hi Neighbors! The Holidays are here and it's time to take stock of the good things in life. Pets are definitely a headliner in that category. We love our pets, but have you stopped to think, really think, about the reasons we love them and the lessons they can teach us? Ms. December is a great teacher.

Neighborhood News: The Go Dog Social Club is having its December holiday party on Wednesday, December 13th from 7-9pm at The Shady Tavern. These socials are almost as much fun for the people as they are for the pooches. Please call the club office for information on membership 713.688.6363 or www.GoDogUsa.com.

Pet of the Month: "Ms. December" is a gorgeous Rottweiler named Roxie who lives in Section 5 with Robin and Mike Lee. Roxie was born on Christmas Day in 2000. Rottweilers are big and can be scary to some people but not Ms. December. She is all lover; all the time. Besides people, Roxie loves treats, walks and hanging out at the country house on weekends. She also likes to play with other dogs and is especially good with the Lee's grandchildren, Ava and Anthony. The Lee family recently said goodbye to Bear (Australian Shepherd) who helped raise Roxie from that darling little pup to her now 110 pound stature. Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas sweet, sweet Roxie girl!

Critters 101: 5 Holiday Lessons We Can Learn From Our Dogs

1. Dogs have a greater capacity for happiness than just about any other creature on earth. The simple things in life are great wonders to your dog. Mealtimes are an event worthy of

their own holidays. Just seeing the leash come out creates a party atmosphere. Your daily routine can be a source of happiness. Spend time enjoying your meal before eating it. Enjoy the scents and colors as well as the flavors. Revel in the little things that make you happy each day; that first cup of coffee, the scenery surrounding your home or work, the feeling of clean sheets as you go to sleep. It all counts!

2. Dogs aren't afraid to let everyone know how much they care. Think about the joy your dog shows when you return home from work! They dance, they squeak, they bounce! Do we always display the same level of gratitude when we greet our significant others? No, I'm not suggesting that we drool on anyone, but we often forget to be at the ready with a hug when our family members arrive home. Jump up from the computer, work or sofa! Tell them how much you missed them! Now that it's getting darker, don't forget to turn on the porch light in anticipation of their return. When greeting friends, hug and tell them how much you enjoy seeing them. Aren't they just as important to you as you are to your dogs? And when you arrive home to greet your dog, give them the same greeting they give you! Jump with them, cheer for them, tell them what wonderful creatures you know they are.

3. Dogs know that a daily walk is one of the most valuable things on Earth. It doesn't have to be a long walk, but getting outside for even 15 minutes can change the way you feel. Enjoy the wildlife and flora. Appreciate the gardening work your neighbors have done. Wave to your neighbors and say hello. You might make a friend. Sometime it's just nice to feel the sun on your back. Ask your dog. He knows.

Continued on page 9

Critter Corner

Continued

4. Dogs aren't afraid to ask for a hug. Dogs love to snuggle up to you as close as possible, and many will jump right in your lap when they're feeling lonely. Don't be afraid to ask for support when you need it. You don't have to wait for the big things. Phone a friend and tell her you need a laugh. Call mom when you have a cold.

5. Dogs follow their hearts. You never see a dog doing things he hates because he feels obligated. Choose your friends, hobbies, and causes wisely. Make time to do the things that make you feel happy and whole. Spend more time with the people who make you feel good and less with the people who don't. Don't waste time seething about an irritating co-worker. Excuse yourself, shake it off, and move on to the delightful things you encounter. Think of the dog park. If your dog runs into a surly companion, he may grumble, even growl a little, but it only lasts a moment before he's bounding off toward something better. And if the offender decides he would rather play than fight, dogs are quick to forgive. They may not throw their trust down to the new dog immediately, but they always let them join in the game.

So this Holiday season, give your pets a big hug and an extra treat. Pets deserve our respect; they are some of the greatest and most honorable teachers!

