

May 2008

Volume 32 No. 5

The Garden Oaks Gazette



Recycling: Use It or Lose It

Dian Austin

As some of you may have seen on the Garden Oaks ListServ or in the Houston Chronicle on Saturday, April 26th, numerous neighborhoods are at risk of losing their city-provided curbside recycling services for lack of participation. **Garden Oaks is one of those areas.** The Chronicle reported that only 9% of Garden Oaks 1400+ homes are recycling, and that is not good enough to keep the curbside service.

We need your help to continue with our curbside recycling!!!

What you can do:

If you don't recycle now, please start. It's as simple as calling 311 and requesting a Green Recycling Bin, if you don't already have one. If you need a second one, call 311 and request it. The city will provide them free and will deliver them to your homes. Each bin holds 18 gallons of recycling material and is itself made out of 25% recycled plastic and 75% virgin material

Recycle the appropriate materials. The following is taken verbatim from the City of Houston's website on Curbside Recycling:

The Curbside Recycling Program accepts newspaper, magazines, color ad inserts, office paper, unwanted mail and telephone books; tin, aluminum and empty aerosol cans; and plastic bottles and jugs with a narrow neck and broad base (marked with a

#1 or #2 recycling symbol). Corrugated cardboard must be broken down into 3x3 foot squares. Used motor oil, if placed in its original container or an empty 1-gallon milk or water jug will also be accepted.

If you find the above too complicated, just try recycling your newspapers and empty plastic bottles of water. That's a great start!!

Place your Green Recycling Bin with the appropriate materials in it at your curbside by 7am on your scheduled pick-up day. On windy days, secure recycling materials by placing full sacks of paper on top of bin.

The city picks up curbside recycling every 2 weeks. The schedules for the next recycling pick-ups are on these dates: April 29, May 13, 28, June 10, 24 and then every 2 weeks following.

If you have any questions, email Dian at fallingwaterT@yahoo.com. We need your help NOW! Let's get all those green bins out for pickup soon!



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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, May 6th

The next Civic Club meeting will be on Tuesday, May 6th 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!

Civic Club Officers

President James Flowers
223 W. 31st 713-205-1493

Vice President Ivan Mayers
802 Lamonte 713-202-7113

Treasurer Jerry Butler
713.822.3175 871 W 41st
j1982b@comcast.net

Secretary Cindy Bartos
713.694.6697 831 Azalea
cbartos@ix.netcom.com

Standing Committee Chairs

Beautification Brenda de Alba
713.694.5934 744 W. 43rd
ferrocem@yahoo.com

Citizens on Patrol Carl Waters, Jr.
713.864.1992 821 W. 31st
GOCOP@gardenoaks.org

GardenOaks.org Joe Muscara
713.691.6833 750 Sue Barnett
webmaster@gardenoaks.org

**GardenOaks.org Co-
chair** Josh Hamilton
713.695.7347 858 Azalea

Membership Dian Austin
713.691.6505 733 W. 42nd
DKA2007@comcast.net

Constable Program Terry Jeanes
713.812.9154 922 W. 41st
terry@terryjeanes.com

Home Tour Sheila Briones
713.861.8091 412 W. 34th
sbriones@hotmail.com

Gazette Contacts

Editor & Advertising Director
Sue Schmidt 832-563-3402
sueschmidt1@comcast.net

Assistant Editor
Jonathan Lanz 713.979.4500
Gazette@gardenoaks.org

Delivery
Jonathan Lanz 713.979.4500
GazetteDelivery@gardenoaks.org

Ad Hoc Committee
Carter's Grove Apts. Gil Evans
713.861.2708 710 W. 32nd
evansgil@aol.com

Letter from the Editor Sue Schmidt

Once again the 2008 Garden Oaks Home Tour, Beyond the Garden Gate, proved to be a great success. Starting with the Preview Party to the final Volunteer Party, the Home Tour weekend was a great tribute to the place we call home. Garden Oaks really did roll out the welcome mat and put its best foot forward!

A huge thanks to Sheila Briones, 2008 Home Tour Chair and all of the members of the Home Tour Executive Committee. It really does take a village to pull off such an event. A year of effort by volunteers in our community culminates in a spectacular weekend of neighborhood celebrations. Hats off to all the many volunteers that make the event seem effortless.

