President’s Message
Sheila Briones, Garden Oaks Civic Club President

HISD SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

HISD Superintendent, Dr. Abelardo Saavedra, will be the Civic Club guest speaker Tuesday, September 4. Dr. Saavedra was appointed Superintendent of Schools for the Houston Independent School District on December 9, 2004. Dr. Saavedra joined HISD in February 2001 as the Southeast District Superintendent. Beginning in August 2002, until his appointment as Interim Superintendent in June 2004, he served as the district’s Executive Deputy Superintendent for School Support Services. Prior to joining the HISD family he was the Superintendent of Schools in his native Corpus Christi from 1993 to 2000.

One of the latest HISD issues is the upcoming $805-million bond election. On August 9, the HISD Board approved an election for an $805-million bond issue which the voters will decide November 6. Bond includes adding 22 new schools, renovation of 133 schools; $90 million for safety and security improvements at every school and $29 million for new science labs.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the next Civic Club meeting Tuesday, September 4th beginning at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Garden Oaks Elementary School, 901 Sue Barnett @ Garden Oaks Blvd.

GARAGE & YARD SALES
I’ve been contacted by several residents regarding the issue of garage & yard sales in the neighborhood. I did some research and found out that these are not regulated by the City of Houston. They are regulated by the Office of the State Comptroller. Residents are allowed to have only two such sales within a twelve month period. Any more than two and the resident is recognized as having a business and must obtain a sales tax permit from the state.

The Office of the State Comptroller uses the following definition of a “garage sale”:

“Garage sale means a sale of short duration of used tangible personal property by a person who owned and used the property prior to sale and who paid sales tax on the property when purchased new. Sales of this nature may not exceed two a year.

Our policy is not to require persons holding one or two garage sales a year to obtain a sales tax permit nor to require the collection of sales tax at such sales.

A permit and collection of the tax are required if a person holds more than two sales a year (e.g., a continuing garage sale), if a person is reselling property upon which sales tax was not originally paid, or if the person is selling new property which was not owned and used by the person prior to the sale.”

Further questions can be addressed by calling the Office of the State Comptroller toll free at 1-800-531-5441, ext. 5-0030. The direct line is 512-475-0030. If you prefer to send a letter, the address is: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Tax Administration, P.O. Box 13528, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

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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 in a timely manner for delivery to all Garden Oaks Residents.

Next Civic Club Meeting
Tuesday, September 4th
The next Civic Club meeting will be on Tuesday, September 4th at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of GO Elementary, 901 Sue Barnett @ Garden Oaks Blvd. Babysitting services are available at a cost of $1.00 per child. Hope to see you there!
Welcome Deputy McLain

Neighbor’s Night Out Security Tip:

Take a moment NOW and program in theConstable Dispatch Number into your cell phone and home phone. The number is 713-755-7628. Time is of the essence when initiating an emergency call. If you see something that does not seem quite right, contact Constable Dispatch. Your call could make a huge difference.

Thank you to all who participated in National Night Out. Deputies Vest and McLain visited numerous parties in the neighborhood. We counted at least eleven parties throughout the community. Thank you for the great hospitality at each and every stop.

Welcome Deputy Robert McLain, our nighttime constable patrol officer. Deputy McLain recently joined the Precinct One Constable’s office after serving on the South Houston Police force. Our newest officer has a 14-year in law enforcement. His background includes patrol duty, narcotics and criminal investigation. He holds an Advanced Peace Officer’s license.

Deputy McLain is a 1987 graduate of Waltrip High School. Graduating from the Police Academy allowed him to fulfill his goal of helping other people, and patrolling Garden Oaks feels like “coming home”. His father still resides in neighboring Oak Forest. McLain is married and has a nine-year-old daughter. The best part about coming to Garden Oaks to work the nighttime patrol is the ability to be home when his daughter wakes up each day and greeting her when she arrives home from school. Along with family activities, Deputy McLain enjoys hunting and fishing.