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 is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to

**Casey@GoDogUSA.com or call
713-688-6363.**

Citizens Patrol Program

Carl Waters Jr

A heartfelt thank you to Civic Club President Sheila Briones for celebrating the Veterans of Garden Oaks during the November Civic Club. While I am not a Veteran, I thought it was wonderful to see the mixture of Veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Operation Iraqi Freedom sitting and talking at the close of the Civic Club meeting. During the ceremony, I could not help notice the absence of another of our Veterans, Mr. V. D. Kelley. V.D. (he did not like to be Mr. Kelley) was a former patroller and I knew he had been ill for some time. Sadly, I learned on November 10, 2006 that V. D. had passed away the previous morning. Those of us who knew V.D. will miss his wry sense of humor and his commitment to the neighborhood. My wife and I moved to the neighborhood in November 1993 and we started going to Civic Club meetings in 1994. By the fall of 1994, I had joined the Citizen Patrol Program and that is where I met V. D. and his wife Laverne. Back in 1991 when the neighborhood started looking for ways to combat rising crime, V. D. and Laverne became part of the original group of patrollers for the Citizen Patrol Program. They remained active until 1999 when Laverne's health failed and they were no longer able to patrol together. Between them, they amassed almost 1700 hours of patrolling and if that was not enough they spent the same number of hours acting as a base station for other patrollers. We have missed Laverne's presence in the neighborhood for almost six years and we will miss V. D. just as much. Our sympathies go out to his children and family.

There is also some good news on the
Continued on page 10

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GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

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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Citizens Patrol Program *continued*

patroller health front. If you recall, I mentioned in my September article Patroller Jo Bewley was diagnosed with cancer. She underwent chemotherapy in preparation for surgery in November. After surgery, the doctor reported to her husband Bob he found no signs of active cancer in the treated areas. Some scar tissue was removed and Jo is on the mend. She was able to return home the week before Thanksgiving. GREAT NEWS GUYS!

September Crime Statistics (6):
Robbery (1)

400 block of W. 31st St. on Saturday,
September 2nd at 1:50 a.m. (Public
Street).

Burglary (5)

500 block of W. 32nd St. on Friday,
September 8th at 11:30 a.m. (Garage).
200 block of W. 30th St. on Monday,
September 18th at 7:30 a.m.

(Residence).

3100 block of Lawrence on Monday,
September 18th at 7:45 a.m.

(Residence).

700 block of W. 38th St. on Thursday,
September 21st at 11:55 p.m.
(Elementary School).

800 block of W. 41st St. on Thursday,
September 21st at 2:01 p.m.

(Residence).

The six crimes reported in September reflect the same number reported in 2005. Through September, the neighborhood had five more reported crimes in 2006 than we did in 2005. As we celebrate the holiday, let's remember to be careful about displaying Christmas presents too prominently near the windows of your homes or leaving them in your cars. This is too tempting a target for some folks who want to play the Grinch and

steal your Christmas. I was recently reminded by a neighborhood family, thieves will return to steal your valuables if they don't get them the first time. Several weeks ago, someone tried to break into the family truck and was unsuccessful. The thief or thieves return later and took an expensive item from the truck. The moral, protect yourselves and your property by not leaving things where others can see them. As always inquires about joining the Citizens Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via the 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

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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GOCC Election December 5, 2006

The nominating Committee is
charged with developing a
slate of officers.

Interested persons should
contact the committee for
consideration. Nominations
from the floor will also be
considered. Contact
Dian Austin 713.691.6505

Minutes of the November 7, 2006 GOCC Meeting

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 7:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Carl Waters corrected the October minutes. There were six crimes reported in the month of September, not 46. The minutes were approved as corrected by the members in attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Mike Dishberger gave a verbal report and made available an income statement and balance sheet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beautification Committee Co-Chair Brenda de Alba mentioned a couple of upcoming workdays. Volunteers are greatly needed.

Constable Program Chair Terry Jeanes made the following announcements: Renewal applications are almost done and need only a few more volunteers. Deputy Vest reported that he kept an eye out for pumpkin smashing hoodlums this Halloween and reminded us to keep our sheds and garages locked during the holiday season. Also, Deputy Vest reminded us to keep our holiday purchases out of sight!

Citizens on Patrol (GOCOP) Chair Carl Waters gave a report. Please contact Carl Waters (gocop77018@aol.com or 713-864-1992) to join the GOCOP volunteers.