Thanks also to the many sponsors and donors who contribute generously to our neighborhood. Please keep all of our underwriters (listed on page 6) and supporters/donors (listed on page 7) in mind whenever you are in need of assistance. These business professionals support our neighborhood not only during Home Tour, but throughout the year whenever called upon. We thank each and everyone of you for your support.

The home and garden owners also deserve a big thank you. Hosting over 600 visitors through your home is a daunting experience for any homeowner. Making sure everything is "picture perfect" can be the ultimate stress test. The gracious way each of you welcomed Garden Oaks and friends to your doorstep was nothing less than stellar!

I hope all of our residents had the opportunity to visit the wonderful selection of homes and gardens that were showcased this year. Just enjoying the neighborhood on a beautiful weekend was a treat. The beautiful parks scattered throughout our neighborhood definitely showed the hard work of the Beautification Committee chaired by Ed and Brenda de Alba. All of the workdays paid off when the buses filled with visitors passed our fabulous parks. Thanks to all of those that volunteer their time to maintain our green spaces.

I know I have always looked forward to the Home Tour, even before we were residents. The enthusiasm we share for our community really comes to life during this special event. It is nice to know the funds raised at this time help support the programs and projects that make Garden Oaks a special place to call home.

Heard Under the OakTree Terry Jeanes

Welcome new neighbors who recently joined the neighborhood.

**1063 West 43rd 516 West 31st
227 West 31st 1058 Althea**

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

A special welcome to new arrival

Joshua William Stark arrived to welcome arms of parents **Rich and Rebecca Stark** March 13 born at 6:37 a.m. Congratulations to the Stark household.

Congratulations May Birthdays

5/8 **Linda Sparks**
5/22 **Riley Tatum**
5/22 **Daniel Ostrum**

Happy Belated

April 11th **Linden D'Amico**
April 22nd **Orvil Sims**

Celebrations

Congratulations **Mary and Rick Hecksel** who participated in the MS 150 and rode the entire trip from Houston to Austin.

Happy Travels

Sheila Briones just returned from a trip to Austria.

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



Garden Oaks Civic Club Minutes

Cindy Bartos, Secretary

April 1, 2008

Welcome:

President James Flowers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A motion was made to accept the March minutes as they appeared in the Gazette. Cindy Bartos, secretary, made a correction to the minutes noting that the minutes of the last meeting were recorded and submitted to the Gazette by Tina Nieto. The minutes were accepted and approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report:

Jerry Butler presented the current income and expense report and had detailed copies available at the meeting.

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Home Tour:** President James Flowers read a report by chairwoman Sheila Briones in her absence. Sheila encouraged Garden Oaks residents to volunteer for and attend the Home Tour on April 20th. Preview Party tickets are still available on-line.
- **Beautification:** Ed DeAlba reported on the work day in Gazebo Park and announced the next work day on the Garden Oaks Blvd. esplanade.
- **Constable Program:** Terry Jeanes announced that the list of Constable Program participants in the recent Gazette was not current and a current one will appear in the next Gazette. Deputy C.J. Mangano reported stopping a suspicious vehicle in the neighborhood and interrupting amorous behavior in one of the parks. He encouraged residents to add more lighting to the exterior of their homes and to keep landscaping trimmed and away from windows. Ed DeAlba added that the additional 3rd patroler (provided by GOMO funds) will begin at the end of April.
- **Gazette:** No report.
- **Website:** No report
- **Garden Oaks Citizen's Patrol:** Carl Waters corrected last month's crime report to be 3, rather than the 5 he reported. 6 crimes were reported for the month of February,

making the total for the year at 9 (about a 50% drop from the same time last year). He described the qualifications for Citizen's Patrol and encouraged more residents to join. If interested, call Carl.

Membership: No report

Garden Club: Tina Nieto announced the time and location for the next meeting.

Garden Oaks Elementary and SPARK Park: Principal Emily Thomas expressed the school's excitement over being part of the Home Tour and announced a work day for April 12th.