To assist in keeping Deputies Vest and McLain patrolling our streets, please consider supporting the constable program. The form to join can be found at: www.gardenoaks.org

Constable Program benefits included in the $140 per year donation are:

- 40 hours of a designated Harris County Constable
- Vacation watch by Harris County Constable. Forms available at: www.gardenoaks.org/Resources
- Security Checks for insurance discounts.
- 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 (Jan-Dec), 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

And remember you are an additional set of eyes and ears!!!! Constable Dispatch at 713 755 7628. No matter the time of day. Your call could make the difference.

2007 July Stats
Miles Patrolled - 2157
Court Citations - 5
Alarm Responses - 2
Written Warnings - 0
Vacations Watches - 13
Suspicious Vehicles - 6
Park checks - 62
Criminal Offenses - 1
Arrests - 2
Welcome new neighbors who recently joined the neighborhood.

971 West 43rd          4219 Alba
1034 Lamonte            950 Lamonte
4232 Apollo             236 West 31st
1050 West 41st          1015 Althea
709 Sue Barnett         810 Azalea
1070 West 42nd          508 West 32nd
702 West 41st           311 West 34th
3310 Lawrence

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

Congratulations September Birthdays and Celebrations... Birthdays
Janice Walden 9/4
Mark Swick 9/26.

Happy Anniversary to Craig & Clair Bell on 9/14.

Trips, getaways and other happenings...
Congratulations to Lynn Seivers who celebrated her 50th birthday. Lynn and hubby Don Seivers celebrated on an Alaskan cruise. Terry Jeanes recently visited Reno and Tahoe taking in the sites and all the great vintage cars at the 50th anniversary of Reno’s Hot August Nights.

A special Welcome to Deputy Robert McLain now on duty in Garden Oaks. To highlight an event, celebration, or other tidbit, contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or terry@terryjeanes.com.

Moms’ Night Out for September will be on Thursday, September 6, 7 pm, at Collina’s on 19th St. Bring a bottle of wine, if you like.

The September Family Potluck will be on September 22, from 4 - 7, at the home of Janet and Wade Williams, 1045 Martin St. They have a pool, so we can all take a dip! Speaking of dips, please bring your favorite dish. Beverages will be provided.

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.

GO Kids News
Tonya Knauth

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GOMO Notes

Annual Meeting to be held October 17th at 7:00 PM in the Garden Oaks Elementary School Cafeteria.

On Wednesday October 17th GOMO will hold its annual meeting in the Garden Oaks Elementary School’s Cafeteria. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. The business to be transacted includes the election of several directors, the spending of surplus funds, and a modification of the Bylaws.

Director Positions Open

Section 1
The term of the position currently held by Graham Gips ends on October 31st. Graham was elected as an interim director when Sheila Briones resigned her seat to become Civic Club President. The term for this position runs through October of 2010.

Section 2
All 3 director positions are open in Section 2. The terms for the seats held by Jay Tatum and Ed de Alba end as of October 31st. Both Jay and Ed were elected in 2004. The terms for these 2 positions will be staggered with one to run through October 2009 and the other through October 2010.

Section 3
Todd Prince, elected in 2005, is resigning his seat as of August 31. The term for this position runs through October 2008.

Sections 3 & 5
No positions are currently open in either Sections 3 or 5.

If you are interested in running for any of the positions available in Sections 1 or 2, please contact any of the GOMO Directors listed in the Gazette.

The requirements of the positions are:

• Must be 18 years or older
• Must own property and live within the Garden Oaks Section for the Director’s position that you are volunteering to stand election for

• If no Member residing in the Section stands for election, then a Member who is an owner in that Section, but lives in another Section, may stand for election as a “Non-Section Director”, whose term is 1 year
• 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

Surplus Funds
GOMO proposes two expenditures:

To add an additional daytime constable patrol of Garden Oaks, 40 hours per week for the period January 1, 2008 until December 31, 2008. This supplements the current daytime patrol already provided by the Garden Oaks Civic Club. Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization will pay for the service and the Garden Oaks Civic Club will be in charge of scheduling. Anticipated cost is $65,000 for the year.

To extend the current nighttime constable patrol of Garden Oaks, 40 hours per week for the period August 1, 2008 until December 31, 2008. This will bring all the contracts for our patrols into step. Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization will pay for the service and the Garden Oaks Civic Club will be in charge of scheduling. Anticipated cost is $27,000.