Membership Chair Dian Austin reported membership to be up to 318 household members!

Nominating Committee Chair Dian Austin has headed up the effort to develop the following slate of candidates for next year's Civic Club officers: Mike Hess, President; Mike Dishberger, Vice President; Jerry Butler, Treasurer and Cindy Bartos, Secretary.

GARDEN CLUB

Civic Club President announced their next meeting would be November 8th

at the GOMO Office.

GARDEN OAKS MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION (GOMO)

GOMO President Ed de Alba reminded us that there were 2 retiring directors who were replaced by new directors at the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Sheila Briones needs volunteers for the following: to coordinate the monthly reminder signs of Civic Club meetings and heavy trash pick-up days; a new refreshment coordinator for the Civic Club Meetings; and someone to reinstall the permanent Garden Oaks sign at Lawrence Street.

DOOR PRIZE

Section 2 resident Sandy Altman won a gift certificate to Home Depot. Congratulations, Sandy!

ATTENDANCE

The meeting was attended by members of 26 households and guests.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

VETERANS TRIBUTE

A tribute to Garden Oaks veterans was held immediately after the Civic Club meeting. Those honored and in attendance were: James J. Doyle, U.S. Army; Clyde Newton Dyer, U.S. Army; Alvin T. Froehlich, U.S. Army; Shawn C. Jorgensen, U.S. Marine Corps; Woodrow B. Mehrkam, U. S. Air Corp; and Ray Wilkins, U.S. Army.

Each veteran was presented a U.S. flag flown over Washington, D.C. Flags were donated by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 20 from St. Matthews United Methodist Church, under the leadership of Marc Roberts, presented the colors. The Salvation Army Harbor Light Choir provided the entertainment, singing a repertoire of patriotic songs, including "America the Beautiful."

THANK YOU!

Terry Jeanes of Re/Max Metro graciously provided refreshments.

2006 Garden Oaks Civic Club Budget (Proposed)

| Income | | Expenses | | Net |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Membership | \$10,000 | Membership | \$1,800 | \$8,200 |
| Spring Festival | | Spring Festival | \$800 | -\$800 |
| 4th of July Event | \$0 | 4th of July Event | \$400 | -\$400 |
| Home Tour | | Home Tour-Start up | \$1,800 | -\$1,800 |
| Beautification | \$1,225 | Beautification | \$17,280 | -\$16,055 |
| Gazette | \$11,400 | Gazette | \$11,400 | \$0 |
| Constable* | \$33,500 | Constable | \$59,450 | -\$25,950 |
| Garden Oaks Elementary Website | \$0 | Garden Oaks Elementary Website | \$600 | -\$600 |
| GOCOP | | GOCOP | \$900 | -\$900 |
| Garden Club | \$1,000 | GOCOP | \$1,000 | -\$1,000 |
| Spark Park* | \$3,000 | Garden Club | \$1,000 | \$0 |
| Cat Catchers* | \$500 | Spark Park* | \$3,000 | \$0 |
| Bank Fees | | Cat Catchers* | \$500 | \$0 |
| Credit Card Fees | | Bank Fees | \$600 | -\$600 |
| Other | | Credit Card Fees | \$384 | -\$384 |
| Insurance | | Other | \$250 | -\$250 |
| Tax/Accounting Fees | | Insurance | \$400 | -\$400 |
| Interest | \$3,200 | Tax/Accounting Fees | \$200 | -\$200 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$63,825 | TOTAL EXPENSES | ##### | \$3,200 |

NET **-\$37,939**
NET w/o Constable **\$101,764**
Constable **-\$11,989**

notes:

* Home Tour Donation from 2006, total of \$5000
 Membership and Constable Income collections are in the Fall of previous year
 Current Bank Balances

Civic Club \$58,400
 Constable \$29,500

Mike Dishberger, Treasurer

The recommended slate for 2007 is as follows:

President – Mike Hess
Vice President – Mike Dishberger
Treasurer – Jerry Butler
Secretary – Cindy Bartos

Annual holiday party to follow short business meeting.