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization (GOMO): Ed DeAlba announced there would be a meeting to review plans immediately following the Civic Club meeting.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned: 7:21
Attendance: 20

Reference Numbers

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911

HPD Non Emergency Services
713-884-3131

All other City Services
311

Constable Dispatch
713-755-7628

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408 W. 31st Street
graham.gips@gmail.com

Kathy Horner (2009)
Cell: 713.385.2050
527 W.33rd Street
kathy@associatedcounsel.com

Sean Jez (2008)
Cell: 713.305.4481
825 W. 31st Street
sean_jez@fleming-law.com

Section 2:

Ed de Alba (2010)
President
Cell: 713.628.7008
744 W. 43rd Street
ferrocem@yahoo.com

Lori Kennedy (2009)
Home: 713.691.6833
750 Sue Barnett Drive
lorikgomo@blue-funk.com

Jason Mercer (2008)
Work: 281.433.3150
726 W. 41st Street
jason_f_mercer@hotmail.com

Section 3:

Mike Dishberger (2008)
Home: 713.695.7916
862 W. 42nd Street
dishberger@aol.com

Lynn Sievers (2008)
Home: 713.691.4789
851 Lamonte Lane
sieverslynn@hotmail.com

Richard Stark (2008)
Home: 713.691.1067
1335 Sue Barnett Drive
rstark@lucasgroup.com

Section 5:

Malcolm Taylor (2008)
Home: 713.956.8872
1030 W. 41st Street
malcolmtaylor@chevrontexaco.com

Tim Weltin (2008)
Home: 713.540.5315
1567 Sue Barnett Drive
timweltin@mycase.info

John Ciccarelli (2009)
Home: 713.688.8285
4310 Apollo Street
ciccarelli@intergate.com

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

GO Kids News

Tonya Knauth

Moms' Night Out for May will be Thursday, May 1, at 7 pm, at Collina's on 19th St. BYOB!

The April/May Family Potluck will be held at Spark Park, on May 3 from 4 - 7 pm. Please bring a dish -- drinks will be provided.

Our neighborhood seems to abound with joyful new additions frequently these days! We know how overwhelming a new baby can be to a family, so we provide several meals for the family during those stressful first weeks. If you are expecting or know a neighbor who is, please let us know!

We are currently taking information to post on our discussion group for babysitting services. We are looking for folks who live in GO who would be willing to have their contact information available for our neighborhood families. If you are interested, please send your name, address, phone and references if available to gwen_m_reed@yahoo.com. She will compile the list and have it posted on the GO Kids discussion group for use.

Please join us for our standing playgroups on Wednesday and Fridays at 10:00 a.m. at Graham Park (34th and Lawrence) in Section 1. If you're interested in having a playgroup at a different time, please let us know!

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@comcast.net.



Citizens Patrol Program

Carl Waters Jr.

Things are starting off well in terms of reported crime this year. The January report from HPD indicated there were three crimes for the neighborhood; in January of 2007 we had nine crimes reported.

Things to remember to help avoid becoming a crime victim:

Lock the doors of both your home and your vehicles.

Never leave items of value visible in your car or home. You'd be surprised how little it takes to encourage a burglar.

Be aware of your surroundings when out in public. Criminals prey on people not paying attention.

Crime Statistics (3)

Burglary (1)

700 block of W. 43rd St. on Wednesday, January 16th at 2:00 p.m. (residence).

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (1)

3200 block of N. Shepherd Dr. Saturday, January 19th at 5:00 p.m. (parking lot).

Narcotics (1)

200 block of W. 33rd St. on Friday, January 11th at 9:40 p.m. (street).

Inquiries regarding joining the Citizens Patrol Program or about other community safety issues can be directed to me via neighborhood website GardenOaks.org or to the COP email account at GOCOP77018@AOL.com. or by phone at 713-864-1992.

Reference Numbers

Emergency Services

911

HPD Non Emergency Services

713-884-3131

All other City Services

311

Constable Dispatch

713-755-7628

Constable Program

Terry Jeanes & Susan Love – Saranie

GREAT NEWS...

We are adding a third deputy to the streets of Garden Oaks. A new contract went before County Commissioners Court for the addition of a third dedicated deputy to patrol Garden Oaks. As of this writing, the new deputy has not yet been assigned. Watch next month's Gazette for further information. Thanks to Deputy CJ Mangano and Deputy JJ Tudman for their continued diligence in keep Garden Oaks safer.

Thank you again to all Garden Oaks neighbors who are now supporters of our program. In addition to the list published last month, please find a list of additional supporters on page 11 (*this list effective 3/12/08*).