Bylaw Changes
Currently there is a disparity in the Bylaws relating to the period of time a proxy is valid.

Paragraph 3.08 currently reads, “At any meeting of its Members, the Member(s) representing a Parcel entitled to vote may vote by proxy executed in writing by the Member or by his or hers duly authorized attorney-in-fact. No proxy will be valid after 11 months from the date of its execution, unless other wise provided in the proxy.”

Continued on page 5
Paragraph 2.02 (paragraph 5) reads, “Proxies may not be effective for a period exceeding 11 months.”

GOMO proposes a modification of the Bylaws: To delete the last 6 words in Paragraph 3.08, “unless otherwise provided in the proxy”.

This will bring the paragraphs into agreement and also bring the time period that proxies are valid into agreement with Texas State law.

Signs
GOMO has replaced two community signs that were hit by cars. The first at 43rd and Ella, the second at Ashland and 610. GOMO originally purchased signs for Garden Oaks and will continue to maintain and repair them as required.

An Open Invitation to our Meetings
We would like to personally invite all GOMO Members to all of our meetings. Democracy works best in an open environment and that is as true at the neighborhood level as it is at the Federal and State levels. There is no better way for the people of our community to see for themselves how we evaluate the building plans brought to us and how we reach consensus.

It is also the best way to get your questions answered. The GOMO Board is made up of 12 people and the Board doesn’t have an “opinion” about a topic unless a majority of a quorum forms a consensus view. So no one Board Member is able to tell you what GOMO “thinks” about an issue or idea until we have an opportunity to deliberate and form a collective opinion. The formation of GOMO policy and opinion takes place every third Wednesday of the month at our business meeting held at the GOMO Office, 7:00 PM, Garden Oaks Professional Building, 4001 N. Shepherd, Suite 216. You are very welcome to attend, make suggestions, propose ideas, ask questions, clarify rumors, or simply observe the process.

Beautification Update

Ed and Brenda de Alba

Upcoming Workdays to put on your calendar:

- Rose Garden – September 8th, 9:00 AM, Lawrence and W. 34th Street, Section 1 – giving the roses their fall trim along with some weeding
- Gazebo Park – September 15th, 9:00 AM, Sue Barnett and W. 42nd St., Section 2 – weeding and mulching the beds with pine straw

After experiencing the wettest summer in many years, it’s time to get cranked up with the fall maintenance work on our neighborhood parks. If you live near the Rose Garden or the Gazebo Park (and even if you don’t live near!), please consider lending a hand on the 8th or the 15th. One hour of your time is a tremendous help and very appreciated.

As mentioned above, we like using pine straw for mulching our beds. It doesn’t wash away with heavy rains, it suppresses weeds better than standard bark mulches, and it is easier to spread than other mulches that have to be shoveled. Most of the pine straw we use in the parks is bought by the bale, though some is from bags we snatch from the curb before trash pickup. This stuff is considered “black gold” by hard-core gardeners.

Our Randall Berm park has become a maintenance nightmare with weeds. We are consulting with multiple landscape experts to help us map out a plan for what the future looks like for this park. We just know it cannot continue on its present course. A large portion of the money gifted to Beautification from GOMO will be used to implement whatever is needed to fix the current situation.

Many of you have noticed that one of the Taiwan cherry trees planted in the Rose Garden this spring has died. We will replace the tree later in the fall… most likely in late October or November, which is the best time of year for planting trees and large shrubs.
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

January - December 2007

TO: GARDEN OAKS RESIDENT

Membership is open to all residents whether you own or rent. Please choose the level you feel most comfortable supporting. While all memberships are voluntary, at a minimum you must contribute $25 (or $5 for Seniors 65 years or older) in order to be eligible to vote on civic club matters. Membership dues are for the calendar year.