2007 Garden Oaks Constable Program Contributor Application & Contact Information

*Please print or write legibly • All information is held strictly confidential • Mail completed applications to
Garden Oaks Constable Program, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

_____ **NEW** or _____ **RENEWAL**

(INVOICE MAILER)

MEMBER 1 (M1): _____

MEMBER 2 (M2): _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PH: _____

M1 EMAIL: _____ M2 E-MAIL: _____

M1 WORK PH: _____ M2 WORK PH: _____

M1 CELL PH: _____ M2 CELL PH: _____

IN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT: _____

HOME PH: _____ WORK PH: _____ CELL PH: _____

IN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT: _____

HOME PH: _____ WORK PH: _____ CELL PH: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Enclosed find my payment for 2007 Of \$140.(Make checks payable to Garden Oaks Civic Club)

I/We cannot contribute \$140 now; however, enclosed please find my/our check for \$_____.

I/We will participate via bank draft. (Complete DRAFT AUTHORIZATION FORM below only if NEW)

Many of our neighbors live on limited, fixed incomes. Are you willing to adopt a neighbor?

Yes! Please accept my additional gift of \$_____ for the year (enclosed) OR \$_____ per month (bank draft option only).

DRAFT AUTHORIZATION FORM

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This monthly authorization remains in effect until written notice is given to the **Constable Chair of the Garden Oaks Civic Club**. If any changes occur to my bank account, I will promptly notify the **Constable Chair of the Garden Oaks Civic Club** so that my Constable Program dues can be directly debited from the correct account.

- Please take \$15 out of my account monthly for the Garden Oaks Constable Patrol Program.
- This authorization includes a debit for an additional \$_____ monthly gift to the program.
- This authorization includes permission for a \$15 cancellation fee.

Printed Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Telephone _____

*******Attach voided check & mail to Garden Oaks Constable Program PO Box 10273 Houston Tx 77206**

Dinner's on Us! The GO Winer's and Diner's Report

Sue Schmidt

Without a doubt this month's restaurant selection was the hardest to review. Having heard rave reviews about Catalan Restaurant on Washington Ave, the group set out to check out the buzz. Normally we try for a Tuesday or Wednesday hoping for a quieter, relaxing evening, but schedules would not allow. We met on a Thursday, with a reservation for 7:00 p.m. Valet parking was a must as the restaurant was already quite busy. We were seated at a great table near an expansive wall of wine. It was interesting watching the wait staff quickly and efficiently locate the bottles in such a wide selection and expertly serve the wines.

The menu is interesting. Offering a sampling of "small plates" (appetizers) and "big plates" (entrees) with interesting combinations. There were a couple of specials that the waiter presented as well that piqued our interest. We decided we would once again "share" our selections and make an overall choice of favorites.

Several in the group ordered a variety of small plates. The crabmeat and piquillo gratin was hands down the favorite choice on the small plate menu. The gnocchi was a close second with everyone wishing for more. Two at the table ordered the Morcilla black sausage with Seville orange marmalade because the combination sounded so interesting. Both had the same reaction. The marmalade was definitely hiding in this dish. It was good, but not what was expected. A specialty on the menu that has gotten a lot of notice in reviews are the crispy pork bellies. Be prepared for an explosion of fat in this dish. It is definitely one you either love or can do without. The anchovies and olives were an interesting, enjoyable combination though.

The garlic soup is another menu item that has received rave reviews, but this did not get the thumbs up from several at our table that opted for a soup. On this particular night it was a little bland. The menu offering of a "shot" of soup is another interesting concept. The ability to pick and choose several smaller