We still need assistance to keep our daytime officer on the streets. Currently we have funds for Deputy Mangano through the month of August and need additional funds to keep him in Garden Oaks.

Take a moment Now ...and program in the Constable Dispatch Number in your cell phone or home phone....713 755 7628.

Your call could make a difference. Constable Program benefits included in the \$180 per year donation:

- 40 hours of a designated Harris County Constable (in addition to the GOMO contract of 40 hrs. per week) A total of 80 hrs per week!!!!
- Vacation watch by Harris County Constable. Forms available at: <http://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 \$180 per year (Jan-Dec), which is less

than 50 cents per day. There are two payment options. An annual check of \$180 or a bank draft option of \$15 per month. Contact Terry Jeanes at 713-812-9154 or terry@terryjeanes.com with any questions

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.

March 2008 Statistics

Miles Patrolled...2943
Court Citations.....17
Alarm Responses....2
Written Warnings.....0
Vacations Watches..... 12
Suspicious Vehicles.....11
Park checks...136
Criminal Offenses.....0
Arrests.....0



Those who may not yet have made a contribution please see the link with the form at

www.gardenoaks.org/Resources/ContributorForm.pdf

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Garden Oaks Sisterhood Dea Larson

If April showers bring May flowers, then it must be time for the GO Sisterhood to meet and share gardening survival stories! This month's meeting will be held on the third Thursday, May 15th at 7:30PM at 512 West 33rd Street, the home of Beverly Jernigan. All Garden Oaks women are invited to attend as we always have a great mix of newcomers and regulars of every age group! Please bring a beverage (wine seems to be a favorite) or snack to share. Questions? Call Dea Larson at 281-920-0325 or email at dealarson@aol.com

Sue Schmidt

Realtor

832.563.3402

Garden Oaks Resident



Fax: 713.802.9282

sueschmidt1@comcast.net

2008 Home & Garden Tour

Underwriters' Generosity Benefits Our Whole Neighborhood

Sheila Briones, 2008 Chairman

The 2008 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour Committee offers a huge "Thank you" to the following Tour Underwriters:

Corporate (\$2500)

Harry James Building & Design Co.

Deanna Zugheri with The Metropolitan, Keller Williams Realty

Garden Oaks Maintenance Organization

Platinum (\$1000)

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Cindy Wingo, Cindy Wingo Realtors, Inc.

Karen Derr & Associates Realty

Blake Woods & Laura Manchee/Modern Worth & Manchee Woods Design
Tony's Mexican Restaurant

Also, "Thank you" to the following florists:

Cavallini's Creations
Darlene's Flowers & Gifts
Garden Oaks Florist
Jana's Flowers
Mark Anthony Florist, Inc.
Scherry Lindley

All proceeds from the tour directly benefit Garden Oaks and the surrounding community, including Garden Oaks Elementary, the Garden Oaks Citizens on Patrol program, the *Gazette* and neighborhood beautification.

A full report on the success of the 2008 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour was not available at press time, so watch for more details in your June *Gazette*!

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The following people and businesses contributed to the success of the 2008 Garden Oaks Home & Garden Tour through their time, sponsorships, and donations.

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 Bill & Kris Flanagan
 Bone Voyage Pet Sitting
 Brenda de Alba
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 Dian Austin
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 Emily Thomas
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 Garden Oaks Book Club (GoRead)
 Garden Oaks Bunco Club
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 Garden Oaks Garden Club
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Annual Membership Dues Statement Garden Oaks Civic Club

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, you must contribute a minimum of \$25 (or \$5 for Seniors 65 years+) 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)
• Intermediate 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 support all Garden Oaks Civic Club Activities: Beautification, Citizens on Patrol, The Gazette, Home Tour, Membership Committee, and Website.

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

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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	\$60.00	\$300.00	\$580.00
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Critter Corner
Casey and Mau Mau Farris

Happy May! A birthmark is blemish formed on the skin before birth. The cause is unknown and some types seem to run in families. According to folklore, birthmarks are unsatisfied wishes of the mother during pregnancy. For example, if a pregnant woman craves strawberries and does not satisfy this craving then her baby might be born with a strawberry mark. This month we talk about markings on your dog's coat. Our pet of the month has pumpkinseed marks.