Fill in Amount

$________ CREPE MYRTLE: $25.00 ($5.00 for Seniors)
Basic Household Membership

$________ THE MAGNOLIA: $50.00 ($10.00 for Seniors)
Intermedeiate Level – Household Membership

$________ THE GOLDEN OAK: $75.00 ($15.00 for Seniors)
Patron Level – Household Membership

$________ OTHER (Contributions other than the levels above)
Fill in amount you would like to contribute

$________ BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP: $50.00 (non-voting membership)

$________ CONTRIBUTION TO GARDEN CLUB

$________ CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPARK PARK

$__________________________ TOTAL

Membership dues go toward supporting all Garden Oaks Civic Club Activities: Beautification, Citizens on Patrol, The Gazette, Home Tour, Membership Committee and Website. The more you give, the more we can do!

Please mail this completed form along with your check payable to:
Garden Oaks Civic Club, P.O. Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206.
THANK YOU!

Name(s)__________________________________________

Address:__________________________________________

Phone:___________________________________________

Email:___________________________________________
Critter Corner

Casey Farris

Now that you have packed the kids off to school, make sure to take time for Fido’s education as well. This month we will discuss puppy kindergarten, basic obedience, and refresher courses which are all tools to help build the best relationship possible with the family pet. Tuition is modest, supplies are minimal, and the rewards are immeasurable. Our pet of the month is so well schooled that he has become the teacher.

Pet of the Month: “Mr. September” is Zebediah Meyer (Bloodhound/Rottweiler mix). He lives in Section I with his parents, Crista and Russ, along with Tagalong (Maltese) and three red Tabbies, Adeen, Crozny and Tres. Zeb was adopted from the City Pound and is now nine years old. His mother, Crista is head trainer and co-owner of Urban Tails which is like a YMCA for dogs. Zeb works full-time at Urban Tails as a temperament tester. He has been on TV eight times and understands several languages, including Portuguese, Russian, German, English and Dog. When Zeb is not working he likes to eat, sleep, and get belly rubs. Zeb and his animal siblings eat a raw diet prepared by Crista but Zeb’s favorite treat is bananas and he can peel them himself. Zeb is a big boy but so sweet and easygoing. Zebediah is a perfect example of what a little schooling can do!

Critters 101: Off To School

The depth of canine learning pales in comparison with 13 years of schooling for human children, but it is as crucial for a successful family life. A dog that does not sit, come, or stay on command is a dog with great potential to become a family pest and a neighborhood nuisance — or worse. Like children, dogs are eager to learn.

Puppy Kindergarten – School for puppies begins the morning after they join your household. An eight-week-old puppy can quickly learn to sit for his food or a treat, walk on a leash without pulling, and come when called. Unless your household is full of dogs and kids coming and going at all hours, your puppy will not get his critical socialization at home and will need the benefit of a class structure. Puppy kindergarten fulfills two goals: helping the owner understand the puppy and exposing the puppy to the world. Your puppy will learn basic commands, play with other puppies and learn how to behave in a friendly and stimulating community.

Obedience Training – This is where the work begins. Up until now training has been a game. Obedience training is to train dogs to be obedient, to obey anything and everything they’re told to do. It covers a wide range of lessons a dog can learn, including tricks, family manners, show ring exercises, and skills demonstrations. Sniffing dogs, service dogs for handicapped owners, search and rescue dogs, sled and carting dogs, hunting dogs -- all carry their obedience training to the highest degree. They have been trained to obey an unusual set of commands that increase their value as helpers to man. Training can be accomplished at home, in an obedience class, or with a private trainer. It requires patience, a collar, a leash, a sense of humor, and an understanding of dog behavior. That understanding can come from one or more of the many excellent books written about training companion dogs or from an obedience instructor or dog trainer.

Refresher Courses - Learning for all animals is a lifetime commitment. Obedience commands should be continually practiced and reinforced. Socialization also must be worked on for the life of your pet. To keep your dog socialized he must continue to meet new dogs and new people.

Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services and Go Dog Usa, Home of the Go Dog Social Club. Mau Mau Farris is owner/operator of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@goDOGusa.com or call 713-688-6363.
Thanks to all of you who opened your yards and homes to your neighbors as we celebrated National Night Out on August 7th. I hope everyone took advantage of this occasion to make some new friends as well as get reacquainted with some old ones.

School resumed the end of August. Watch out for children as they cross the streets on their way to and from school.