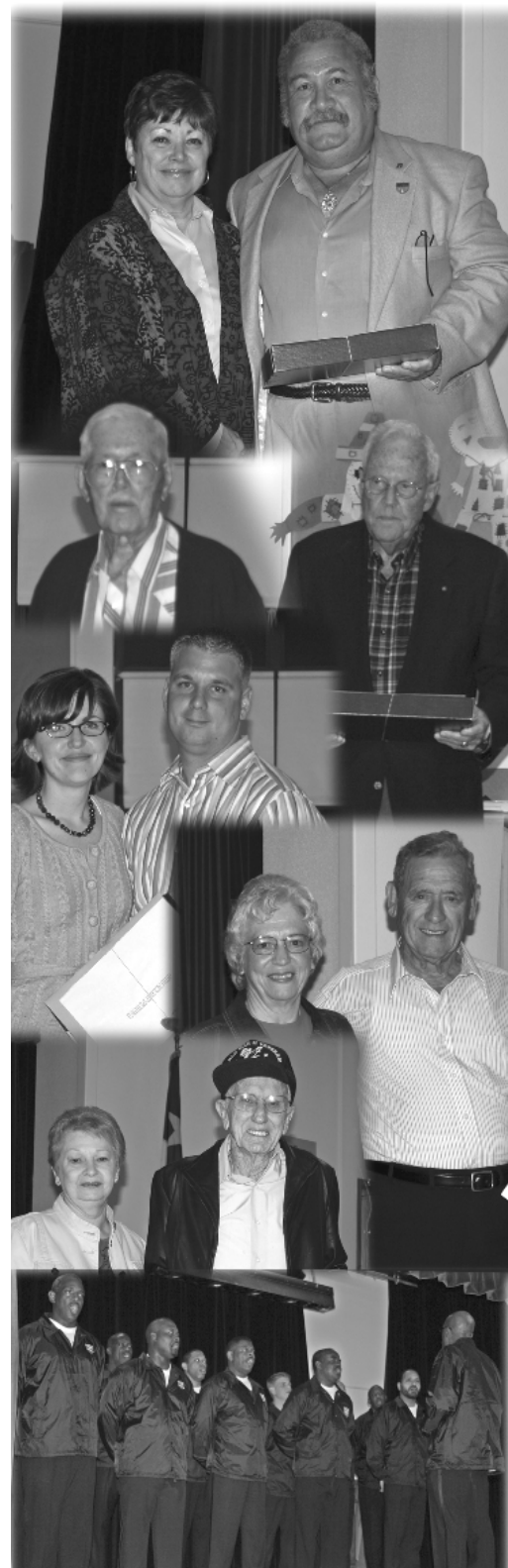
items was appealing to many in our group.

The selections of "big plates" were late in arriving at our table. The seared trout was a tad try for our liking, but the shrimp and filet of beef were delicious. All of the wine selections were excellent. The wine menu is extensive, filled with witty sayings, and the selections are reasonably priced. The group tried several different bottles and all were thoroughly enjoyed.

Two desserts made the A list. Of course, there will always be a chocolate fave from this group! The crispy chocolate-crusted peanut butter boulettes and the rice pudding custard with spiced rum and coffee cream were divine. The nutella crepes with cinnamon ice cream was also a stand out. In addition, we had the pleasure of being seated next to a guest who was celebrating a birthday! A fabulous cotton candy concoction served in a giant martini glass highlighted with lit sparklers was delivered to the table to honor the occasion. Quite an impressive presentation!

All in all, Catalan Restaurant was an enjoyable outing. The food was good, and the wine was excellent. The restaurant was very noisy though—the huge crowd, extremely high ceilings and bad acoustics made it very difficult for us to communicate. The tables are very close which causes the wait staff to "squeeze" through the aisle. On this particular night the kitchen was probably, in restaurant lingo, "in the weeds" or overwhelmed. Being such a new restaurant and with large crowds even during the week, the kinks have yet to be worked through. It is a great place to people watch, and I think we all agreed we definitely would return. Reservations are a must! Check out their website at www.Catalanfoodandwine.com for a look at their interesting menu. Bon Appetit!

Veterans Day Tribute Pictures





December 2006

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | GOMO Mtg. After Civic Club Mtg. | | | 1 | 2 Gazebo Decorating 12pm-4pm |
| 3 | 4 | 5 GO Civic Club Meeting @ GO Elm. School @ 7 PM | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 GO Blvd Workday 9am |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Deadline for Gazette Submissions | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Santa at Gazebo 7pm-9pm | 20 Santa at Gazebo 7pm-9pm | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 Christmas Day | 26 | 27 GOMO Mtg. 7 PM GOMO Office | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 News Year's Eve | | | | | | |

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

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: _____