Pet of the Month: "Mr. May" is a Rottweiler mix named Spence Saranie. Spence is 9 or 10 years old now. One sunny Saturday morning in February the Saranie's had their backyard gate open when all of a sudden Spence was there lying on the deck in the sun. He came from nowhere, no one had seen him before – it was almost magical. That was seven years ago. Spence is magical. There is just something about him, some mysterious quality, something I cannot put into words but if you meet him you are drawn to him. He is so kind and gentle and you can feel his goodness. Spence loves other dogs, chewing on bones, and watching out the front windows. Spence is translated from the word butler meaning head of household. In his magical way he does manage the Saranie household which includes Susan and Mark, along with Lucy (Tabby), and Sophie (lab mix) who absolutely adores Spence. Spence is now being treated for bone cancer but making the best of it and still enjoying life and his family. Abracadabra, Alakazaam or Hocus-Pocus, Spence is one large potion of love and kindness. Please see photos on our website <http://www.godogusa.com/PetOfMonth.html>.

Critters 101: Remarkable Markings

Common patterns and colorings on a dog's coat are given names. See if you can spot any dogs with these special features:

Ticking: small clusters of black or

other dark hairs that appear on a white coat, giving a dotted look.

Saddle: a different color that extends over the dog's back in the shape of a saddle.

Kiss marks: small, colored (often brown) spots around the face.

Blaze: a stripe of white that runs down the forehead, dividing the eyes.

Mask: a clearly defined foreface (around the eyes) of a different color, which may look like goggles or a blind-fold.

Feathering: the long fringe that hangs from the dog's belly, tail, legs or ears.

Trousers: the thick feathering on the hind legs of dogs like the golden retriever.

Apron: this same long feathering at the base of the neck and chest on dogs like the Rough Collie.

Pumpkinseeds: small, colored "eyebrow" dots above the eyes of many dogs, such as the Rottweiler.

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.



**Additional 2008 Constable Supporter Households
(as of 3/12/08)**

Section 1

Barr/King	Perkins Lutz	Rogers/Buron	Kirshner
Rosier/Ammon	Evans Faulkner	Dansby/Flores	Cheney
Lee	Lengyel Mathews	Kasischke	Marquis
Fletcher			

Section 2

Muscara/Kennedy	Clark	Easterly/Holden
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Section 3

Longshore/McKay	Nasir	Sultanik	Syzdek
Mueller/Mayers			

Section 4

Feit/Zindler	Stein	Van Dyke	Lindsay
Broughton/Anastasia	Funk	Cunningham	Swicki

Section 5

Gilmore	Rude	Carlin	Keegan
Kelly	Restrepo		



Diana Lynn Tarley
Broker / Agent

713.539.0569
713.880.5599
dianalynntarley.com

*Richelieu
Realty*



When my husband Will and I purchased our home in Garden Oaks in 1993 we knew it was the perfect place to raise our family. It was the cute homes and tree-lined streets that first attracted us to the area but we quickly realized that we found a true neighborhood where neighbors wave as they pass and visit in their yards in the evenings. It is full of great history and old-fashioned traditions such as the 4th of July Parade, Fall Fest and Home & Garden Tour. Over the past 15 years, we have seen Garden Oaks grow and change, yet it still has that same wonderful sense of community. It gives me great pleasure to help others discover this beautiful place we call home. If you or any of your friends or relatives are thinking of buying or selling please give me a call.



Deanna Zugheri

Real Estate Consultant

The Metropolitan
Keller Williams Realty

281.658.4514

www.GardenOaksHomes.com
Deanna@GardenOaksHomes.com

May 2008



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				Moms' Night Out	2	Family Potluck Spark Park 4-7 P.M.
4	5	6 Civic Club Meeting 7PM GO Elm.	7 GOMO Meeting	8	9	10
11	12	13		Garden Oaks Sisterhood Meeting 7 :30 P.M.	Deadline for Gazette Submissions No exceptions.	17
18	19	20	21 GOMO Meeting	22	23	24
25	26 Happy Memorial Day!	27	28	29	30	31

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

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- 4 1/5 by 2 3/8 single \$90 - 6 months \$485 - 12 months \$920
- Half page single \$110
- Full page single \$180
- Back cover single \$300
- Inserts stay the same \$300