A few months ago I reported we had an increase in crime of 50% for the neighborhood. Things have been quieter since that report and I am pleased to say through June the percentage of increase has fallen to around 11%. Welcome wishes are extended to Thomas Mehrkam as he resumes patrolling in our neighborhood. Tom has some big shoes to fill, his father recently retired from the Citizen Patrol program with 17 years of service and 1500 hours of patrolling.

June Crime statistics (7):

- Burglary (3)
  - 300 block of W. 31st St. on Monday, June 18th at 11:00 p.m. (garage).
  - 500 block of W. 31st St. on Friday, June 22nd at 8:00 a.m. (residence).
  - 1300 block of Sue Barnett Dr. on Monday, June 25th at 10:30 a.m. (residence).

- Burglary Motor Vehicle (3)
  - 900 block of W. 42nd St. on Saturday, June 2nd at 2:00 p.m. (driveway).
  - 800 block of Azalea St. on Sunday, June 3rd at 9:00 a.m. (driveway).
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.

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The August meeting of the newly formed Garden Oaks Sisterhood was great fun! Lots of good food, wine, and conversation. Thanks to all in attendance - Garden Oaks overflows with wonderful women and enthusiastic neighbors!

We are off to a great start and look forward to building on our success!

The group agreed to meet each month on the third Thursday at 7pm. The location will rotate with each monthly hostess. Be sure to watch the Gazette for details or email/phone the Sisterhood coordinator, Dea Larson, with any questions at dealarson@aol.com or 281-920-0325.

September’s meeting (9/20) will be hosted by Samantha Kennedy at her home at 866 LaMonte. Feel free to bring a beverage or appetizer to share. The meetings for the remainder of 2007 are as follows with locations to be announced so be sure to mark your calendars and check the Gazette for details: October’s meeting (10/18) will be hosted by Margarita Barcenas. November’s meeting (11/15) will be hosted by Allison Kirby, and December’s meeting (12/20) will be hosted by Susan Kostelecky.

All Garden Oaks women are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Dea Larson.

2008 Home Tour Homes & Gardens  Sue Schmidt

The Selection Committee for the 2008 Garden Oaks Home Tour has been hard at work since May previewing homes and gardens for the upcoming Home Tour. Many Garden Oaks residents opened their homes to the committee, and a wide variety of style and architecture were previewed. The goal of the committee was to choose a good representation of the many types of homes throughout the neighborhood. To all of those residents who graciously invited us into your home, we say thank you!

The selection process is never an easy task. With so many wonderful homes and garden nominated this year, the decision was even harder. With that said, the following homes and gardens have been selected for the 2008 Garden Oaks Home Tour. Thanks go to Sue Schmidt, Dian Austin, Susan Kostelecky, Holly Veech and Caroline McLean for their hard work in making the selections for next year’s home tour.

**2008 Home Tour Homes & Gardens**

**Sue Schmidt**

236 W. 34th St  Section 1  home

223 W. 31st St  Section 1  home/garden

750 W. 41st St  Section 2  home

815 Azalea  Section 3  home

713 W. 41st  Section 2  home

927 Gardenia  Section 4  home

**GARDEN:**

4206 Alba  Section 3  garden only

966 Gardenia  Section 4  garden only
Providing Exceptional Education right in your neighborhood

Since 1948, St. Rose has offered exemplary academics for students in pre-K through 5th grade.

In grades 1-5, over 75% of St. Rose students’ standardized test scores were above the national average. Our 5th graders read at a 7th grade reading level, or higher. Individual success stories this past year include students winning regional science fair competitions, regional spelling bee competitions, and award-winning essays in a multi-school writing competition.

St. Rose provides a strong academic foundation for students to continue to excel in junior high, senior high and college.

For more information or a tour, call 713-691-0104.

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School
3600 Brinkman • Houston, TX 77018

www.stroselima.org
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<td>2</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Civic Club Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>GOMO Meeting 7pm</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Gazebo Park – Sept 15th, 9AM, Sue Barnett and W. 42nd St., Section 2</td>
</tr>
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**September 2007**

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**National Night Out 07 Pictures**

![National Night Out 07 Pictures](image)